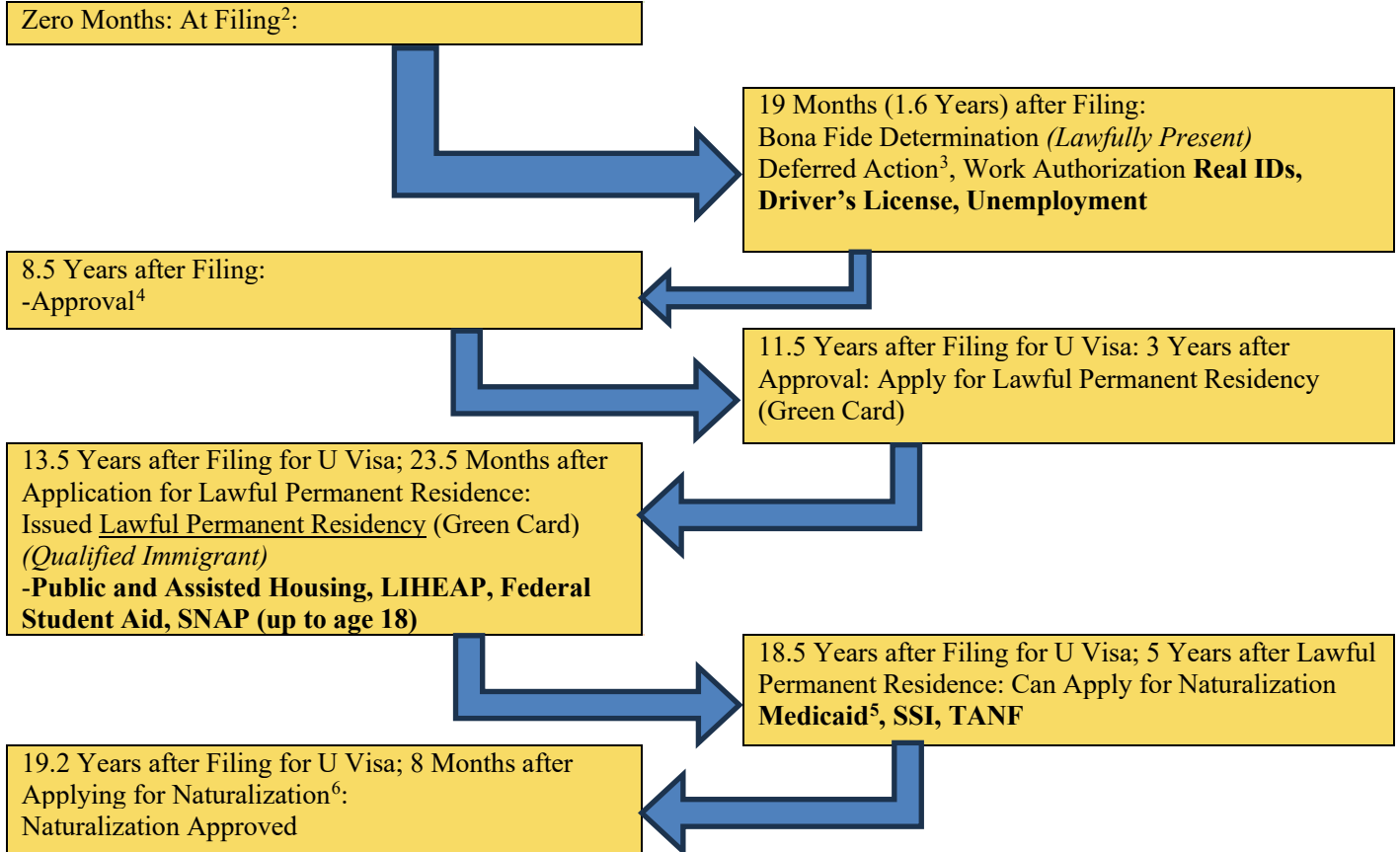


New Mexico Benefits Infographic – U Visa,
Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (May 19, 2026)

U Visa Children¹

- 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



*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 9 months at the Albuquerque Field Office.

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New Mexico Benefits Infographic – U Visa,
Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye Orloff (May 19, 2026)

U Visa Adults

- (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: At Filing⁷:

19 Months (1.6 Years) after Filing:
Bona Fide Determination (*Lawfully Present*)
Deferred Action⁸, Work Authorization **Real IDs**,
Driver's License, Unemployment

8.5 Years after Filing:
-Approval⁹

11.5 Years after Filing for U Visa: 3 Years after
Approval:
Apply for Lawful Permanent Residence (Green
Card)

13.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 23.5 Months
after Application for Lawful Permanent Residence:
Issued Lawful Permanent Residence (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:
Medicaid¹¹, **SSI, TANF**
Can Apply for Naturalization

19.2 Years after Filing for U Visa; 8 Months after
Applying for Naturalization¹²:

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 9 months at the Albuquerque Field Office.