Arkansas Benefits Infographic – VAWA

Sarah Register, Juliana Nascimento, and Leslye E. Orloff (August 8, 2026)

VAWA Children[1]

- **All pregnant children are eligible for prenatal and postpartum care (up to 60 days) regardless of immigration status.**
- **All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status**

Zero Months: At Filing:
-**Public and Assisted Housing, Prenatal care and 60 days of postpartum care.**

5 Months after Filing: If abuser citizen parent/step-parent (USC abuser): Work Authorization, **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment, In-State Tuition**

3-4 Months after Filing:
Prima Facie Determination (*Qualified Immigrant and Lawfully Present*) - **Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP, CHIP and Full Healthcare while pregnant (up to age 19); State Financial Aid.**

48.5 Months (≈4 years) after Filing:
-Approval ; Deferred Action,[2]
If abuser lawful permanent resident parent/step parent (LPR abuser): Work Authorization/[3] and eligibility to apply for Lawful Permanent Residency; **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment, In-State Tuition**

Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) (Green Card)[4] and **SNAP (up to age 18)** [5]: 4.0 (USC abuser) or 5.0 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing
5.3 years after filing (LPR + completed 5-year bar): **TANF, Medicaid 19+[6],**

7.0 (USC abuser) or 8.0 (abuser LPR) Years after Filing for VAWA; 3 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Apply for Naturalization

7.9 (USC abuser) or 8.8 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA; 10 Months after Application for Naturalization[7]: Naturalization Approved

10.3 (USC abuser) or 15 (LPR abuser) or 10 Years after work authorization (unless naturalize): **SSI**

*State funded available prior to meeting federal: 5-year bar, 40 quarters, and lawful permanent residence requirements.

State funded blue font – State benefits charts https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/all-state-public-benefits-charts/

[1] Child is up to age 21 under immigration law. For public benefits age limit varies by benefits program see state public benefits charts.
[2] Formal protection from removal/deportation.
[3] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition.
[4] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition. Fort Smith Field Office wait time is 11.5 months.
[5] Must be under age 18, disabled, met the 5-year bar, or earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.
[6] Eligible for federal Medicaid 5 years after receiving VAWA prima facie determination. Starting October 1, 2026 will also require lawful permanent residency.
[7] Wait time is 10 months at the Fort Smith Field Office.

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VAWA Adults

- **All pregnant individuals are eligible for prenatal and postpartum care (up to 60 days) regardless of immigration status.**

Zero Months: At Filing:
-Public and Assisted Housing, **Prenatal care and 60 days of postpartum care.**

5 Months after Filing: If abuser citizen parent/step-parent (USC abuser):
Work Authorization, **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment** **In-State Tuition**

3-4 Months after Filing:
Prima Facie Determination (*Qualified Immigrant and Lawfully Present*)
- Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP, **State Financial Aid**

48.5 Months (≈4 years) after Filing:
-Approval; Deferred Action,[8]

-If abuser lawful permanent resident parent/step parent (LPR abuser): Work Authorization/[9] and eligibility to apply for Lawful Permanent Residency; **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment,** **In-State Tuition**

Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) (Green Card)[10] 4.0 (USC abuser) or 5.0 (LPR abuser) years after Filing for VAWA
5.3 years after filing with (LPR + completed 5-year bar): **Medicaid 19+[11], TANF, SNAP 18+[12]**

7.0 (USC abuser) or 8.0 (abuser LPR) Years after Filing for VAWA; 3 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Apply for Naturalization

7.9 (USC abuser) or 8.8 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA; 10 Months after Application for Naturalization[13]: Naturalization Approved

10.3 (USC abuser) or 15 (LPR abuser) or 10 Years after work authorization (unless naturalize): **SSI**

*State funded available prior to meeting federal: 5-year bar, 40 quarters, and lawful permanent residence requirements.

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[8] Formal protection from removal/deportation
[9] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition
[10] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition. Wait time is 11.5 months at the Fort Smith Field
Office.
[11] Eligible for federal Medicaid 5 years after receiving VAWA prima facie determination. Starting October 1, 2026 will also require lawful permanent residency.
[12] Must have met 5-year bar, be disabled, elderly if entered the US before 8/22/96, or earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.
[13] Wait time is 10 months at the Fort Smith Field Office.