

**IDENTITY and CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION  
STATUS FOR THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**For the Medical Assistance Program**, identity and United States (U.S.) citizenship or satisfactory immigration status must be documented. If you declared U.S. Citizenship, we were unable to verify your declaration, therefore, we are providing the list below which contains acceptable documents that support proof of identity, U.S. citizenship status. All documents must be originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. For the purposes of qualifying as a U.S. citizen, the U.S. includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Swain's Island and, if born on or after certain dates, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Documents which Establish both Citizenship and Identity**

- U.S. passport book/card;
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);
- New York State Enhanced Driver License (EDL)/non-driver ID;
- Native American Tribal document (issued by a federally recognized tribe); or
- Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood, or other U.S. Native American/Alaska native tribal document with photo or other identifying information.

**Secondary Documents which Establish Citizenship but also require one identity document from the Identity Documentation list**

- U.S. Birth Certificate showing birth in one of the 50 U.S. States, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Swain's Island, Puerto Rico (if born on or after 1/13/1941), Virgin Islands of the U.S. (on or after 1/17/1917), Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) (after 11/4/1986 [NMI local time]), or Guam (on or after 4/10/1899);
- Certification of Report of Birth issued by the Department of State (DS-1350);
- Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (FS-240);
- Certification of birth issued by Department of State (Forms FS-545 or DS-1350);
- U.S. Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
- Northern Mariana Identification Card (I-873);
- American Indian Card with classification code of "KIC" (I-872);
- Final adoption decree showing U.S. place of birth;
- Evidence of U.S. civil service employment before 6/1/1976;
- Military record of service showing U.S. place of birth (i.e., DD-214); or
- Evidence of qualifying for U.S. citizenship under the Child Citizenship Act of 2000.

**Third Level Documents which Establish Citizenship but are less reliable than Secondary Documents (Also requires an identity document)**

- Extract of hospital record on hospital letterhead. The record must have been established at the time of birth and the extract must have been created at least five years before the Medicaid application date (or, for children younger than 16 years of age, near the time of birth) and must show a U.S. place of birth;
- Life, health or other insurance record, if it shows a U.S. place of birth and was created at least five years prior to the application date (or, for children younger than 16 years of age, near the time of birth);
- Religious record recorded in the U.S. within three months of birth showing a U.S. place of birth and either the date of birth or the individual's age at the time the record was made; or
- Early school record showing date of admission, a U.S. place and date of birth and names and places of birth of the applicant's parents.

**Fourth Level Documents which Establish Citizenship but are the least reliable and should only be used in rarest of circumstances (Also requires an identity document)**

- Federal or State census record showing U.S. citizenship or a U.S. place of birth; or
- The following other documents are acceptable if they indicate a U.S. place of birth and were created at least five years prior to the application date (or, for children younger than 16 years of age, near the time of birth):
  - Medical (clinic, doctor, or hospital) record;
  - Seneca Indian tribal census;
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal census records of the Navajo Indians;
  - U.S. State Vital Statistics official notification of birth registration;
  - Delayed U.S. public birth record that is recorded more than five years after the person's birth;
  - Statement signed by the physician/midwife who was in attendance at the time of birth; or
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs Roll of Alaska Natives; or
- Institutional admission papers from a nursing facility, skilled care facility or other institution (created at least five years before the application date) showing a U.S. place of birth; or
- Written affidavit (to be used only in rare instances).

**Documents which Establish Identity**

- A driver's license issued by a State or Territory either with a photograph of the individual or other identifying information of the individual such as name, age, sex, race, height, weight or eye color. Canadian driver's licenses may not be used;
- School identification card with a photograph of the individual;
- U.S. military card or draft record;
- Identification card issued by federal, State, or local government with the same information included on the driver's license;
- Military dependent's identification card;
- U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner card;
- A cross-match with a federal or State governmental, public assistance, law enforcement, or corrections agency's data system;
- If **none** of the above identity documents is available, a combination of three or more corroborating documents such as marriage certificates, divorce decrees, high school or college diplomas, employer ID cards or property deeds/titles. Voter registration cards are not acceptable;
- Disabled individuals in residential care facilities may have identity attested to by the facility director or administrator, on behalf of the individual in the facility, when the individual does not have or cannot get any document listed above. This affidavit must be signed under penalty of perjury, but need not be notarized.
- Children under age 16 years of age may have their identity documented using other means:
  - Clinic, doctor or hospital record;
  - School records including report card, day care or nursery school record. Records must be verified with the issuing school;
  - If no other documents are available, an affidavit signed under penalty of perjury by a parent, guardian or caretaker relative may be used. An identity affidavit should not be used if a citizenship affidavit was used. Identity affidavits need not be notarized. Identity affidavits may be used for children under 18 years of age when a school ID card or driver's license is not available to the child until he/she is 18 years of age.

**Evidence that Establishes U.S. Citizenship for Collectively Naturalized Individuals****Puerto Rico**

- Evidence of birth in Puerto Rico on or after 4/11/1899 and the applicant's or recipient's (A/R's) statement that he/she was residing in the U.S., a U.S. possession or Puerto Rico on 1/13/1941; or
- Evidence that the A/R was a Puerto Rican citizen and the A/R's statement that he/she was residing in Puerto Rico on 3/1/1917 and that he/she did not take an oath of allegiance to Spain.

**U.S. Virgin Islands**

- Evidence of birth in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the A/R's statement of residence in the U.S., a U.S. possession or the U.S. Virgin Islands on 2/25/1927; or
- The A/R's statement indicating residence in the U.S. Virgin Islands as a Danish citizen on 1/17/1917 and residence in the U.S., a U.S. possession or the U.S. Virgin Islands on 2/25/1927, and that he/she did not make a declaration to maintain Danish citizenship; or
- Evidence of birth in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the A/R's statement indicating residence in the U.S., a U.S. possession or territory or the Canal Zone on 6/28/1932.

**Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) (formerly part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands [TTPI])**

- Evidence of birth in the NMI, TTPI citizenship and residence in the NMI, the U.S., or a U.S. territory or possession on 11/3/1986 (NMI local time) and the A/R's statement that he/she did not owe allegiance to a foreign State on 11/4/1986 (NMI local time); or
- Evidence of TTPI citizenship, continuous residence in the NMI since before 11/3/1981 (NMI local time), voter registration prior to 1/1/1975 and the A/R's statement that he/she did not owe allegiance to a foreign State on 11/4/1986 (NMI local time); or
- Evidence of continuous domicile in the NMI since before 1/1/1974 and the A/R's statement that he/she did not owe allegiance to a foreign State on 11/4/1986 (NMI local time). If a person entered the NMI as a nonimmigrant and lived in the NMI since 1/1/1974, this does not constitute continuous domicile and the individual is not a U.S. citizen.

**Immigrant Status**

- The following are the most common United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Forms:
  - I-551 Permanent Resident Card;
  - I-94 Arrival/Departure Record;
  - I-766 Employment Authorization Card;
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Form I-797 Notice of Action; or
- Evidence of continuous United States residence prior to 1972.

**NOTE:** If you are applying only for Medical Assistance, you do not have to tell us about your citizenship or immigration status if you are:

- Pregnant; or
- An undocumented alien applying for Medical Assistance coverage because of an emergency medical condition. (See Medical Assistance section of Book 2, LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES-4148B for more information on citizenship or immigration status.)