

Illinois Benefits Infographic – U Visa,
Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (May 26, 2026)

U Visa Children¹

- All children are eligible for All Kids healthcare coverage regardless of immigration status.
- All pregnant individuals are eligible for prenatal care, full scope health care, 12 months post-partum care and newborn care without regard to immigration status.
- Eligible for in-state tuition, financial aid and scholarships regardless of immigration status if graduated in Illinois or received equivalent degree, after attending 3 years of high school in-state
- All Illinois 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, * SNAP if in the process of filing for a U visa *

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, **Medicaid⁵, SSI, TANF**

19.1 Years after Filing for U Visa; 7.5 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 Wait time is 7.5 months at the Chicago Field Office

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/>

Illinois Benefits Infographic – U Visa, Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye Orloff (May, 26, 2026)

U Visa Adults

- All pregnant individuals are eligible for prenatal care, full scope health care, 12 months post-partum care and newborn care without regard to immigration status.
- Low-Income Adults over age 42 eligible for state-funded healthcare regardless of immigration status.
- Eligible for in-state tuition, financial aid and scholarships regardless of immigration status if graduated in Illinois or received equivalent degree, after attending 3 years of high school in-state.
- All Illinois residents are eligible for state issued driver's licenses and IDs.

Zero Months: At Filing⁷:

-TANF, * SNAP if in the process of filing for a U visa *

19 Months (1.6 Years) after Filing:
Bona Fide Determination (*Lawfully Present*)
Deferred Action⁸, Work Authorization, **Real IDs**,
Driver's License, **Unemployment**

8.5 Years after Filing:
-Approval⁹

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

13.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 23.5 Months
after Application for Lawful Permanent Residence:
Issued Lawful Permanent Residence (Green Card)
(*Qualified Immigrant*)
-Public and Assisted Housing, LIHEAP, Federal
Student Aid, SNAP¹⁰

18.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 5 Years after
Lawful Permanent Residence:
Medicaid¹¹, **SSI**, **TANF**
Can Apply for Naturalization

19.1 Years after Filing for U Visa; 7.5 Months after
Applying 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 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 Must be disabled, have met the 5-year bar, be elderly and entered the US before 8/22/96, or earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.

¹¹ Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5 year bar.

¹² Wait time is 7.5 months at the Chicago Field Office