

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.html; medical assistance programs, www.nilc.org/document.html?id=159; state-funded food assistance, www.nilc.org/state_food.html; state-funded TANF replacements, www.nilc.org/guide_tanf.html; state-funded SSI replacements, www.nilc.org/document.html?id=475.

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 (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 ²	State option ³ to provide without a 5-year waiting period ²	State option to provide without a 5-year waiting period ²	Eligible ⁴	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 ⁵	Not eligible until after 5 year waiting period ⁵	Not eligible until after 5-year waiting period ⁵	Eligible ⁴	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 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.

³ Eligible if receiving federal foster care.

⁴ A few states terminate Medicaid to humanitarian immigrants after a 7-year period, and/or TANF after a 5-year period.

⁵ At least a dozen states use their maintenance of effort funds to provide TANF without a waiting period.