



Minnesota Public Benefits Screening Chart for Immigrant Survivors by Forms of Immigration Relief¹

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The purpose of this simplified chart is to provide a tool that victim advocates, attorneys, judges and court staff can use to identify which immigrant survivors and immigrant children qualify for which state or federally funded public benefits, programs and services. This tool was designed to be a first step to identify which immigrant survivors may qualify for which benefits and services. When an immigrant survivor is listed as qualifying or qualifying with conditions on this chart, the second step is to turn to the full public benefits chart NIWAP developed for your jurisdiction where you can look up the details/conditions of what is needed to prove eligibility and what are the sources of law that prove eligibility.

This chart is not an exhaustive list of public benefits available to immigrants in Minnesota and but a simplified snapshot of access to certain benefits including cash assistance, healthcare, and housing. This chart is meant to be used in conjunction with NIWAP's [Access to State-Funded Public Benefits in Minnesota for Survivors, Based on Immigration Status](https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/minnesota-benefits), available at: <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/minnesota-benefits> that provides detailed information with citations to all of the relevant sources of law, regulations, and policies. This more detailed publication includes citations to materials that you can take with you when you accompany an immigrant victim applying for state or federal public benefits or other forms of assistance. In addition to the benefits and services discussed on this chart below, there is also a wide range of assistance that is available as a matter of law to all immigrants regardless of status.¹ For an interactive map that breaks down available public benefits based on the state and immigration status go here: <http://map.niwap.org/>.

Note: The 1996 welfare reform laws authorized states to implement state laws that offer immigrants more state funded benefits than federal public benefits provided and also authorized states to impose more restrictions on the federal public benefits immigrants living in the state could access. This state has elected to:

Offer MORE STATE FUNDED BENEFITS to certain groups of immigrants in the following benefits programs: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), TANF funded Child Care, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, Prenatal care, Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Post-Secondary Education in-state tuition, and Unemployment Insurance.

- Impose MORE RESTRICTIONS on immigrant access to federal public benefits: Not Applicable.

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PROGRAM	VAWA Self Petitioner and Battered Spouse Waiver ²	Refugees, ³ Asylees, T Visas	T Visa Bona Fide or Continued Presence	Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)	Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)	U Visa, Bona Fide, or Wait List Approval	U Visa (Petition Filed)	Undocumented
CASH & NUTRITION ASSISTANCE, AND CHILDCARE								
<u>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</u>	In MN eligible with prima facie determination. In MN, eligible with prima facie determination for Family Stabilization Services for the first 12 months after U.S. arrival.	Eligible. In MN, eligible for Family Stabilization Services for the first 12 months after U.S. arrival. In MN refugees looking for work without children are also eligible for Refugee Cash Assistance for the first 8 months after arrival.	Eligible with HHS certification, or eligibility letter. In MN, with HHS certification or eligibility letter for Family Stabilization Services for the first 12 months after U.S. arrival with HHS certification.	Not eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon obtaining lawful permanent residency. In MN, SIJS applicants are eligible for Family Stabilization Services for the first 12 months after U.S. arrival.	Eligible with conditions upon obtaining lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
<u>Child Care Funded by TANF and the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)</u>	Eligible for CCDF. Eligible for TANF funded child care when eligible for TANF. In MN, eligible for Minnesota Family Investment Program for children under 12 years or children under 14 years if special needs.	<u>Refugee/Asylee:</u> Eligible for CCDF and TANF funded child care. <u>T visa:</u> Eligible for CCDF and eligible for TANF funded childcare with HHS certification or eligibility letter. In MN, eligible for Minnesota Family Investment Program for children under 12 years or children	Eligible for CCDF. Eligible for TANF funded child care with HHS certification or eligibility letter. In MN, eligible for Minnesota Family Investment Program for children under 12 years or children under 14 years if special needs. May also be eligible for Transition Year	Eligible for CCDF.	Eligible for CCDF. Eligible for TANF funded child care with conditions upon obtaining lawful permanent residency. In MN, eligible for Minnesota Family Investment Program for children under 12 years or children	Eligible for CCDF. Eligible for TANF funded child care with conditions upon obtaining lawful permanent residency. In MN, eligible for Minnesota Family Investment Program for children under 12 years or children	Eligible for CCDF.	Eligible for CCDF.

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Child Care	May also be eligible for Transition Year Child Assistance with conditions.	under 14 years if special needs. May also be eligible for Transition Year Child Assistance with conditions.	Child Assistance with conditions.		under 14 years if special needs. May also be eligible for Transition Year Child Assistance with conditions.	under 14 years if special needs. May also be eligible for Transition Year Child Assistance with conditions.		
<u>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</u>	Eligible with conditions upon prima facie determination.	Eligible during first 7 years after status is granted.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon lawful permanent residency.	Eligible with conditions upon lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
<u>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</u>	In MN, eligible upon prima facie determination for Minnesota Family Investment Program funded food assistance.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	In MN, eligible upon filing for Minnesota Family Investment Program funded food assistance.	In MN, eligible with U visa, bona fide determination, wait list approval for Minnesota Family Investment Program funded food assistance.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
<u>Nutrition Program: For Women, Infants and Children (WIC)</u>	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.
HEALTHCARE								
<u>Emergency Medicaid</u>	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.
<u>Health Insurance Exchanges</u>	Eligible with prima facie determination.	<u>Refugee</u> : Eligible. <u>Asylee</u> : Eligible upon receipt of work	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible upon filing SIJS application.	Eligible upon U visa bona fide determination,	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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Health Insurance		authorization or 6 months after filing for asylum for children under age 14. <u>T visa:</u> Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.				wait list approval or U visa.		
Medicaid	In MN, eligible with prima facie determination for MinnesotaCare. Immigrants receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance with conditions.	Eligible. In MN, refugees who don't qualify for other medical assistance are eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance for the first 8 months after U.S. arrival. Immigrants receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance with conditions.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter. Immigrants receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance with conditions.	In MN, DACA recipients are eligible MinnesotaCare. Immigrants receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance with conditions.	In MN, eligible upon filing for SIJS for MinnesotaCare. Immigrants receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance with conditions.	In MN, eligible with U visa, bona fide determination, or waitlist approval for MinnesotaCare. Immigrants receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance with conditions.	Immigrants receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance with conditions.	Immigrants receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance with conditions.
Prenatal Care	Eligible in MN for prenatal care.	Eligible in MN for prenatal care.	Eligible in MN for prenatal care.	Eligible in MN for prenatal care.	Eligible in MN for prenatal care.	Eligible in MN for prenatal care.	Eligible in MN for prenatal care.	Eligible in MN for prenatal care.

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<u>Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)</u>	In MN, eligible upon prima facie determination for MinnesotaCare. Children receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance.	Eligible. Also eligible for MinnesotaCare. Children receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance.	Eligible upon HHS certification or eligibility letter. Also eligible for MinnesotaCare. Children receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance.	In MN, DACA recipients are eligible MinnesotaCare. Children receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance.	In MN eligible upon filing for SIJS for MinnesotaCare. Children receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance.	In MN eligible with U visa, bona fide determination, or waitlist approval for MinnesotaCare. Children receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance.	Children receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance.	Children receiving services for the Center for Victims of Torture in MN are also eligible for MN Medical Assistance.
<u>Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Compensation</u>	The Victims of Crime Act provides compensation to crime victims for costs associated with the crime victimization. Costs covered by VOCA include compensation for medical bills, lost wages, counseling sessions, crime scene clean up, and reimbursement for many other expenses. VOCA compensation is available to crime victims without regard to immigration status.							
<u>Family & Medical Leave Act – State Law</u>	May be eligible for MN FMLA without regard to immigration status.	May be eligible for MN FMLA without regard to immigration status.	May be eligible for MN FMLA without regard to immigration status.	May be eligible for MN FMLA without regard to immigration status.	May be eligible for MN FMLA without regard to immigration status.	May be eligible for MN FMLA without regard to immigration status.	May be eligible for MN FMLA without regard to immigration status.	May be eligible for MN FMLA without regard to immigration status.
HOUSING AND WEATHERIZATION								
<u>Public & Assisted Housing and Low Income Tax Credit Housing</u> ⁴	Eligible upon filing. In MN may be eligible to live in Low Income	Eligible. In MN may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter. In MN may be eligible to live in Low Income	Not eligible. In MN may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax	Eligible upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In MN may be eligible to live in	Eligible upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In MN may be eligible to live in	Not eligible. In MN may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax	Not eligible. In MN may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.

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LIHTC	Housing Tax Credit property.		Housing Tax Credit property.	Credit property.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Credit property.	
Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Health, and Life and Safety Services	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Eligible for WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible for LIHEAP with conditions upon prima facie determination. In MN, eligible for MN WAP and LIHEAP.	WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible for LIHEAP. In MN, eligible for MN WAP and LIHEAP.	WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible for LIHEAP with conditions upon receipt of HHS certification or eligibility letter. In MN, eligible for MN WAP and LIHEAP.	WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. In MN, eligible for MN WAP and LIHEAP.	WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible with conditions for LIHEAP upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In MN, eligible for MN WAP and LIHEAP.	WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible with conditions for LIHEAP upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In MN, eligible for MN WAP and LIHEAP.	WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. In MN, eligible for MN WAP and LIHEAP.	WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. In MN, eligible for MN WAP and LIHEAP.
EDUCATION								
Federal Education	Eligible upon prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible upon lawful permanent residency.	Eligible upon lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
State Education	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.
All children, without regard to immigration status or citizenship are eligible to attend public elementary and secondary (K-12) schools. State schools may not request citizenship or immigration status information and may not bar students from enrolling in public elementary or secondary schools based on the citizenship								

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State Education	<p>or immigration status of the student, their parent or their guardian. Eligible to apply for and enroll in state funded colleges and universities without regard to immigration status.</p> <p>At its public postsecondary institutions, Minnesota allows in-state tuition rates and access to institutional aid or scholarships for eligible students, regardless of immigration status. To receive in-state tuition, the Minnesota Dream Act requires at least three years of high school education from the state or a GED, and men aged 18-25 must be registered for the selective service.</p>							
LEGAL SERVICES, DRIVER'S LICENSES, AND EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS								
Legal Services	<p>Eligible for Legal Services Corporation (LSC)-funded legal services with conditions and fully eligible when victims file for lawful permanent residency.</p> <p>Eligible for VAWA funded legal services.</p>	<p>Eligible for all LSC funded legal services.</p> <p>Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.</p>	<p>Eligible for LSC funded legal services when they receive HHS certification or eligibility letter.</p> <p>Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.</p>	<p>May be eligible if victims of abuse for LSC funded legal services with conditions.</p> <p>Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.</p>	<p>May be eligible if victims of abuse for LSC funded legal services with conditions and when SIJS children file for lawful permanent residency fully eligible.</p> <p>Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.</p>	<p>Eligible for LSC-funded legal services with conditions and fully eligible when victims file for lawful permanent residency.</p> <p>Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.</p>	<p>Eligible for LSC-funded legal services with conditions and fully eligible when victims file for lawful permanent residency.</p> <p>Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.</p>	<p>May be eligible if victims of abuse for LSC funded legal services with conditions.</p> <p>Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.</p>
Driver's License	Eligible for federally recognized ID and driver's license upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible for federally recognized ID and driver's license.	Eligible upon receipt of HHS certification or eligibility letter for federally recognized ID and driver's license.	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization for federally recognized ID and driver's license.	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization for federally recognized ID and driver's license.	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization for federally recognized ID and driver's license.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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<u>Professional and Occupational Licenses</u>	Minnesota has no state laws or policies regarding immigrant access to professional or occupational licenses including whether or not work authorization is sufficient or required.							
<u>Income Tax Credit</u>	Immigrants with social security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) who care for dependent children under the age of 17 or who care for a spouse or other individual unable to physically or mentally care for themselves are eligible to claim a child or dependent tax credit on their income taxes.							
<u>Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</u>	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
FEMA AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE								
<u>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</u>	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible upon prima facie determination for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible upon receipt of HHS determination or eligibility letter for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible receipt of lawful permanent residency for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible receipt of lawful permanent residency for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief.	Eligible for disaster relief.
<u>Unemployment*</u>	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization. In MN, may be eligible for MN Unemployment Insurance upon receipt of work authorization.	<u>Refugees:</u> Eligible upon receipt of work authorization. <u>Asylees:</u> Eligible upon receipt of work authorization. <u>T Visa:</u> Eligible upon receipt of bona fide	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization. In MN, may be eligible for MN Unemployment Insurance upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization. In MN, may be eligible for MN Unemployment Insurance upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization. In MN, may be eligible for MN Unemployment Insurance upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization. In MN, may be eligible for MN Unemployment Insurance upon receipt of work authorization.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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<u>Unemployment</u>		determination with work authorization. In MN, may be eligible for MN Unemployment Insurance upon receipt of work authorization.						
*To be eligible for unemployment insurance, each class of immigrant must have had prior work authorization and had to have been working with the authorization at the time they applied for unemployment. Work authorization must remain valid while they receive unemployment and if work authorization expires, then so does the eligibility for unemployment.								

¹ Catherine Longville & Leslye E. Orloff, *Programs Open to Immigrant Victims and All Immigrants Without Regard to Immigration Status*, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (July 23, 2015), <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/programs-open-to-all-immigrants>.

² Battered Spouse Waiver (BSW) applicants/recipients have the same eligibility for public benefits purposes as VAWA self-petitioners. BWS victims are eligible either as conditional permanent residents if they still have that status and/or are or continue to be eligible once they file their battered spouse waiver application. Battered spouse waiver applicants have greater benefits access than conditional and lawful permanent residents because they have access to exemptions from deeming and have access to benefits that are only available to battered immigrants.

³ Afghans granted humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022 - and their spouses and children, and parents or guardians of unaccompanied children granted parole after September 30, 2022 - also are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Eligibility for this group continues until March 31, 2023, or the end of their parole term, whichever is later. Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. 117-43 (Sept. 30, 2021). Ukrainians paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023 - and their spouses and children, and parents, guardians or primary caregivers of unaccompanied children paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023 - are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Department of Homeland Security, President Biden to Announce Uniting For Ukraine, a New Streamlined Process to Welcome Ukrainians Fleeing the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. (April 21, 2022) <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/04/21/president-biden-announce-uniting-ukraine-new-streamlined-process-welcome-ukrainians>.

⁴ Some households, depending on the immigration status of its residents, may qualify for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit; see [Access to State-Funded Public Benefits in Minnesota for Survivors](#) to determine whether the immigrant or family members may be eligible. For more information on LIHTC see <https://www.vawahome.com/>.