

Montana Benefits Infographic – SIJS

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SIJS Children¹

- All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status.

Zero Months: Filing (*Lawfully Present*)
CHIP up to age 19

6 Months after Filing for SIJS: Approval
-Work Authorization, Deferred Action²
Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment

3.3 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply
for Lawful Permanent Residence³

6.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 35 Months after filing
for Lawful Permanent Residence
-Issued Lawful Permanent Residence (Green Card)
(*Qualified Immigrant*)
-**Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP; Public and
Assisted Housing, SNAP (under 18), Post-
Secondary Education (in-state tuition)**

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**

12.4 years after Filing for SIJS: 8 months after
Application 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. 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 Montana 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 must wait until lawful permanent residency.

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 Wait time is 8 months at the Helena Field Office.

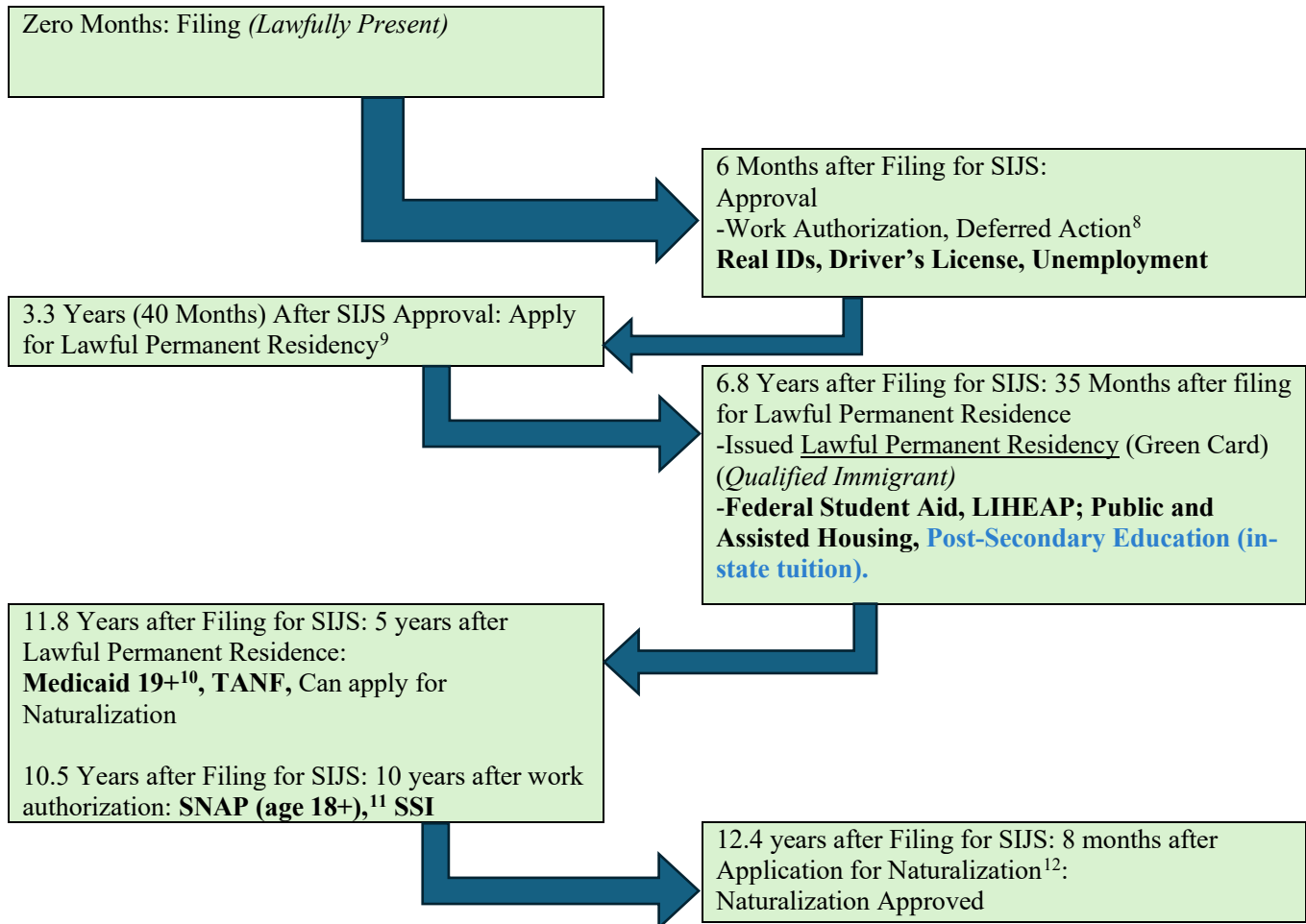
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SIJS Applicants Who Become Adults ⁷



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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 Wait time is 8 months at the Helena Field Office.