

District of Columbia Benefits Infographic – SIJS Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (July 16, 2026)

SIJS Children¹

- **Graduates who attended a D.C. high school for 3 years are eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid regardless of immigration status.**
- **Children under age 21, regardless of immigration status can receive healthcare through the Immigrant Children's Program.**
- **All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status**

Zero Months: Filing (*Lawfully Present*): **In-state tuition and state financial aid; Child healthcare up to age 21.**

6 Months after Filing for SIJS: Approval
-Work Authorization, Deferred Action²
Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment

3.3 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residence³

6.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 35 Months after filing for Lawful Permanent Residence
-Issued Lawful Permanent Residence (Green Card) (*Qualified Immigrant*)
-Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP; Public and Assisted Housing, SNAP (under 18)

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
Medicaid 21+⁴, TANF, Can apply for Naturalization

10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after work authorization: **SNAP (age 18+),⁵ SSI**

12.6 years after Filing for SIJS: 10.5 months after Application 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. SIJS Children must obtain state court judicial determinations before they reach the age of majority and age out of the family or juvenile court's jurisdiction. In the District of Columbia this age is 18. For public benefits age limit varies by benefits program see state public benefits charts.

² Cases filed before May 10, 2026 are automatically considered for deferred action; cases file on or after that date will need to request deferred action.

³ Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.

⁴ Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.

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 Wait time is 10.5 months at the Washington, DC Field Office.

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SIJS Applicants Who Become Adults ⁷

- **Graduates who attended a D.C. high school for 3 years are eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid regardless of immigration status.**
- **Adults age of 21-25 and those over age 21 who were enrolled before 10/1/25 are who are ineligible for Medicaid are eligible regardless of immigration status for coverage through DC Health Care Alliance.**

Zero Months: Filing (*Lawfully Present*): **In-state tuition and state financial aid; Healthcare for adults ages 21-25 and 26+ adults enrolled before 10/1/25.**

6 Months after Filing for SIJS:
Approval
-Work Authorization, Deferred Action⁸
Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment

3.3 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency⁹

6.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 35 Months after filing for Lawful Permanent Residence
-Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card) (*Qualified Immigrant*)
-**Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP; Public and Assisted Housing**

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
Medicaid 21+¹⁰, TANF, Can apply for Naturalization

10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after work authorization: **SNAP (age 18+),¹¹ SSI**

12.6 years after Filing for SIJS: 10.5 months after Application for Naturalization¹²:
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/>

⁷ Children must apply for SIJS before age 21. If filed prior to turning 21, the SIJS application can be granted regardless of the applicants age at adjudication.

⁸ Cases filed before May 10, 2026 are automatically considered for deferred action; cases file on or after that date will need to request deferred action.

⁹ Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.

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

¹¹ 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.

¹² Wait time is 10.5 months at the Washington, DC Field Office.