

Webinar

Naturalization of VAWA, SIJS, U and T Visa Recipient Survivors: TTA from USCIS and NIWAP

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will:

- Be familiar with NIWAP's technical assistance, training, resources and support tools on multiple topics that strengthen your work with immigrant survivors
- Know how to access assistance with naturalization for VAWA, SIJS, U and T visa recipients
- Learn about USCIS's efforts to promote naturalization
- Learn from USCIS about the naturalization process for VAWA, SIJS, U and T visa recipients

Link to Slides and Supplementary Materials

- Slides & Materials: <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/webinar-naturalization-tta-uscis-9-23-2022>
- NIWAP Podcast Series Directory: <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/niwap-podcast-series>
- NIWAP Web Library: <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/>
- All State Public Benefits Charts and Interactive Public Benefits Map (2022): <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/all-state-public-benefits-charts>
- To request training in your community, email us at: info@niwap.org

Who We Are

- The National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University Washington College of Law
- Provide technical assistance, training and advocacy that promotes the implementation and use of:
 - laws, policies, and practices to improve legal rights, services, and assistance for immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, child abuse and other crimes.



Who We Provide Technical Assistance To

- Local, State, Federal law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, judges, attorneys and other professionals.
- NIWAP supports professionals in the field working with immigrant crime victims so that they are more effective in helping more victims access all the help for which victims and their children are legally eligible.



How NIWAP Can Support You

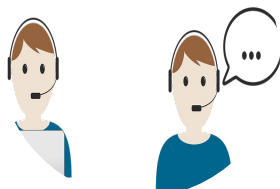


Training and Virtual Training: Develop curricula for in-person and web-based learning designed to meet your specific needs



Resource Hub: Wide range of accessible tools and publications designed to strengthen your response and best practices for serving noncitizen victims using a trauma-informed approach

SUPPORT



Technical Assistance: Consultations with subject matter experts to answer case-specific inquiries, discuss safety planning, develop strategies and policies, and provide case law, legal and evidence based research in support of your work with immigrant survivors

Types of Technical Assistance

- Case consultations
- Training materials, practice tools, legal research, motions, briefs
- In-person trainings and webinars
- 24/7 web library and training videos
- Help developing policies/protocols
- Strategies for removing systemic barriers
- Communities of Practice and Roundtables
- Immigration support for
 - VAWA self-petitions, U and T visa, SIJS, Battered spouse waivers, and Naturalization for Survivors

Technical Assistance to Law Enforcement

- Investigator, Michael LaRiviere
- Salem Police Department, Massachusetts



Training for Your Community

- Onsite or virtual training
 - Led by a multidisciplinary team
 - Interactive and responsive
 - Customized to meet the needs of your agency
- Available for advocates, attorneys, coalitions, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, victim service professionals, allied professionals, and others
- To request a training for your community email us at: info@niwap.org



Join Our Virtual Roundtables and Community of Practices

- For advocates, family law attorneys, law enforcement, prosecutors and system-based advocates
- Learn and share through interactive discussions
 - Strategies to develop best practices, build community, strengthen skills and discuss emerging issues
 - Ask questions from subject-matter experts and peers

Join the National Judicial Network (NJJN)

- Forum on Human Trafficking and Immigration in State Courts
- What is the NJJN
 - Opportunity to engage in discussions with other judges
 - Receive latest information
 - Peer-to-Peer training opportunities
 - Get your questions answered
 - Receive the information you need through
 - Webinars, trainings, and technical assistance
 - Bench cards, tools and training materials

NIWAP Resources

- NIWAP Web library
- Technical Assistance
- Trainings and Webinars
 - On-line, virtual, in-person
 - Customized
- Communities of Practice
 - Victim advocates, family lawyers
 - Law enforcement/prosecutors, judges
- Materials
 - Bench cards, toolkits, training tools, legal research, multi-lingual outreach materials
- Directory



NIWAP Web Library

niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu



Introduction

Newsletters-FAQs

Trainings

Past Trainings

Manuals

Immigration

Public Benefits & Economic Relief

Family Law

Law Enforcement

Judges

Dynamics, Culture, & Safety

Language Access

Access to Legal Services

VAWA Confidentiality

Criminal Justice

Public Policy

Research

Statutes

Legislative History

Regulations and Policies

Multilingual Materials

niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu

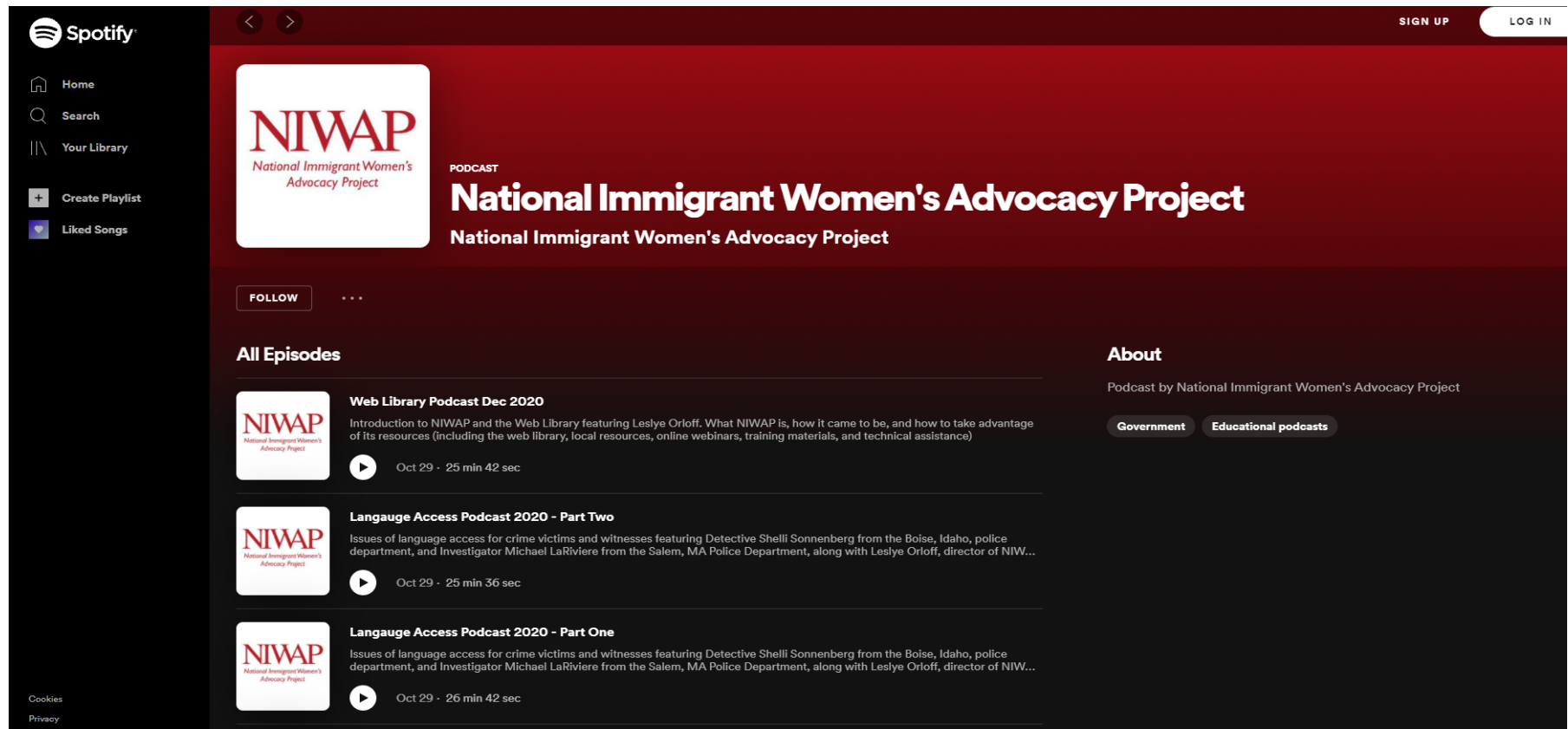
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NIWAP

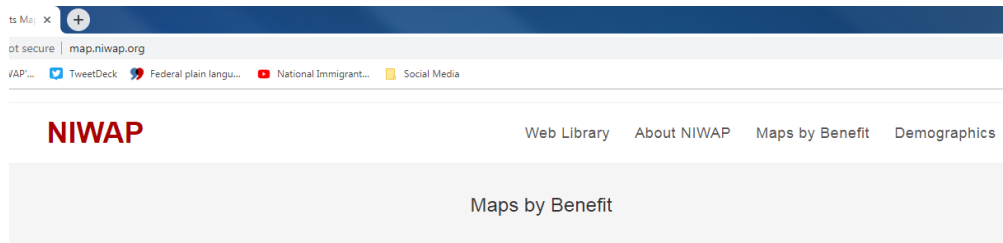
National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project at the
American University Washington College of Law

NIWAP's New Podcast Series

<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/niwap-podcast-series>



Interactive Public Benefits Map



NIWAP

Web Library About NIWAP Maps by Benefit Demogr

Legal Services



These maps break down available public benefits based on immigrant's state and immigration status.

We are still working on this site, so if you cannot click on your state, check back soon for completed maps.



Cash Assistance (TANF)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides cash assistance to low income families with children.

[Go to Map](#)



Child Care

Child Care services may be provided through public benefits.

[Go to Map](#)



Children's Health Insurance Program

Medical assistance is available to children through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

[Go to Map](#)



Driver's License

State-specific requirements to be issued a driver's license.

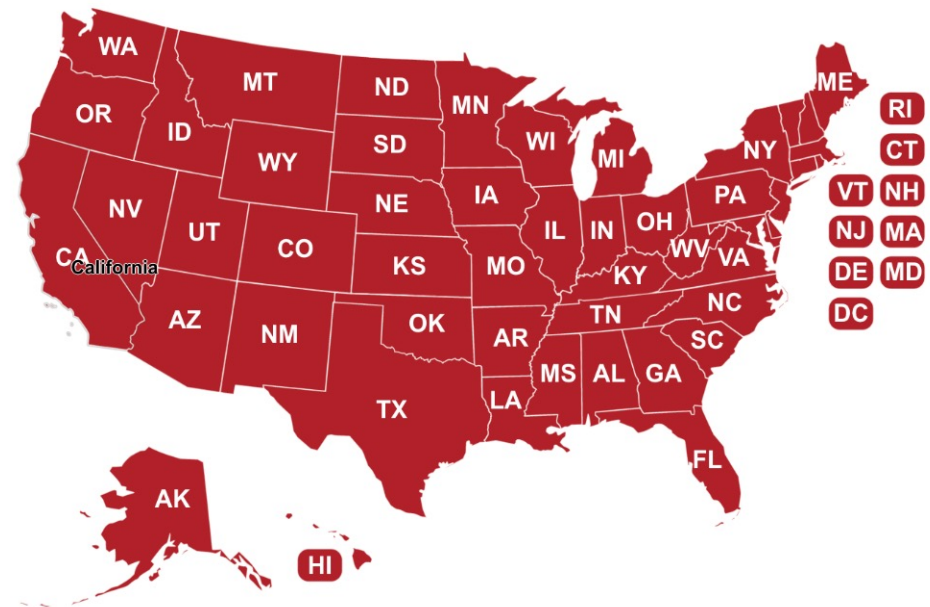
[Go to Map](#)



Earned Income Tax Credit



Emergency Housing & Safety Programs



<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/all-state-public-benefits-charts>

Directory of Service Providers

- Extensive directory of providers with experience working with immigrant survivors



<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/home/directory-programs-serving-immigrant-victims>

USCIS Subject Matter Experts



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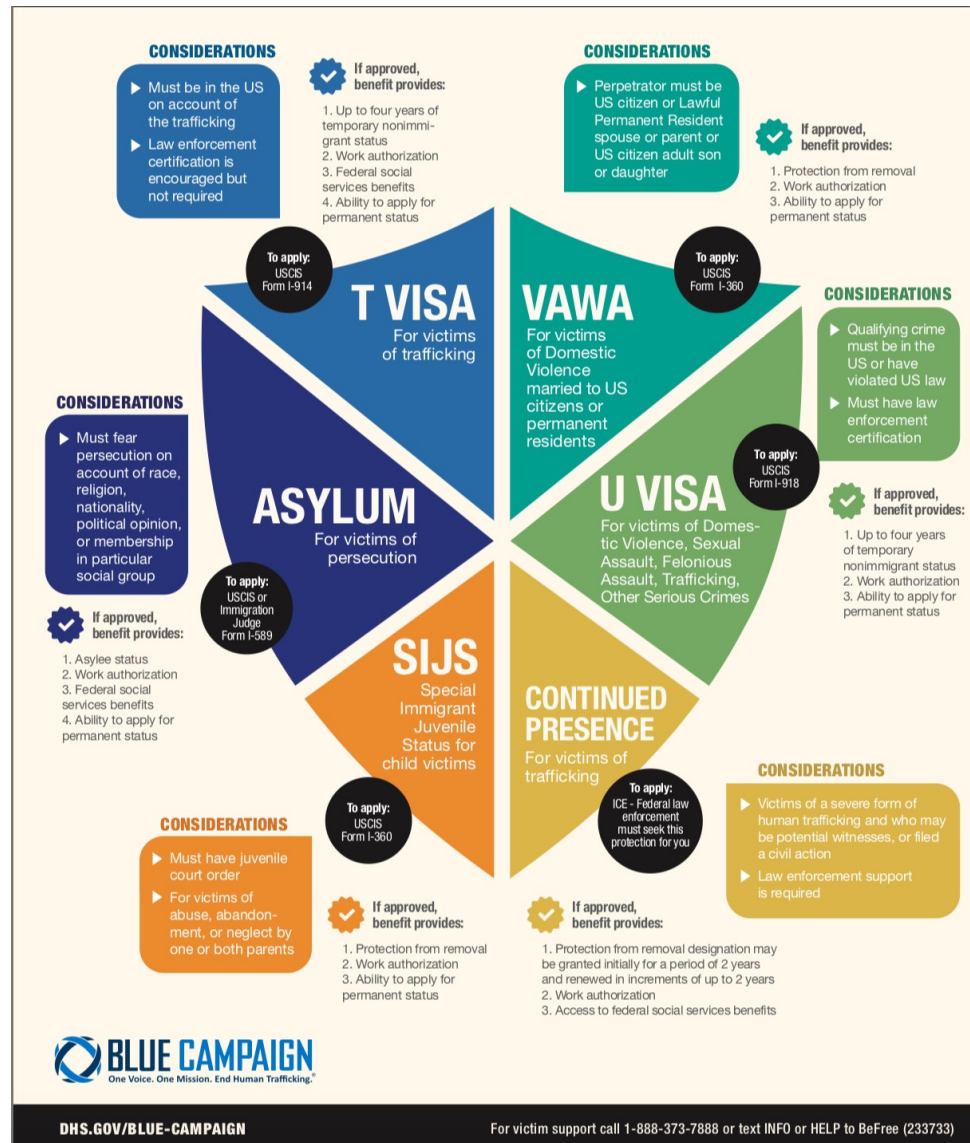
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Chief of the Refugee and
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USCIS Office of Chief Counsel

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Question and Answer

NIWAP's Technical Assistance Support for Non-Citizen Survivors Applying for Naturalization

Primary Immigration Protections for Victims



Naturalization

Naturalization Requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age at the time you file the application;
- Have been a lawful permanent resident for the past three or five years
- Have continuous residence and physical presence in the United States;
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic English;
- Demonstrate good moral character;
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government;
- Demonstrate a loyalty to the principles of the U.S. Constitution; and be willing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Benefits of US Citizenship

- **The Right to Vote:** Citizens can cast a ballot and fully participate in the electoral process.
- **Protection from Loss of Legal Status:** Citizens may not be removed, or deported, from the United States. They are also able to re-enter the U.S. without being required to establish admissibility each time.
- **Freedom of Travel:** Citizens can leave and re-enter the United States easily, regardless of how long they are gone. They never lose their right to live here legally.
- **Passport:** They can obtain a US passport for identification abroad.
- **The Right to Hold Office:** They can run in elections and win public office.

Additional Benefits of U.S. Citizenship

- **Government Employment:** Citizens may obtain one of the many government-related jobs restricted only to US citizens.
- **Public Benefits:** Citizens access public benefits without 5-year bar or 40 quarters of work credit requirements. They can also receive Social Security benefits wherever they live worldwide.
- **Tax Deductions:** They can receive substantial deductions on U.S. estate taxes.
- **No Longer Need to Report:** US citizens don't have to report any information—address changes or anything else—to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Benefits of U.S. Citizenship

Sponsoring/Protecting Family Members

- **Bringing family members to the United States:** US citizens can help family members become Permanent Residents.
- **Obtaining citizenship for children:** In most cases, a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen is automatically a U.S. citizen.
- **US citizens can file a petition for their:**
 - Spouse
 - Parent
 - Child of any age, married or unmarried
 - Brother
 - Sister

Technical Assistance

- NIWAP
 - Call: 202.274.4457
 - Email: niwap@wcl.american.edu

