

North Dakota Benefits Infographic – SIJS

Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (July 16, 2026)

SIJS Children¹

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

Zero Months: Filing (*Lawfully Present*): **While pregnant Full-scope Healthcare + 12 months Postpartum care**

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 Residency³

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), CHIP under age 19⁴, Medicaid 19+⁵, In-State Tuition, Financial Aid and Scholarship**

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
TANF, Can apply for Naturalization
10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after work authorization: **SNAP (age 18+),⁶ SSI**

12.8 years after Filing for SIJS: 12 months after Application for Naturalization⁷:
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 North Dakota 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 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 Medicaid upon obtaining lawful permanent residency with no 5-year bar. Starting October 1, 2026 will require lawful permanent residency.

⁵ Eligible for Medicaid upon obtaining lawful permanent residency with no 5-year bar. Starting October 1, 2026 will require lawful permanent residency.

⁶ Must be under age 18, disabled, met the 5-year bar, or earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.

⁷ Wait time is 12 months at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Field Office.

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SIJS Applicants Who Become Adults ⁸

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-Work Authorization, Deferred Action⁹
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-Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card) (*Qualified Immigrant*)
-Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP; Public and Assisted Housing, **Medicaid 19+¹¹, In-State Tuition, Financial Aid and Scholarship**

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⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.

¹¹ Eligible for Medicaid with lawful permanent residency with no 5 year bar. Starting October 1, 2026 will also require lawful permanent residency.

¹² 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.

¹³ Wait time is 12 months at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Field Office.