

South Carolina Benefits Infographic – SIJS Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (July 9, 2026)

SIJS Children¹

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

Zero Months: Filing (*Lawfully Present*): **CHIP up to age 21.**

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 Residence³

6.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 35 Months after filing for Lawful Permanent Residence
-Issued Lawful Permanent Residence (Green Card) (*Qualified Immigrant*)
-Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP; Public and Assisted Housing, SNAP (under 18), **In-State Tuition and Financial Aid**

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Can apply for Naturalization
10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after work authorization: **SNAP (age 18+),⁴ SSI**

12.4 years after Filing for SIJS: 8.25 months after Application for Naturalization⁵: Naturalization Approved
16.8 years after Filing for SIJS unless naturalize: **Medicaid age 21+⁶ TANF+**

*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 South Carolina 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 filed on or after that date must wait until lawful permanent residency.

³ Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.

⁴ Must be under age 18, disabled, met the 5-year bar, or earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.

⁵ Wait time is 8 months at the Charleston Field Office and 8.5 months at the Greer Field Office.

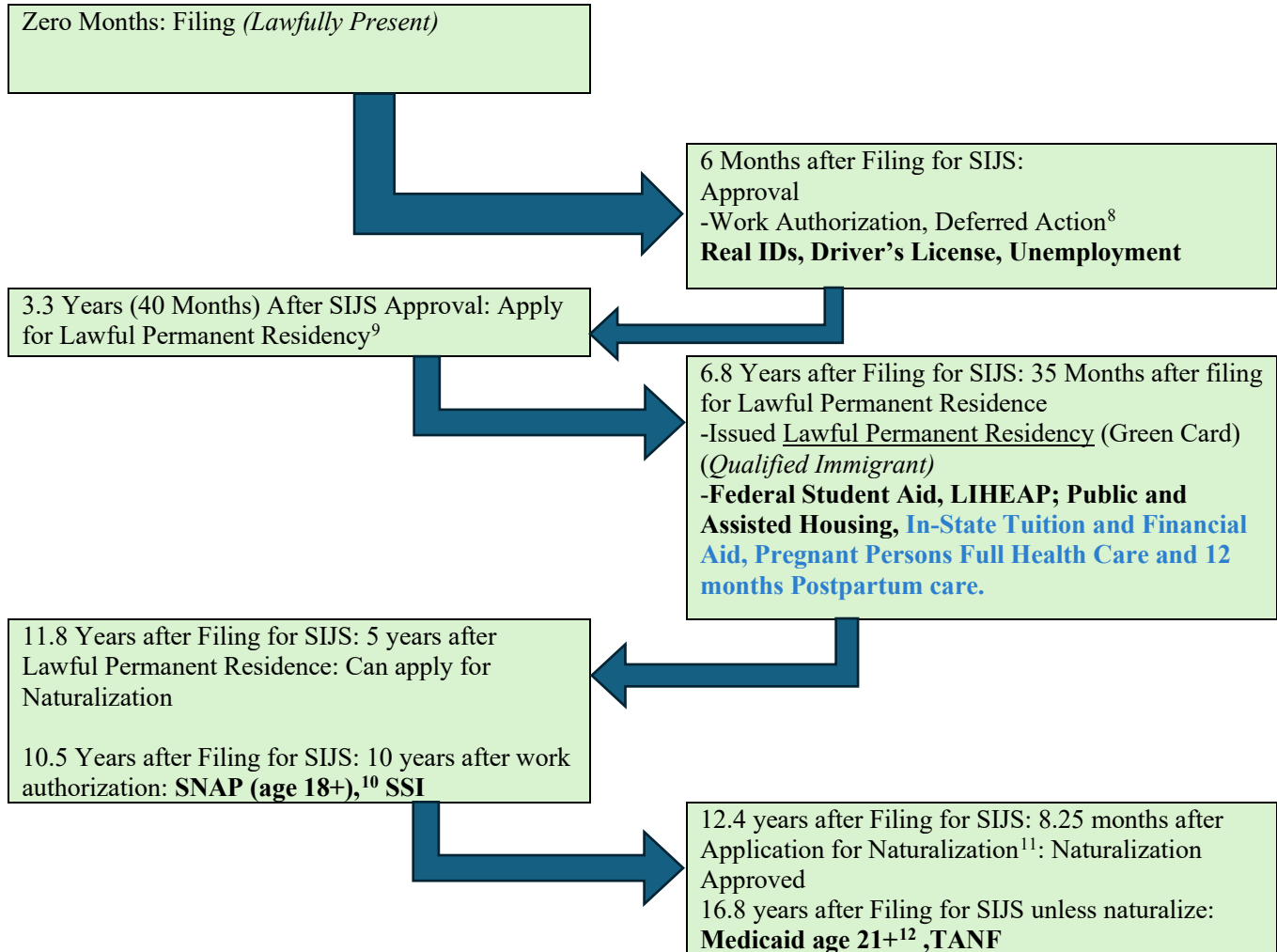
⁶ Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.

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SIJS Applicants Who Become Adults ⁷



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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 filed on or after that date must wait until lawful permanent residency.

⁹ Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Wait time is 8 months at the Charleston Field Office and 8.5 months at the Greer Field Office.

¹² Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.