

California Benefits Infographic – T Visa,
Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye Orloff (May 22, 2026)

T Visa Children¹

- All children under 26 are eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal coverage regardless of immigration status
- Eligible for California Student Aid, Grants and Loans if attended 3 years of high school, adult school or community college in California (may be a combination), and meet other condition.
- All California residents are eligible for state issued driver's licenses and IDs.
- All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status

Zero Months: At Filing:

TANF*, **Medicaid (Under 26)***, **SSI if in the process of filing for a T visa***

6 Months after Filing:

Bona Fide Determination (*Qualified Immigrant and Lawfully Present*)

- Work Authorization, **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment, Public and Assisted Housing, - LIHEAP, Federal Student Aid, Medicaid², SSI³, TANF, SNAP if in the process of filing for a T visa***

29.5 Months (2.5 years) after Filing:

Approval

29.5 to 66 Months (2.5 to 5.5 years) after Filing for T Visa: 36 Months (3 Years)⁴ after Approval: Can Apply for Lawful Permanent Residence (Green Card)

6 to 9 Years after Filing for T Visa; 29.5-42.5 Months⁵ after Application for Lawful Permanent Residence:

Issued Lawful Permanent Residence (Green Card)
-SNAP (up to age 18)

11 to 14 Years⁶ after Filing for T Visa; 5 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
Can Apply for Naturalization

11.8 to 14.8 Years⁷ after Filing For T Visa; 9.68 Months After Applying for Naturalization⁸:
Naturalization Approved

*State funded available prior to meeting federal: 5-year bar, 40 quarters, and/or 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 Victims with T visa bona fide determinations or T visas eligible with no 5-year bar. After October 1, 2026 will require lawful permanent residence.

³ Eligible only for the first 7 years after T visa receipt or bona fide determination.

⁴ Can be in the earlier range if trafficking investigation is completed prior to 3 years after Approval.

⁵ Can be in the earlier range if trafficking investigation is completed prior to 3 years after Approval.

⁶ Can be in the earlier range if trafficking investigation is completed prior to 3 years after Approval.

⁷ Can be in the earlier range if trafficking investigation is completed prior to 3 years after Approval.

⁸ Based on average from all California Field Office/Service Centers, wait times range from 8 months to 12 months.

NIWAP, American University, Washington College of Law

4300 Nebraska Avenue NW N100B · Washington, D.C. 20016

(o) 202.274.4457 · niwap@wcl.american.edu · [wcl.american.edu/niwap](https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/) · <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/>

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T Visa Adults

- All income eligible 26+ adults are eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status.
- Eligible for California Student Aid, Grants and Loans if attended 3 years of high school, adult school or community college in California (may be a combination), and meet other condition.
- All California residents are eligible for state issued driver's licenses.

Zero Months: At Filing:

TANF*, **Medicaid (Under 26)***, **SSI if in the process of filing for a T visa***

6 Months after Filing:

Bona Fide Determination (*Qualified Immigrant*)

- Work Authorization, **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment, Public and Assisted Housing, - LIHEAP, Federal Student Aid, Medicaid⁹, SSI¹⁰, TANF, SNAP if in the process of filing for a T visa***

29.5 Months (2.5 years) after Filing:
Approval

29.5 to 66 Months (2.5 to 5.5 years) after Filing for T Visa: 36 Months (3 Years)¹¹ after Approval: Can Apply for Lawful Permanent Residence (Green Card)

6.0 to 9.0 Years after Filing for T Visa; 29.5-42.5 Months¹² after Filing for T Visa; 42.5 Months after Application for Lawful Permanent Residence: Issued Lawful Permanent Residence (Green Card) -SNAP¹³

11.0 to 14.0 Years¹⁴ after Filing for T Visa; 5 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Can Apply for Naturalization

11.8 to 14.8 Years¹⁵ after Filing For T Visa; 9.68 Months After Applying for Naturalization¹⁶: Naturalization Approved

*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/>

⁹Victims with T visa bona fide determinations or T visas eligible with no 5-year bar. After October 1, 2026 will require lawful permanent residence.

¹⁰ Eligible only for the first 7 years after T visa receipt or bona fide determination.

¹¹ Can be in the earlier range if trafficking investigation is completed prior to 3 years after Approval

¹² Can be in the earlier range if trafficking investigation is completed prior to 3 years after Approval.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Can be in the earlier range if trafficking investigation is completed prior to 3 years after Approval.

¹⁵ Can be in the earlier range if trafficking investigation is completed prior to 3 years after Approval.

¹⁶ Based on average from all California Field Office/Service Centers, wait times range from 8 months to 12 months.