



Pennsylvania Public Benefits Screening Chart for Immigrant Survivors by Forms of Immigration Relief¹

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The purpose of this simplified chart is to provide a tool that victim advocates, attorneys, judges and court staff can use to identify which immigrant survivors and immigrant children qualify for which state or federally funded public benefits, programs and services. This tool was designed to be a first step to identify which immigrant survivors may qualify for which benefits and services. When an immigrant survivor is listed as qualifying or qualifying with conditions on this chart, the second step is to turn to the full public benefits chart NIWAP developed for your jurisdiction where you can look up the details/conditions of what is needed to prove eligibility and what are the sources of law that prove eligibility.

This chart is not an exhaustive list of public benefits available to immigrants in Pennsylvania and but a simplified snapshot of access to certain benefits including cash assistance, healthcare, and housing. This chart is meant to be used in conjunction with NIWAP's [Access to State-Funded Public Benefits in Pennsylvania for Survivors, Based on Immigration Status](https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/pennsylvania-benefits), available at: <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/pennsylvania-benefits> that provides detailed information with citations to all of the relevant sources of law, regulations, and policies. This more detailed publication includes citations to materials that you can take with you when you accompany an immigrant victim applying for state or federal public benefits or other forms of assistance. In addition to the benefits and services discussed on this chart below, there is also a wide range of assistance that is available as a matter of law to all immigrants regardless of status.¹ For an interactive map that breaks down available public benefits based on the state and immigration status go here: <http://map.niwap.org/>.

Note: The 1996 welfare reform laws authorized states to implement state laws that offer immigrants more state funded benefits than federal public benefits provided and also authorized states to impose more restrictions on the federal public benefits immigrants living in the state could access. This state has elected to:

- Offer STATE FUNDED BENEFITS to certain groups of immigrants in the following benefits programs: TANF, TANF-funded child care, Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, and DACA recipients are eligible for admission to the Pennsylvania Bar.
- Impose MORE RESTRICTIONS on immigrant access to federal public benefits: Not applicable.

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PROGRAM	Lawful Permanent Residents and Naturalized Citizens	VAWA Self Petitioner and Battered Spouse Waiver ²	Refugee, Asylee, T Visa, ³ Afghans, ⁴ Ukrainians ⁵	T Visa Bona Fide or Continued Presence	Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)	Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)	U Visa, Bona Fide, or Wait List Approval	U Visa (Petition Filed)	Undocumented
CASH & NUTRITION ASSISTANCE, AND CHILDCARE									
<u>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (Cash Assistance)</u>	Lawful permanent residents, eligible with conditions. Naturalized citizens, eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon VAWA prima facie determination or Battered Spouse Waiver. In PA, eligible with prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	In PA, DACA applicants eligible as PRUCOLs.	In PA, SIJS applicants eligible as PRUCOLs and also eligible upon obtaining lawful permanent residency.	In PA, U visa applicants eligible as PRUCOLs and also eligible upon obtaining lawful permanent residency.	In PA, U visa applicants eligible as PRUCOLs.	Not eligible.
<u>Child Care Funded by TANF and the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)</u>	Lawful permanent residents, eligible with conditions. Naturalized citizens, eligible.	Eligible for CCDF. In PA, eligible with prima facie determination for TANF-funded childcare.	<u>Refugee/Asylee:</u> Eligible for CCDF and TANF funded childcare. <u>T visa:</u> Eligible for CCDF. Eligible for TANF funded childcare with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Eligible for CCDF. Eligible for TANF funded child care with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Eligible for CCDF. In PA, eligible for TANF-funded child care when eligible for TANF.	Eligible for CCDF. In PA, eligible for TANF-funded child care when eligible for TANF.	Eligible for CCDF. In PA, eligible for TANF-funded child care when eligible for TANF.	Eligible for CCDF. In PA, eligible for TANF-funded child care when eligible for TANF.	Eligible for CCDF.

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<u>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</u>	Lawful permanent residents, eligible with conditions. Naturalized citizens, eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon prima facie determination.	Eligible during first 7 years after status is granted.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon lawful permanent residency.	Eligible with conditions upon lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
<u>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</u>	Lawful permanent residents, eligible with conditions. Naturalized citizens, eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon obtaining lawful permanent residency.	Eligible with conditions upon obtaining lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
<u>Nutrition Program: For Women, Infants & Children (WIC)</u>	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.
HEALTHCARE									
<u>Emergency Medicaid</u>	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.
<u>Health Insurance Exchanges</u>	Eligible.	Eligible with prima facie determination.	<u>Refugee:</u> Eligible. <u>Asylee:</u> Eligible upon receipt of work authorization or 6 months after filing for	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible upon filing SIJS application.	Eligible upon U visa bona fide determination, wait list approval or U visa.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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Health Insurance Exchanges			asylum for children under age 14. T visa: Eligible with prima facie (bona fide) determination on T visa application.						
Medicaid	Lawful permanent residents, eligible with conditions. Naturalized citizens, eligible.	In PA, eligible with VAWA prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	In PA, SIJS children including those who become adults, eligible upon filing SIJS application.	In PA, eligible with U visa, bona fide determination or waitlist approval.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
Prenatal Care	Eligible for prenatal care and lawful permanent residents are eligible for full scope health care while pregnant. Naturalized citizens, eligible.	In PA, eligible up to age 19 upon prima facie determination. After age 19, eligible with prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	In PA, eligible upon SIJS application.	In PA, eligible with U visa, bona fide determination or waitlist approval.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	In PA, lawful permanent residents are eligible up to age 19. Naturalized citizens eligible.	In PA, eligible up to age 19 upon prima facie determination. After age 19, eligible with prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible upon HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	In PA, up to age 19 eligible upon filing. In PA, after age 19, SIJS applicants have continued health care eligibility.	In PA, eligible with U visa, bona fide determination or waitlist approval.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Compensation	The Victims of Crime Act provides compensation to crime victims for costs associated with the crime victimization. Costs covered by VOCA include compensation for medical bills, lost wages, counseling sessions, crime scene clean up, and reimbursement for many other expenses. VOCA compensation is available to crime victims without regard to immigration or citizenship status.								
Family Medical Leave Act	Pennsylvania has no state Family Medical Leave Act.								
HOUSING AND WEATHERIZATION									
Public & Assisted Housing and Low Income Tax Credit Housing⁶	Eligible. In PA may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit Property.	Eligible upon filing. In PA may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible. In PA may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter. In PA may also be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Not eligible. In PA may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In PA may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In PA may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Not eligible. In PA may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Not eligible. In PA may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.

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Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Health, and Life and Safety Services	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Eligible for WAP if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible for LIHEAP.	Eligible for WAP if at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Eligible for LIHEAP if at or below 150% of federal poverty level.	WAP if living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Eligible for LIHEAP if at or below 150% of federal poverty level.	WAP if at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Eligible for LIHEAP if at or below 150% of the federal poverty level..	WAP if at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.	WAP if at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Eligible with conditions for LIHEAP if at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.	WAP if at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Eligible with conditions for LIHEAP if at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.	WAP if at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.	WAP if at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
EDUCATION									
Federal Education	Eligible.	Eligible upon prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible upon lawful permanent residency.	Eligible upon lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
State Education	Eligible.	Eligible upon prima facie determination.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.	Eligible with conditions.
<p>All children, without regard to immigration status or citizenship are eligible to attend public elementary and secondary (K-12) schools. State schools may not request citizenship or immigration status information and may not bar students from enrolling in public elementary or secondary schools based on the citizenship or immigration status of the student, their parent or their guardian.</p> <p>At its public postsecondary institutions, Pennsylvania does not allow in-state tuition rates and access to institutional aid or scholarships for non-citizens. Although eligible to apply for and enroll in state funded colleges and universities without regard to immigration status, students who are not qualified immigrants (including</p>									

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	lawful permanent residents, VAWA self-petitioners, asylees, refugees, T visa holders, and T visa applications with bona fide determinations) are not eligible in Pennsylvania for state funded post-secondary educational grants and loans. Pennsylvania State University extends in-state tuition to students in the state who meet the university's residence requirements without regard to immigration status.								
LEGAL SERVICES, DRIVER'S LICENSES, AND EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS									
Legal Services	Lawful permanent residents, applicants for lawful permanent residency, and naturalized citizens eligible for all LSC funded legal services.	Eligible for Legal Services Corporation (LSC)-funded legal services with conditions until victims file for lawful permanent residency. Eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for all LSC funded legal services. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for LSC funded legal services with conditions until receive HHS certification or eligibility letter. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for LSC funded legal services with conditions until file for lawful permanent residency. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for LSC-funded legal services with conditions until victims file for lawful permanent residency. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for LSC-funded legal services with conditions. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.
Legal Services	Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.								
Driver's License	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt work authorization.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of work authorization.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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<u>Professional & Occupational Licenses</u>	Eligible.	The Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners issued a rule authorizing immigrants with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals for admission to the Pennsylvania Bar. Pennsylvania has no other state laws or policies regarding immigrant access to professional or occupational licenses including whether or not work authorization is sufficient or required.							
<u>Income Tax Credit</u>	Immigrants with social security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) who care for dependent children under the age of 17 or who care for a spouse or other individual unable to physically or mentally care for themselves are eligible to claim a child or dependent tax credit on their income taxes.								
<u>Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</u>	Eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of work authorization.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
FEMA AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE									
<u>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</u>	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible for food, unemployment and all other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible upon prima facie determination for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible upon receipt of HHS determination or eligibility letter for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible receipt of lawful permanent residency for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible receipt of lawful permanent residency for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief.	Eligible for disaster relief.
<u>Unemployment Insurance</u>	Eligible.	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization.	<u>Refugees:</u> Eligible upon receipt of work authorization. <u>Asylees:</u> Eligible upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible upon receipt of prima facie (bona fide) determination.	Eligible upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible upon lawful permanent residency and receipt of work authorization.	Eligible upon lawful permanent residency and receipt of work authorization.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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Unemployment Insurance			T Visa: Eligible upon receipt of bona fide determination with work authorization.						
	*To be eligible for unemployment insurance, each class of immigrant must have had prior work authorization and had to have been working with the authorization at the time they applied for unemployment. Work authorization must remain valid while they receive unemployment and if work authorization expires, then so does the eligibility for unemployment.								

¹ Catherine Longville & Leslye E. Orloff, *Programs Open to Immigrant Victims and All Immigrants Without Regard to Immigration Status*, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (July 23, 2015), <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/programs-open-to-all-immigrants>.

² Battered Spouse Waiver (BSW) applicants/recipients have the same eligibility for public benefits purposes as VAWA self-petitioners. BWS victims are eligible either as conditional permanent residents if they still have that status and/or are or continue to be eligible once they file their battered spouse waiver application. Battered spouse waiver applicants have greater benefits access than conditional and lawful permanent residents because they have access to exemptions from deeming and have access to benefits that are only available to battered immigrants.

³ See 8 U.S.C. §§ 1641(b)(2)-(3), (c)(4) (Asylees, Refugees and trafficking victims and family members of trafficking victims with T visa status or a pending T visa application setting forth a “prima facie” (bona facie) case for eligibility); Classification for Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons; Eligibility for “T” Nonimmigrant Status, 81 Fed. Reg. 92266, 92279, 92304, 92307 (Dec. 19, 2016) (effective Jan. 18, 2017) (to be codified at 8 C.F.R. pts. 212, 214, 245, 274) (Prima facie/bona fide determinations on T visa applications are made by the Department of Homeland Security.).

⁴ Afghans granted humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023 — and their spouses and children, and parents or guardians of unaccompanied children granted parole after September 30, 2022 — also are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Eligibility for this group continues until March 31, 2023, or the end of their parole term, whichever is later. Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. 117-43 (Sept. 30, 2021). Iraqi and Afghan special immigrant visa holders (SIV) and special immigrant parolees (who have applied for SIV status) are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Fact Sheet: Benefits for Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders or SQ/SI Parolees (last visited November 29, 2023) <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-afghan-and-iraqi-special-immigrant-visa-siv-holders-or-sq/si-parolees>. See The Administration for Children and Families Office of Refugee Resettlement Policy Letters on Public Benefits for Afghan Refugees (November 29, 2023) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/orr-policy-letters-afghan-refugees> (Contains HHS Policy Letters and Fact Sheets regarding Afghan Refugees).

⁵ Ukrainians paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023 – and their spouses and children, and parents, guardians or primary caregivers of unaccompanied children paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023 – are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Department of Homeland Security, President Biden to Announce Uniting For Ukraine, a New Streamlined Process to Welcome Ukrainians Fleeing the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. (April 21, 2022) <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/04/21/president-biden-announce-uniting-ukraine-new-streamlined-process-welcome>

ukrainians; *See* The Administration for Children and Families Office of Refugee Resettlement Policy Letters on Public Benefits for Ukrainian Refugees (November 29, 2023) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/orr-policy-letters-ukrainian-refugees> (Contains HHS Policy Letters and Fact Sheets regarding Ukrainian Refugees).

⁶ Some households, depending on the immigration status of its residents, may qualify for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit; see [Access to State-Funded Public Benefits in Pennsylvania for Survivors](#) to determine whether the immigrant or family members may be eligible. For more information on LIHTC *see* <https://www.vawahome.com/>.