

Facts About Temporary Agricultural Workers (H-2A Visa Holders) and Health Insurance

Are H-2A visa holders eligible for health insurance coverage through NY State of Health?

Yes. Under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), H-2A visa holders are eligible to enroll in Qualified Health Plans. Depending on income level, they may also be eligible for federal tax credits to reduce the monthly premium and cost-sharing reductions to help lower the cost of health care services. Those with incomes at or below 200% of federal poverty level are eligible for the Essential Plan.

Are H-2A visa holders eligible for Medicaid?

No. Lower income H-2A visa holders would be eligible to enroll in Essential Plan, New York's Basic Health Program, not Medicaid.

Will enrolling in a Qualified Health Plan or the Essential Plan impact an applicant's eligibility for an H-2A visa?

No. Enrolling in Qualified Health Plans or the Essential Plan will not impact an H-2A visa application. In fact, under the ACA, H-2A visa holders should enroll in one of these programs because they may be liable for a federal tax penalty under the ACA if they do not have health insurance.

Is there any health benefit that could impact an H-2A visa application?

Yes. Some H-2A visa holders, who need long term care services that are not covered by Essential Plan may be eligible for Medicaid. Enrolling in Medicaid long term care services in a nursing home or mental health facility could make an applicant for an H-2A visa application inadmissible as a public charge.

For more information on eligibility for coverage for non-immigrant visa holders under the ACA, please see the Department of Health and Human Services information for applicants at <https://www.healthcare.gov/immigrants/lawfully-present-immigrants/>