

# 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](http://www.nilc.org/table_ovrw_fedprogs.html); medical assistance programs, [www.nilc.org/document.html?id=159](http://www.nilc.org/document.html?id=159); state-funded food assistance, [www.nilc.org/state\\_food.html](http://www.nilc.org/state_food.html); state-funded TANF replacements, [www.nilc.org/guide\\_tanf.html](http://www.nilc.org/guide_tanf.html); state-funded SSI replacements, [www.nilc.org/document.html?id=475](http://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 <sup>1</sup>	LAWFULLY PRESENT INDIVIDUALS	UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS (including children and pregnant women)
	If entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996:					
<b>ACA – Health Care Reform Subsidies</b> (premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions)	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Not eligible</b> Also not eligible for full-priced health insurance in the Exchange marketplace
<b>SNAP</b>	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period <i>or</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Not eligible</b>	<b>Not eligible</b>
<b>MEDICAID</b>	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period <sup>2</sup>	<b>State option</b> <sup>3</sup> to provide without a 5-year waiting period <sup>2</sup>	<b>State option</b> to provide without a 5-year waiting period <sup>2</sup>	<b>Eligible</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>State option</b> for children under 21 and pregnant women only	<b>Eligible only for emergency Medicaid</b>
<b>CHIP</b>	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period	<b>State option</b> to provide without a 5-year waiting period	<b>State option</b> to provide without a 5-year waiting period	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>State option</b> for children under 21 and pregnant women	<b>Not eligible</b>
<b>TANF</b>	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period <sup>5</sup>	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5 year waiting period <sup>5</sup>	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period <sup>5</sup>	<b>Eligible</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>Not eligible</b>	<b>Not eligible</b>
<b>SSI</b>	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work or meet another exception	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work or meet another exception	<b>Not eligible</b> until after 5-year waiting period <i>and</i> have credit for 40 quarters of work	<b>Only eligible</b> during first 7 years after status is granted	<b>Not eligible</b>	<b>Not eligible</b>

<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> 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>3</sup> Eligible if receiving federal foster care.

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

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