TABLE 1
Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs

This table provides an overview of immigrant eligibility for the major federal public assistance programs. Some states provide assistance to immigrants who are not eligible for federally funded services.  *(TABLE REVISED JULY 2021)*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplementation Security Income (SSI)</td>
<td>Eligible only if:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Receiving SSI (or application pending) on Aug. 22, 1996</td>
<td>• Lawful permanent resident with credit for 40 quarters of work (but must wait until 5 years after entry before applying)</td>
<td>• Receiving SSI (or application pending) on Aug. 22, 1996</td>
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<td>• Qualify as disabled and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on Aug. 22, 1996</td>
<td>• Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian immigrant, but only during first 7 years after status was granted</td>
<td>• Certain American Indians born abroad</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Lawful permanent resident with credit for 40 quarters of work</td>
<td>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unmarried surviving spouse, or child</td>
<td>• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries during the first seven years after status was granted</td>
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<td>• Were granted refugee or asylum status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, or Amerasian immigrant</td>
<td>• Have been in &quot;qualified&quot; immigrant status for 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for 5 years</td>
<td>• Are receiving disability-related assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are receiving disability-related assistance</td>
<td>• Lawful permanent resident with credit for 40 quarters of work</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lawful permanent resident with credit for 40 quarters of work</td>
<td>• Were 65 years or older and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on Aug. 22, 1996</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Were 65 years or older and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on Aug. 22, 1996</td>
<td>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unmarried surviving spouse, or child</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unmarried surviving spouse, or child</td>
<td>• Member of Hmong or Laotian tribe during the Vietnam era, when the tribe militarily assisted the U.S.; spouse, surviving spouse, or child of tribe member</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Member of Hmong or Laotian tribe during the Vietnam era, when the tribe militarily assisted the U.S.; spouse, surviving spouse, or child of tribe member</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Certain American Indians born abroad</td>
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</table>

* Table last systematically updated in 10/11. Endnote 6 (p. 4) revised 2/14; note 10 last revised 8/15; note 8 last revised 4/21; note 7 last revised 7/21. Revisions made to the table in 1/17: “Are under age 18” deleted from SNAP row in “before Aug. 22, 1996” column (p. 1); and “and ‘qualified’ abused spouses and children” deleted from HUD row (under “Eligible except:”) in “before Aug. 22, 1996” and “on or after Aug. 22, 1996” columns (p. 3). Revisions made in 1/21: “Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau,” and accompanying footnote, added to “Full-Scope Medicaid” row in “on or after Aug. 22, 1996” and “Not Qualified Immigrants” columns (p. 2); and “Individuals who lawfully reside in the U.S. pursuant to a Compact of Free Association (COFA) are considered “qualified” immigrants for purposes of Medicaid” added to definition of “‘qualified’ immigrants” (p. 4).
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | Eligible\(^\dagger\)† | Eligible only if:  
- Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, victim of trafficking, or Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status \(^5\)  
- Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child \(^1\)  
- Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for 5 years or more \(^1, 6\) | Eligible only if:  
- Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries |
| Emergency Medicaid (includes labor and delivery) | Eligible | Eligible | Eligible |
| Full-Scope Medicaid | Eligible \(^6, **\) | Eligible only if:  
- Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, victim of trafficking, or Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status \(^7\)  
- Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child \(^1\)  
- Receiving federal Foster Care  
- Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for 5 years or more \(^1, 7\)  
- Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau**  
- Children under 21 (state option)\(^10\)  
- Pregnant women (state option)\(^10\) | Eligible only if:  
- Were receiving SSI on Aug. 22, 1996 (in states that link Medicaid to SSI eligibility)  
- Certain American Indians born abroad  
- Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau**  
- Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries  
- Lawfully residing children under 21 (state option)\(^10\)  
- Lawfully residing pregnant women (state option)\(^10\) |
| Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) | Eligible | Eligible only if:  
- Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, victim of trafficking, or Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status  
- Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child \(^1\)  
- Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for 5 years or more \(^1\)  
- Children under 21 (state option)\(^10\)  
- Pregnant women (state option)\(^10\) | Eligible only if:  
- Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries  
- Lawfully residing children under 21 (state option)\(^10\)  
- Lawfully residing pregnant women (state option)\(^4, 10\) |

\(^\dagger\) In Mississippi, TANF is available to immigrants who entered the U.S. prior to Aug. 22, 1996, only if they are: (1) LPRs credited with 40 quarters of work; or (2) veterans, active-duty military (and their spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child); or refugees, asylees, people granted withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, victims of trafficking, or Amerasian immigrants during the first five years after obtaining this status. (This note added 6/30/16.)

\(^*\) Individuals who lawfully reside in the U.S. pursuant to a Compact of Free Association (COFA) are eligible for Medicaid, if otherwise eligible, and are considered “qualified” immigrants for purposes of Medicaid eligibility. (This note added 1/5/21.)
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Medicare “Premium Free” Part A (hospitalization) (eligibility based on work history) | Eligible | Eligible | Eligible only if:  
• Lawfully present, and eligibility for assistance is based on authorized employment |
| Premium “Buy-in” Medicare | Eligible only if:  
• Lawful permanent resident who has resided continuously in the U.S. for at least 5 years | Eligible only if:  
• Lawful permanent resident who has resided continuously in the U.S. for at least 5 years | Not Eligible |
| HUD Public Housing and Section 8 Programs | Eligible except:  
• Certain Cuban/Haitian entrants | Eligible except:  
• Certain Cuban/Haitian entrants | Eligible only if:  
• Temporary resident under IRCA general amnesty, or paroled into the U.S. for less than 1 year  
• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries  
• Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau  
**Note:** For other immigrants, eligibility may depend on the date the family began receiving housing assistance, the immigration status of other household members, and the household composition.  
**Note also:** If at least one member of the household is eligible based on immigration status, the family may reside in the housing, but the subsidy will be pro-rated. |
| Title XX Block Grants | Eligible | Eligible | Eligible only if:  
• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries  
• Program or service funded by the block grant is exempt from the welfare law’s restrictions |
| Social Security | Eligible⁸ | Eligible⁸ | Eligible only if:  
• Lawfully present⁸  
• Were receiving assistance based on an application filed before Dec. 1, 1996  
• Eligibility required by certain international agreements |
| Other Federal Public Benefits Subject to Welfare Law’s Restrictions | Eligible | Eligible | Eligible only if:  
• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries |
| Benefits Exempt from Welfare Law’s Restrictions | Eligible | Eligible | Eligible |
**KEY TERMS USED IN TABLE (Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs)**

“Qualified” immigrants are: (1) lawful permanent residents (LPRs); (2) refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, conditional entry (in effect prior to Apr. 1, 1980), or paroled into the U.S. for at least one year; (3) Cuban/Haitian entrants; (4) battered spouses and children with a pending or approved (a) self-petition for an immigrant visa, or (b) immigrant visa filed for a spouse or child by a U.S. citizen or LPR, or (c) application for cancellation of removal/suspension of deportation, whose need for benefits has a substantial connection to the battery or cruelty (parent/child of such battered child/spouse are also “qualified”); and (5) victims of trafficking and persons granted Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status or Amerasian immigrants, to the seven-year period after obtaining this status (AL, MS, MT, SC, TX, VA, WV). In Texas and Alabama, Amerasian immigrants are eligible only during the five years after obtaining this status. However, South Carolina provides Medicaid to people granted withholding of removal, without a time limit; South Carolina and Montana provide Medicaid to other “qualified” immigrants who have credit for 40 quarters of work history in the U.S.; Wyoming provides full-scope Medicaid to “qualified” abused immigrants and persons paroled into the U.S. regardless of their date of entry into the U.S.; and some of these states provide Medicaid to lawfully residing children (VA, SC, TX) or pregnant women (SC, WY) regardless of their date of entry. Texas and Virginia offer prenatal care regardless of a woman’s immigration status under the CHIP option referenced in note 8, below.

“Not qualified” immigrants include all noncitizens who do not fall under the “qualified” immigrant categories.

**NOTES**

1. Eligibility may be affected by deeming: a sponsor’s income/resources may be added to the immigrant’s in determining eligibility. Exemptions from deeming may apply.

2. LPRs are eligible if they have worked 40 qualifying quarters in the U.S. Immigrants also get credit toward their 40 quarters for work performed (1) by parents when the immigrant was under 18; and (2) by spouse during the marriage (unless the marriage ended in divorce or annulment). No credit is given for a quarter worked after Dec. 31, 1996, if a federal means-tested public benefit (SSI, food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, or CHIP) was received in that quarter.

3. Children are not subject to sponsor deeming in the SNAP program.

4. Disability-related benefits include SSI, Social Security disability, state disability or retirement pension, railroad retirement disability, veteran’s disability, disability-based Medicaid, and disability-related General Assistance if the disability determination uses criteria as stringent as those used by federal SSI.

5. In Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas, TANF is available only to immigrants who entered the U.S. on or after Aug. 22, 1996, who are: (1) LPRs credited with 40 quarters of work; (2) veterans, active-duty military (and their spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child); or (3) refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, victims of trafficking, and Amerasian immigrants during the five years after obtaining this status. Indiana provides TANF to “refugees” listed in (3) regardless of the date they obtained that status and does not provide benefits to post-Aug. 22, 1996 entrants listed in (1). Mississippi does not address eligibility for Cuban/Haitian entrants or Amerasian immigrants.

6. In Wyoming, lawfully residing pregnant women are eligible for Medicaid regardless of their date of entry into the U.S. Otherwise, only LPRs with 40 quarters of work credit, abused immigrants, parolees, veterans, active-duty military (and their spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child), refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and Amerasian immigrants who entered the U.S. prior to Aug. 22, 1996, are eligible for full-scope Medicaid.

7. All states provide Medicaid to “qualified” immigrant veterans, active duty military (and their spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child) regardless of their date of entry into the U.S. A few states deny Medicaid to qualified immigrants who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, unless they are LPRs credited with 40 quarters of work (MS, MT, ND, SC, SD, TX, WY), and/or limit eligibility for refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, trafficking survivors, and their derivative beneficiaries who have obtained a T visa or whose application for a T visa sets forth a prima facie case. (A broader group of trafficking victims who are certified by or receive an eligibility letter from the Office of Refugee Resettlement are eligible for benefits funded or administered by federal agencies, without regard to their immigration status.) Individuals who lawfully reside in the U.S. pursuant to a Compact of Free Association (COFA) are considered “qualified” immigrants for purposes of Medicaid.

8. In states that opt to cover fetuses, CHIP provides prenatal care regardless of the mother’s immigration status. The scope of coverage depends in part on how the option is implemented.

9. For applications based on Social Security numbers issued on or after Jan. 1, 2004: Must have been assigned a Social Security number that was, at the time assigned or at any later time, valid for work purposes. Alternatively, must have been admitted to the U.S. temporarily for business or as a crewman when the relevant work quarters were earned.