

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

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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_NEdeleted2014-04.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 or meet another exception | Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work or 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 |

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.