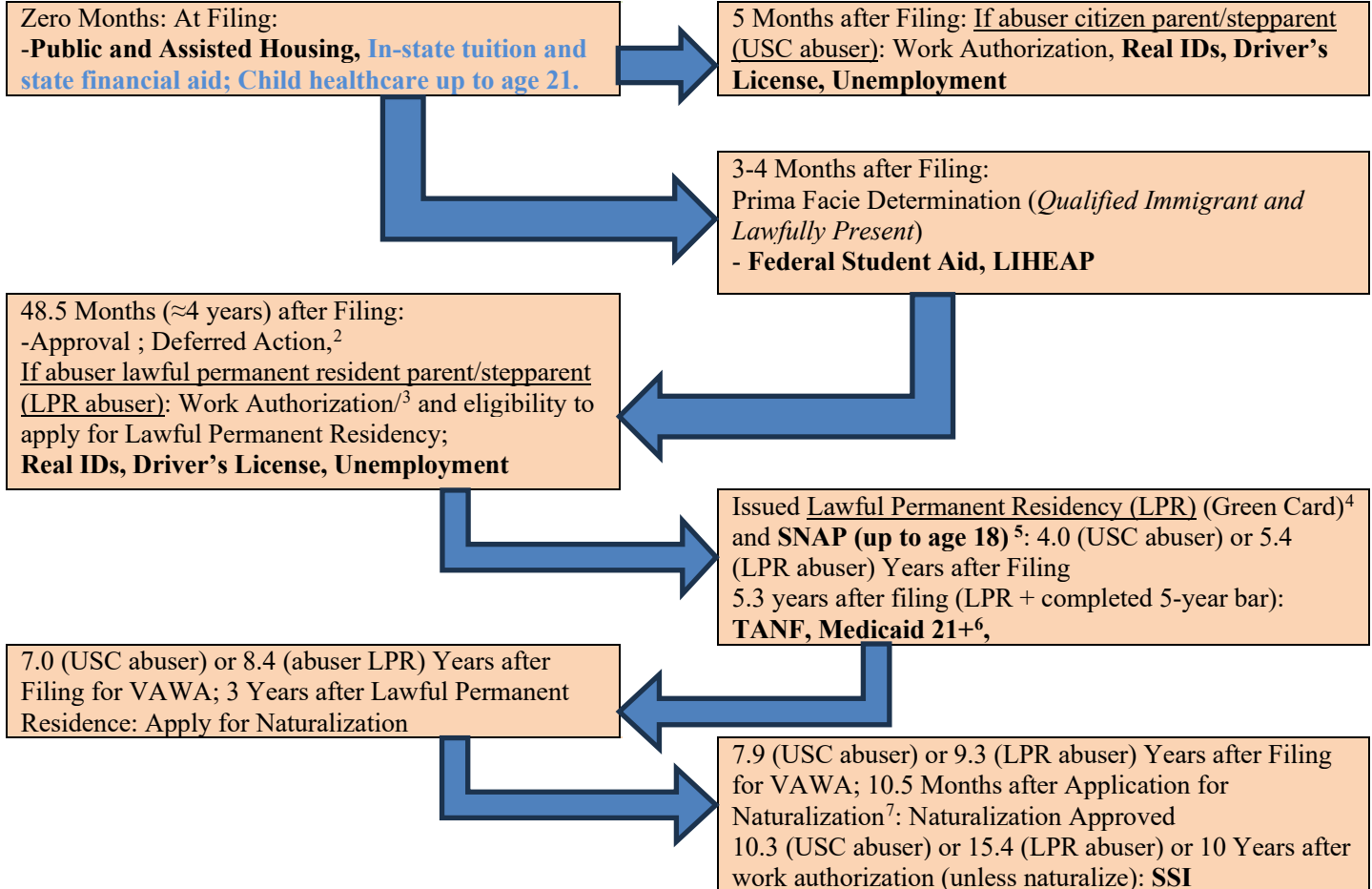


District of Columbia Benefits Infographic – VAWA

Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (July 16, 2026)

VAWA 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**



*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. Washington, DC Field Office wait time is 16 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 10.5 months at the Washington, DC Field Office.

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District of Columbia Benefits Infographic – VAWA,
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VAWA Adult VAWA Adults

- 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: At Filing:

-Public and Assisted Housing, In-state tuition and state financial aid; Healthcare for adults ages 21-25 and 26+ adults enrolled before 10/1/25.

5 Months after Filing: If abuser citizen parent/step-parent (USC abuser):

Work Authorization, Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment

3-4 Months after Filing:

Prima Facie Determination (*Qualified Immigrant and Lawfully Present*)

- Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP

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

Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) (Green Card)¹⁰ 4.0 (USC abuser) or 5.4 (LPR abuser) years after Filing for VAWA

5.3 years after filing with (LPR + completed 5-year bar):
Medicaid 21+¹¹, TANF, SNAP 18+¹²

7.0 (USC abuser) or 8.4 (abuser LPR) Years after Filing for VAWA; 3 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Apply for Naturalization

7.9 (USC abuser) or 9.3 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA; 10.5 Months after Application for Naturalization¹³: Naturalization Approved

10.3 (USC abuser) or 15.4 (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/>

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 16 months at the Washington, DC 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 10.5 months at the Washington, DC Field Office.