

Minnesota Benefits Infographic – SIJS

Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (May 20, 2026)

SIJS Children

- **Eligible for Minnesota Student Aid, Grants and Loans if attended 3 years of high school in Minnesota and graduated from Minnesota high school or received GED in state.**
- **All income-eligible Minnesota residents who are under 21 are eligible for Medical Assistance 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.**
- **All Minnesota residents are eligible for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.**
- **All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status.**

Zero Months: At Filing (*Lawfully Present*)
TANF*, SNAP*

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

3.3 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply
for Lawful Permanent Residency¹

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:
Medicaid², TANF, Can apply for Naturalization

10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after
lawful permanent residency: **SNAP (age 18+),³ SSI**

12.4 years after Filing for SIJS: 9 months after
Application for Naturalization⁴:
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 Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.

² Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.

³ Must be under age 18, disabled, met the 5-year bar, or earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.

⁴ Wait time is 9 months at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Field Office.

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SIJS Applicants Who Become Adults⁵

- **Eligible for Minnesota Student Aid, Grants and Loans if attended 3 years of high school in Minnesota and graduated from Minnesota high school, or received GED in state.**
- **All income-eligible Minnesota residents are eligible MinnesotaCare 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.**
- **All Minnesota residents are eligible for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.**

Zero Months: At Filing (*Lawfully Present*)
TANF*, SNAP*

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

3.3 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply
for Lawful Permanent Residency⁶

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 (If over age 50)⁷**

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after
Lawful Permanent Residence:
Medicaid⁸, TANF, Can apply for Naturalization

10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after
lawful permanent residency: **SNAP (age 18+),⁹ SSI**

12.4 years after Filing for SIJS: 9 months after
Application for Naturalization¹⁰:
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/>

⁵ 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.

⁶ Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Wait time is 9 months at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Field Office.