**Florida Benefits Infographic – SIJS**

Sarah Register, Juliana Nascimento, and Leslye E. Orloff (August 10, 2026)

## SIJS Children[1]

- **In Florida all children without regard to immigration status are eligible to purchase health insurance at full cost under KidCare.**
- **All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status**

Zero Months: Filing *(Lawfully Present),* **CHIP (up to age 19), In-State Tuition, State Financial Aid and Scholarships, Purchase KidCare Child Health Insurance at full cost.**

6 Months after Filing for SIJS: Approval
-Work Authorization, Deferred Action[2]
**Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment**

3.3 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency[3]

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, SNAP (under 18)**

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
**Medicaid 19+[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: 10.3 months after Application for Naturalization[6]:
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 Florida, 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] Based on the average from all Florida Field Office/Service Centers of 10.3 months, wait times range from 7 months to 13.5 months.

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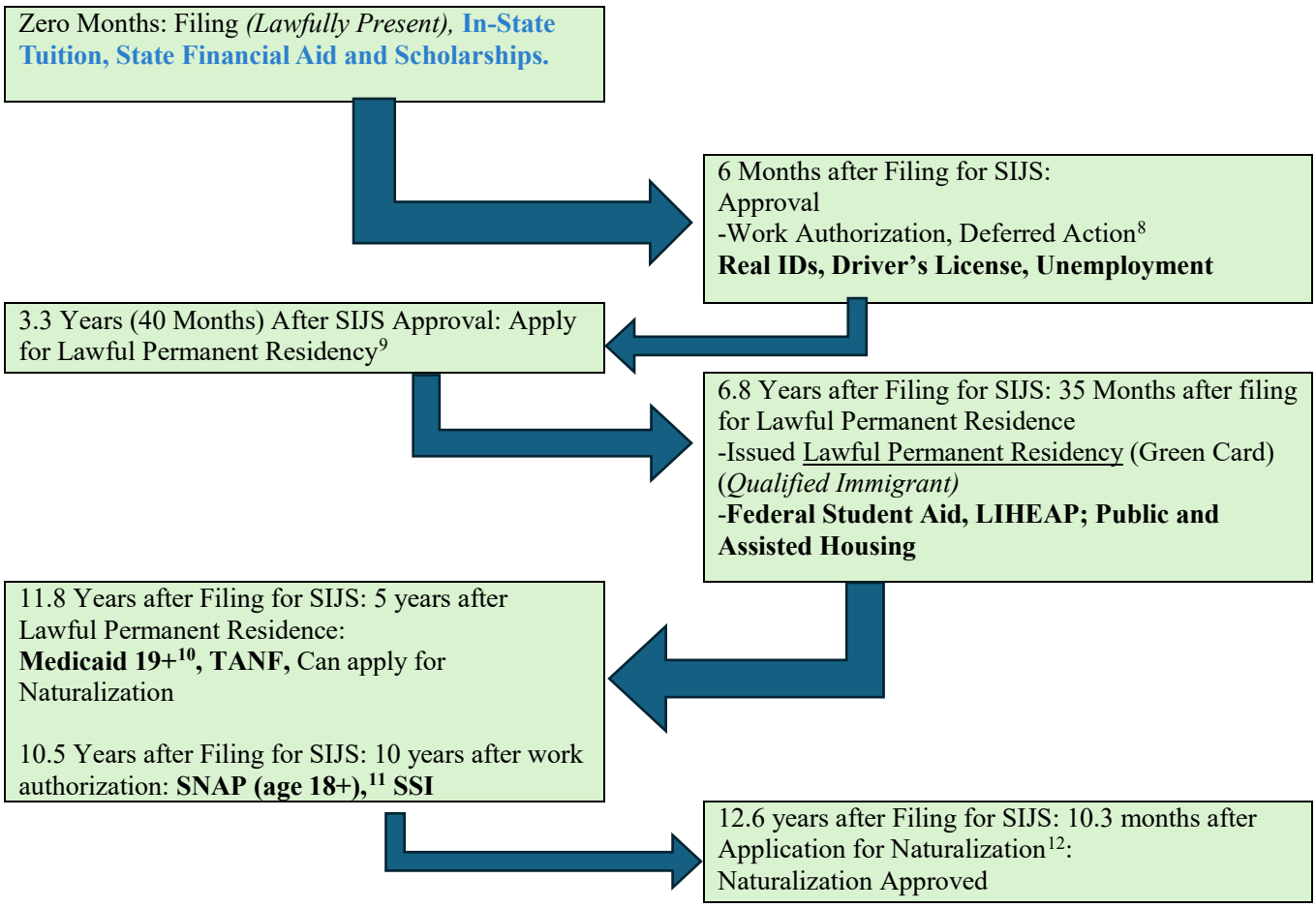
## SIJS Applicants Who Become Adults [7]

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[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] Based on the average from all Florida Field Office/Service Centers of 10.3 months, wait times range from 7 months to 13.5 months.