

6. Citizenship/Immigration Status

If all other eligibility requirements are met, citizenship or immigration status determines the level of Medi-Cal (MC) benefits the client is eligible for; restricted-scope MC or full-scope MC.



Important:

Eligibility staff must under no circumstance offer legal advice on immigration. Clients should be referred to the appropriate entities for information.

6.0.1 Scope of Coverage

Full-scope MC Benefits

Individuals who declare and verify United States (U.S.) citizenship, Legal Permanent Resident status and/or individuals aged 0-25 and 50 and older who meet all other eligibility requirements are eligible for full-scope MC benefits.



Important:

If eligible for Full Scope benefits, applicants/recipients must not under any circumstance be approved restricted scope coverage. They may receive the entitled full scope coverage or withdraw or discontinue their MC. They may reapply at any time.

Restricted-scope MC Benefits

Individuals who do not provide proof of U.S. Citizenship, who have legal temporary resident status or who are undocumented who meet all other eligibility requirements are eligible for restricted-scope MC benefits.

6.1 Status/Medi-Cal Entitlement Chart

For Employment Authorization Document Codes and Medi-Cal scope, refer to the [Employment Authorization Document Codes and MC Scope](#) reference material.

6.2 U.S. Citizens

U.S. citizenship is granted to:

- **U.S Born Citizens and Nationals**, including individuals born in:
 - Any of the 50 states in the United States,
 - District of Columbia,
 - Puerto Rico,
 - Guam,
 - Virgin Islands of the U.S. (St. John, St. Croix and St. Thomas)
 - American Samoa
 - Swain's Island
 - Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- **Naturalized Citizens**, including individuals born in another country who have met the U.S. residency requirements and have filed for an application to be naturalized U.S. citizens. Naturalized U.S. citizens typically obtained a legal permanent immigration status prior to naturalization.
- **Foreign-born children**, under age 18, residing in the U.S. with their birth or adoptive parents, at least one of whom is a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization;
- **Derived** Citizens, certain individuals may have derived their U.S. citizenship as children prior to their 18th birthday because one or both of their parents became citizens through naturalization.
- **Acquired** Citizens, individuals born in another country to U.S. citizen parent(s) may ACQUIRE U.S. citizenship by filing an application at USCIS.

Individuals with derived or acquired citizenship should present originals of one of the following documents:

- A Certificate of United States Citizenship (USCIS Form N-560).
- A United States Citizen Identification Card (USCIS Form I-197). (Not issued since February, 1981.)
- An Identification Card for the Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (USCIS Form I-179). (Last issued in February, 1974.)
- A Northern Mariana Identification Card issued by USCIS to individuals born in the Northern Mariana Islands before November 3, 1986 who are now U.S. citizens.
- A letter, on USCIS stationery, written by an USCIS official, which states that a foreign-born woman who married a U.S. citizen before September 22, 1922 thereby automatically became a U.S. citizen herself.
- A valid U.S. Passport issued by the Department of State.
- A Report of Birth: Child Born Abroad of American Parent or Parents (Dept. of State Form FS-240) issued by U.S. embassies and consulates to United States citizens born abroad.

- A Certification of Birth Abroad (Dept. of State Form FS-545) issued by U.S. embassies and consulates to United States citizens born abroad.
- A Certification of Birth Abroad (Dept. of State Form DS-1350) issued to United States citizens born abroad.

No Documentation

Individuals who believe that they qualify for derived or acquired citizenship should contact either the passport office or their District USCIS office:

Passport Office of the U.S. Department of State

525 Market St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Immigration and Naturalization Service

630 Sansome St.
San Francisco, CA 94111



Reminder:

Foreign born children of U.S. citizens must apply to USCIS or to the Department of State for approval and documents. U.S. citizenship is not automatic. Individuals who lack documentation may not have applied for or may not have been granted citizenship. Adoptive parents must also apply to USCIS for naturalization of their adopted child.

Citizenship Verification for Aged Individuals

Citizenship records for aged individuals may no longer be available (especially if they entered the U.S. before USCIS was established in 1924). These individuals must be referred to USCIS for documentation.

Verification that USCIS conducted a search of its records and the outcome of the search must be scanned in the case record when other documentation is not available. Scan a copy in IDM. No further action is required from the Eligibility Worker (EW).

6.3 Verification Requirements for U.S. Citizens

The federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) requires U.S. Citizens and U.S. Nationals to provide proof of citizenship and identity as a condition of eligibility for states to receive federal funding. The DRA requirements do not apply to individuals receiving State-only MC benefits.

6.3.1 Verification of U.S. Citizenship and Identity

Acceptable verification of citizenship status and identity must be obtained for all non-exempt U.S. citizens/U.S. national applicants and clients. If verification from the Federal Data Services Hub (Federal Hub) or MEDS can be obtained, no other verification is required from the client. [Refer to “Federal Data Services Hub,” page 16-3]

**Note:**

Children born in the U.S. to foreign sovereigns or diplomatic officers are not U.S. citizens.

**Reminder:**

The U.S. citizenship and identity verification requirements do NOT apply to non-citizens including undocumented immigrants or individuals receiving State only MC benefits.

Proof Already Provided

If the applicant or client’s proof of citizenship/identity is on file (i.e. applicant provided acceptable proof at initial intake interview), but it was not previously entered, it must be entered into CalWIN and sent to MEDS. If the DRA requirement was previously provided on a different case, that information must be entered into the current case without the need for the client to provide the documents again. This will satisfy the DRA requirements.

A birth record match for California-born individuals can be requested at any time. A successful birth record match will not be overwritten by a verified or an unverified SSA Citizenship/Identity result.

6.3.2 Electronic Verification

The EW must grant full-scope benefits, without delay to clients who claim to be U.S. citizens/nationals, or to have satisfactory immigration status if all other eligibility criteria are met (i.e. income, residency, etc.)

Verified by Federal Hub

Citizenship and Identification information are now verified through the Federal Hub. When an application is submitted or a critical data element is changed the information is checked against the Federal Hub. The verifications status will display *Pass*, *Fail*, *Pending* or *Not Verified*, depending on whether the citizenship and identification can be verified electronically through the Federal Hub.

Not Verified by Federal Hub

The following process must be followed if the client’s citizenship/identification cannot be initially verified via CalHEERS through the federal data hub:

Table 23: Citizenship and Identification Electronic Verification

Step	If Citizenship/Identification Status...	Then the EW Must...
1.	Cannot be initially verified via CalHEERS through the federal data hub (i.e. because the hub is down) or the application information is not “reasonably compatible” with information from the Federal Hub,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First use the information provided on the application to attempt verification of citizenship or satisfactory immigration status. • Initiate SAVE. • Submit a copy of the SAVE results and documents to be scanned into the case’s IDM file.
2.	Cannot be verified through SAVE,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the applicant a 90-day ROP to resolve the inconsistency. • Grant full-scope MC benefits while verification of citizenship or immigration status is being obtained to otherwise eligible applicants. • If citizenship or identification cannot be verified within the 90-day ROP, then the scope of benefits must be reduced (to restricted-scope) until the verification is provided. <p>Note: This does not apply to individuals aged 0-25 and 50 and older. [Refer to “SB75, SB104 and AB133,” section 6.10]</p>

6.3.3 Electronic Birth Record Match

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has implemented a process to perform an automated birth record match with the California Department of Vital Records database for individuals born in California. Information from Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS), Statewide Client Index (SCI) and CalWIN is used to obtain an electronic record of U.S. citizenship.

The “Request for California Birth Record” (DHCS 0004) is used to obtain the necessary information from the client to initiate an electronic birth record match. It may be completed by the client or by the EW over the phone.