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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE of LAW

Kentucky Benefits Infographic – U Visa

Sarah Register, Emma Buchanan, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (May 21, 2026)

U Visa Children[1]

- **Kentucky provides state-funded healthcare for lawfully present children.**
- **Kentucky grants in-state tuition and institutional aid or scholarships to eligible Kentucky residents who graduated from a high school in the state.**
- **All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status**

Zero Months: At Filing[2]:

19 Months (1.6 Years) after Filing:
Bona Fide Determination *(Lawfully Present)*
Deferred Action[3], Work Authorization **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment, CHIP (up to age 19)**

8.5 Years after Filing:
-Approval[4]

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 Residence:
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 Residence: Can Apply for Naturalization
Medicaid[5], SSI, TANF

19.1 Years after Filing for U Visa; 7.5 Months after Applying 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. 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 become a qualified immigrant by attaining lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.
[6] Wait time is 7.5 months at the Louisville Field Office.

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U Visa Adults

- **Kentucky provides state-funded healthcare for lawfully present children.**
- **Kentucky grants in-state tuition and institutional aid or scholarships to eligible Kentucky residents who graduated from a high school in the state.**

Zero Months: At Filing[7]:

19 Months (1.6 Years) after Filing:
Bona Fide Determination (*Lawfully Present)*
Deferred Action[8], Work Authorization **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment, CHIP (if pregnant)**

8.5 Years after Filing:
-Approval[9]

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 Residence:
Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card)
(Qualified Immigrant)
-Public and Assisted Housing, LIHEAP, Federal Student Aid, SNAP[10]

18.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 5 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
Medicaid[11], SSI, TANF
Can Apply for Naturalization

19.1 Years after Filing for U Visa; 7.5 Months after Applying for Naturalization[12]:

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 become a qualified immigrant by attaining lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.
[12] Wait time is 7.5 months at the Louisville Field Office.