

# 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/](http://www.nilc.org/table_ovrw_fedprogs/); medical assistance programs, [www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/med-services-for-imms-in-states.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/med-services-for-imms-in-states.pdf); state-funded food assistance, [www.nilc.org/state\\_food/](http://www.nilc.org/state_food/); state-funded TANF replacements, [www.nilc.org/guide\\_tanf/](http://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](http://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 <sup>1</sup> | LAWFULLY PRESENT INDIVIDUALS                                  | UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS and DACA RECIPIENTS <sup>2</sup> (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<br>Also not eligible for full-priced health insurance in the Exchange marketplace   |
| SNAP   | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work                                   | Eligible  | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work  | Eligible   | Not eligible  | Not eligible   |
| MEDICAID   | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <sup>3</sup>  | State option <sup>4</sup><br>to provide without a 5-year waiting period <sup>3</sup>  | State option<br>to provide without a 5-year waiting period <sup>3</sup>                          | Eligible <sup>5</sup>  | State option<br>for children under 21 and pregnant women only | Eligible only for emergency Medicaid   |
| CHIP   | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period   | State option<br>to provide without a 5-year waiting period  | State option<br>to provide without a 5-year waiting period                                       | Eligible   | State option<br>for children under 21 and pregnant women      | Not eligible   |
| TANF   | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <sup>6</sup>  | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <sup>6</sup>  | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <sup>6</sup>                                   | Eligible <sup>5</sup>  | Not eligible  | Not eligible   |
| SSI  | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> meet another exception | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work <i>or</i> meet another exception | Not eligible<br>until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work | Only eligible<br>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.

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

<sup>2</sup> DACA is the acronym for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Eligible if receiving federal foster care.

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

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