

A Quick Guide to Immigrant Eligibility for ACA and Key Federal Means-tested Programs

Information current as of APRIL 2018*

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION: immigrant eligibility for federal programs, www.nilc.org/table_ovrw_fedprogs/; medical assistance programs, www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/med-services-for-imms-in-states.pdf; state-funded food assistance, www.nilc.org/state_food/; state-funded TANF replacements, www.nilc.org/guide_tanf/; state-funded SSI replacements, www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/tbl9_state-ssi_2011-03_NEdelated2014-04.pdf.

PROGRAM	LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (age 18 and over)	LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (under age 18)	LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (pregnant women)	REFUGEES, ASYLEES, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, OTHERS ¹	LAWFULLY PRESENT INDIVIDUALS	UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS and DACA RECIPIENTS ² (including children and pregnant women)
	If entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996					
ACA – Health Care Reform Subsidies (premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Not eligible Also not eligible for full-priced health insurance in the Exchange marketplace
SNAP	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work	Eligible	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
MEDICAID	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period ³	State option ⁴ to provide without a 5-year waiting period ³	State option to provide without a 5-year waiting period ³	Eligible ⁵	State option for children under 21 and pregnant women only	Eligible only for emergency Medicaid
CHIP	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period	State option to provide without a 5-year waiting period	State option to provide without a 5-year waiting period	Eligible	State option for children under 21 and pregnant women	Not eligible
TANF	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period ⁶	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period ⁶	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period ⁶	Eligible ⁵	Not eligible	Not eligible
SSI	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> meet another exception	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> meet another exception	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work	Only eligible during first 7 years after status is granted	Not eligible	Not eligible

* This table was last updated in September 2015. The information in it was reviewed and is current as of April 2018.

¹ Also includes Cuban/Haitian entrants, Amerasian immigrants, Iraqi or Afghan special immigrants, and individuals granted withholding of deportation or removal.

² DACA is the acronym for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

³ In a few states, remain ineligible after 5 years unless have credit for 40 quarters of work history or are a veteran, active duty military, or his or her spouse/child.

⁴ Eligible if receiving federal foster care.

⁵ A few states terminate Medicaid to humanitarian immigrants after a 7-year period, and/or TANF after a 5-year period.

⁶ At least a dozen states use their maintenance-of-effort funds to provide TANF without a waiting period.