

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

U 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 Filing²:

-TANF,* SSI,* SNAP

19 Months (1.6 Years) after Filing:
Bona Fide Determination (*Lawfully Present*)
Deferred Action³, Work Authorization **Real IDs**,
Driver's License, Unemployment

8.5 Years after Filing:
-Approval⁴

11.5 Years after Filing for U Visa: 3 Years after
Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency
(Green Card)

13.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 23.5 Months after
Application for Lawful Permanent Residency:
Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card)
(*Qualified Immigrant*)
-Public and Assisted Housing, LIHEAP, Federal
Student Aid, SNAP (up to age 18)

18.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 5 Years after Lawful
Permanent Residency: Can Apply for Naturalization
Medicaid,⁵ SSI, TANF

19.3 Years after Filing for U Visa; 9.68 Months after
Applying for Naturalization⁶:
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/>

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 Obtaining a certification from a government official is a required prerequisite to filing for a U Visa

³ Formal protection from removal/deportation

⁴ As of October 2025 they began issuing U visa approvals for cases filed in early 2017

⁵ Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5 year bar.

⁶ Based on average from all California Field Office/Service Centers, wait times range from 6 months to 9 months.

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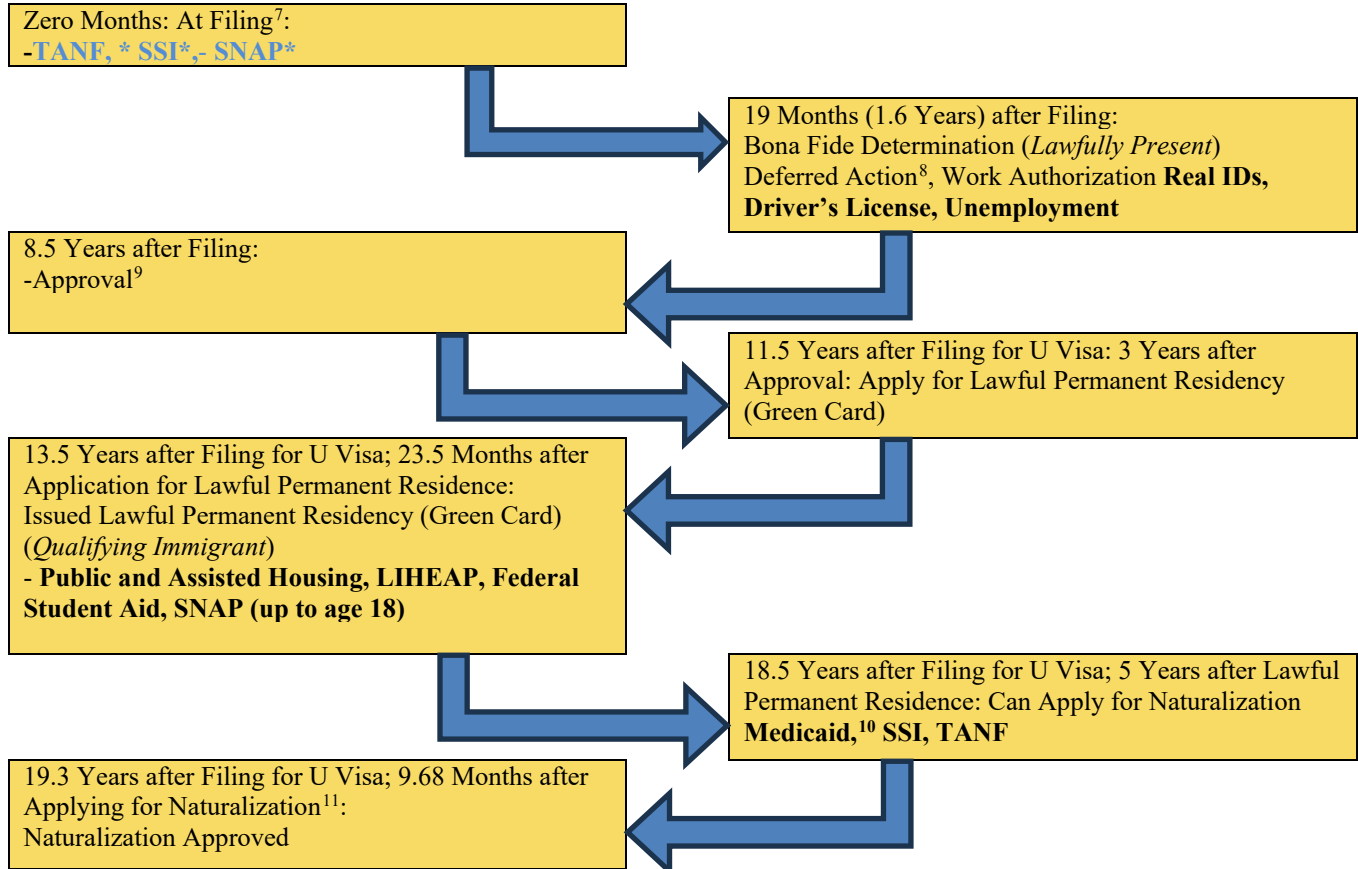
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U Visa Adults

- 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 and IDs.



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⁷ Obtaining a certification from a government official is a required prerequisite to filing for a U Visa

⁸ Formal protection from removal/deportation

⁹ As of October 2025 they began issuing U visa approvals for cases filed in early 2017.

¹⁰ Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5 year bar.

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