New Mexico Benefits Infographic – SIJS

Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (May 19, 2026)

SIJS Children[1]

- **All children up to age 21 are eligible for full-scope medical coverage regardless of immigration status.**
- **Eligible for New Mexico Student Aid, Grants and Loans if attended 1 year of high school in New Mexico and graduated or GED.**
- **All New Mexico 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: Filing *(Lawfully Present)*

6 Months after Filing for SIJS: Approval
-Work Authorization, Deferred Action[2]
Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment

3.3 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency[3]

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:
Medicaid[4], TANF, Can apply for Naturalization

10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after work authorization: **SNAP (age 18+),[5] SSI**

12.5 years after Filing for SIJS: 9 months after Application 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. 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 New Mexico this age is 21. 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 that date will need to request deferred action.

[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 9 months at the Albuquerque Field Office.

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SIJS Applicants Who Become Adults [7]

- **All children up to age 21 are eligible for full-scope medical coverage regardless of immigration status.**
- **Eligible for New Mexico Student Aid, Grants and Loans if attended 1 year of high school in New Mexico and graduated or GED.**
- **All New Mexico residents are eligible for state issued driver's licenses and IDs.**

Zero Months: Filing *(Lawfully Present)*

6 Months after Filing for SIJS:
Approval
-Work Authorization, Deferred Action[8]
Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment

3.3 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency[9]

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

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
Medicaid[10], TANF, Can apply for Naturalization

10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after work authorization: **SNAP (age 18+),[11] SSI**

12.5 years after Filing for SIJS: 9 months after Application for Naturalization[12]:
Naturalization Approved

*State funded available prior to meeting federal: 5-year bar, 40 quarters, and lawful permanent residence requirements.

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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 9 months at the Albuquerque Field Office.