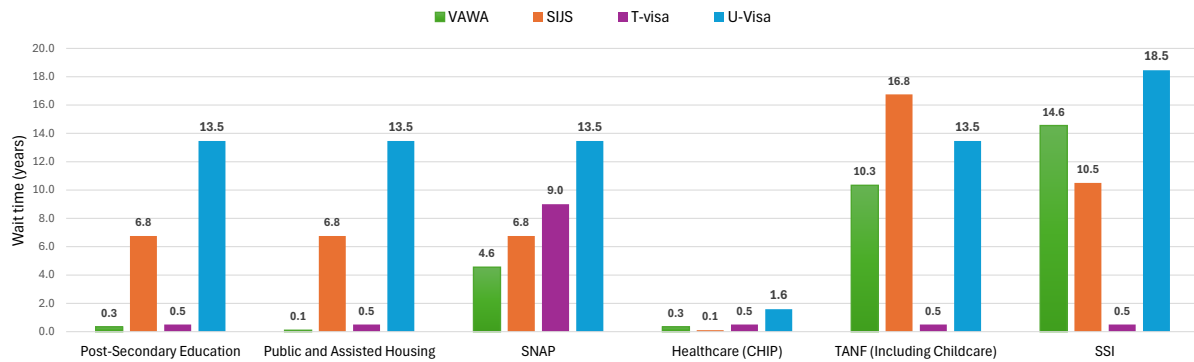


## Public Benefits for Immigrant Survivor Children in South Carolina

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (July 9, 2026)

|                             | VAWA | SJS  | T-visa | U-Visa | Governing Law | Conditions Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------|------|------|--------|--------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Post-Secondary Education    | 0.3  | 6.8  | 0.5    | 13.5   | Federal/State | <b>Must be qualified immigrants.</b> In South Carolina, <b>qualified immigrants</b> are eligible for in-state tuition rates and access to institutional aid or scholarships. Note: That since SAVE verification is required, lawfully present VAWA self-petitioners and human trafficking victims will required an additional secondary step in the verification process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Public and Assisted Housing | 0.1  | 6.8  | 0.5    | 13.5   | Federal       | VAWAs eligible upon filing, T visas, U visas and SJS <b>must be qualified immigrants.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| SNAP                        | 4.6  | 6.8  | 9.0    | 13.5   | Federal       | <b>Must be lawful permanent residents.</b> Must also be under 18, disabled, elderly who was lawfully residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96, have been a qualified immigrant for 5 years or a lawful permanent resident with 40 quarters (5-10 years) of work credit measured from the date they receive work authorization. The 5 year bar and 40 quarters can be earned simultaneously. T visa victims are exempt from the 5 year bar and 40 quarter requirement. SJS (age 18+) and U visa victims who work become eligible 10 years after receiving work authorization and those who do not have 40 quarters of work credit when they become lawful permanent residents would need to wait to complete the 5 year bar. SJS or U child who can use the work credit for themselves and a parent, could be up to 5 years less. |
| Healthcare (CHIP)           | 0.3  | 0.1  | 0.5    | 1.6    | State         | In South Carolina, CHIP is available for <b>lawfully present children and pregnant children</b> regardless of date of entry.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| TANF (Including Childcare)  | 10.3 | 16.8 | 0.5    | 13.5   | State         | In South Carolina, <b>must be qualified immigrants</b> who entered the U.S. before 8/22/96, or are <b>refugees, asylees, T visa holders, or T visa applicants with bona fide determinations.</b> For each of these groups, subtract 5 years. Refugees, asylees and trafficking victims are only eligible for the first 5 years after attaining status. In South Carolina, if entered on or after 8/22/96, must be <b>lawful permanent residents and must have 40 quarters of work credit.</b> <b>Exception:</b> In South Carolina, <b>lawful permanent residents</b> who are active duty military or the spouse, unmarried surviving spouse or a child of a veteran, they are eligible without any accrual of quarters of work credit requirement and are not subject to the 5 year limitation on access to TANF.       |
| SSI                         | 14.6 | 10.5 | 0.5    | 18.5   | Federal       | Federal laws apply no state funded SSI.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                             |      |      |        |        |               | 0.1 = immediately eligible at filing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

Public Benefits for Immigrant Child Survivors in South Carolina

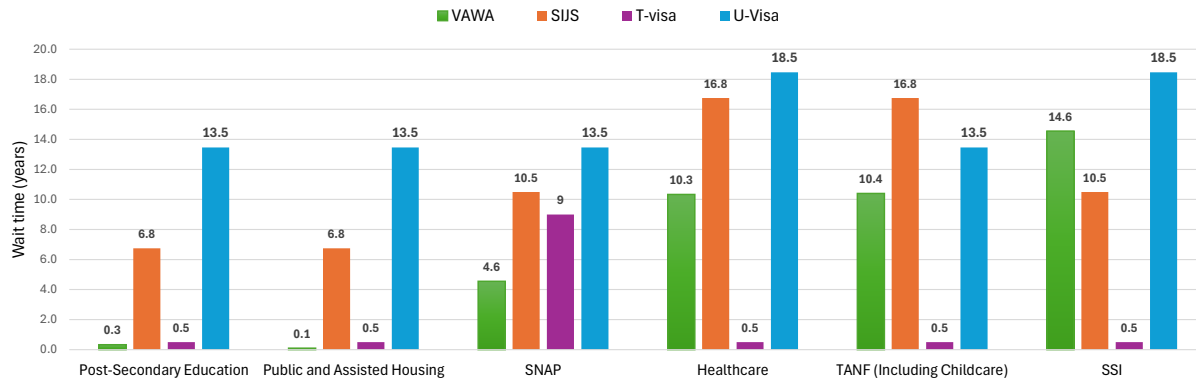


## Public Benefits for Immigrant Survivor Adults in South Carolina

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (July 9, 2026)

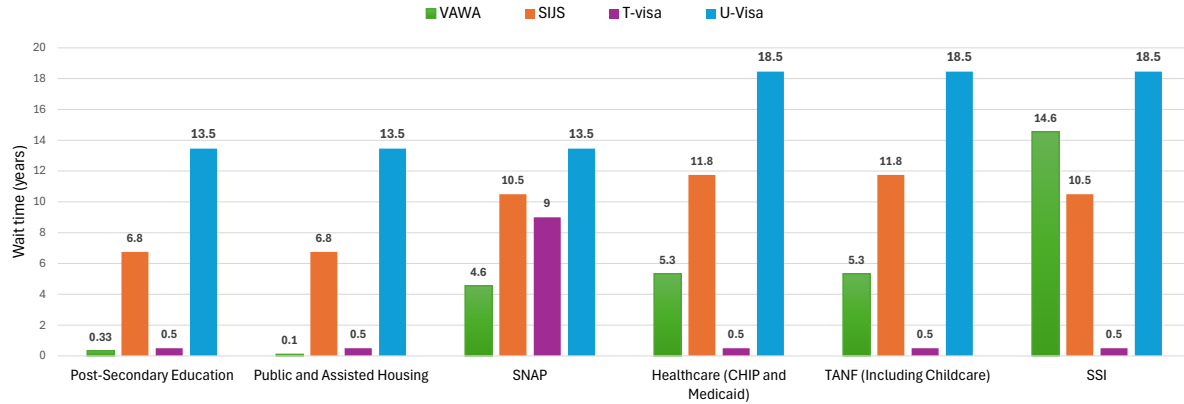
|                             | VAWA | SJS  | T-visa | U-Visa | Governing Law | Conditions Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|------|------|--------|--------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Post-Secondary Education    | 0.3  | 6.8  | 0.5    | 13.5   | Federal/State | <b>Must be qualified immigrants.</b> In South Carolina, <b>qualified immigrants</b> are eligible for in-state tuition rates and access to institutional aid or scholarships. Note: That since SAVE verification is required, lawfully present VAWA self-petitioners and human trafficking victims will require an additional secondary step in the verification process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Public and Assisted Housing | 0.1  | 6.8  | 0.5    | 13.5   | Federal       | VAWAs eligible upon filing, T visas, U visas and SJS <b>must be qualified immigrants.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| SNAP                        | 4.6  | 10.5 | 9      | 13.5   | Federal       | <b>Must be lawful permanent residents.</b> Must also be under 18, disabled, elderly who was lawfully residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96, have been a qualified immigrant for 5 years or a lawful permanent resident with 40 quarters (5-10 years) of work credit measured from the date they receive work authorization. The 5 year bar and 40 quarters can be earned simultaneously. T visa victims are exempt from the 5 year bar and 40 quarter requirement. SJS and U visa victims who work become eligible 10 years after receiving work authorization and those who do not have 40 quarters of work credit when they become lawful permanent residents would need to wait to complete the 5 year bar. SJS or U child who can use the work credit for themselves and a parent, could be up to 5 years less.                                                                                                                                                |
| Healthcare                  | 10.3 | 16.8 | 0.5    | 18.5   | State         | In South Carolina, CHIP provides <b>lawfully present persons prenatal care</b> , full healthcare, and 12 months postpartum care without regard to immigration status. In South Carolina adults are only eligible for Medicaid if they are <b>lawful permanent residents who have completed the 5-year bar and accrued 40 quarters of work credit.</b> In South Carolina, T visas, trafficking victims, refugees, and asylees are exempt from the 5-year bar; however they are only eligible for Medicaid during the first 7-years after obtaining status unless they entered the U.S. before 8/22/96. Exception: In South Carolina, T visa holders, refugees and asylees who are active duty military, or the spouse, unmarried surviving spouse or child of a veteran or a person on active military duty, or when they have attained lawful permanent residency and have accrued 40 quarters of work credit, they are eligible past the 7-year limitation. |
| TANF (Including Childcare)  | 10.4 | 16.8 | 0.5    | 13.5   | State         | In South Carolina, <b>must be qualified immigrants</b> who entered the U.S. before 8/22/96, or are <b>refugees, asylees, T visa holders, or T visa applicants with bona fide determinations.</b> For each of these groups, subtract 5 years. Refugees, asylees and trafficking victims are only eligible for the first 5 years after attaining status. In South Carolina, if entered on or after 8/22/96, must be <b>lawful permanent residents and must have 40 quarters of work credit.</b> Exception: In South Carolina, <b>lawful permanent residents</b> who are active duty military or the spouse, unmarried surviving spouse or a child of a veteran, they are eligible without any accrual of quarters of work credit requirement and are not subject to the 5 year limitation on access to TANF.                                                                                                                                                   |
| SSI                         | 14.6 | 10.5 | 0.5    | 18.5   | Federal       | Federal laws apply no state funded SSI.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                             |      |      |        |        |               | 0.1 = immediately eligible at filing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Public Benefits for Immigrant Adult Survivors in South Carolina



|                                | VAWA | SIJS | T-visa | U-Visa | Governing Law | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------|------|------|--------|--------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Post-Secondary Education       | 0.33 | 6.8  | 0.5    | 13.5   | Federal       | <b>Must be qualified immigrants.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Public and Assisted Housing    | 0.1  | 6.8  | 0.5    | 13.5   | Federal       | VAWA self-petition eligible upon filing; T visa, U visa and SIJS <b>must be qualified immigrants.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| SNAP                           | 4.6  | 10.5 | 9      | 13.5   | Federal       | <b>Must be lawful permanent residents.</b> Must also be under 18, disabled, elderly who was lawfully residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96, have been a qualified immigrant for 5 years or a lawful permanent resident with 40 quarters (5-10 years) of work credit measured from the date they receive work authorization. The 5 year bar and 40 quarters can be earned simultaneously. <b>T visa</b> victims are exempt from the 5 year bar and 40 quarter requirement. <b>SIJS and U visa</b> victims who work become eligible 10 years after receiving work authorization and those who do not have 40 quarters of work credit when they become lawful permanent residents would need to wait to complete the 5 year bar. SIJS or U child who can use the work credit for themselves and a parent, could be up to 5 years less. |
| Healthcare (CHIP and Medicaid) | 5.3  | 11.8 | 0.5    | 18.5   | Federal       | <b>Must be qualified immigrants.</b> If entered the U.S. before 8/22/96 subtract 5 years. (T visa exempt from 5-year bar)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| TANF (Including Childcare)     | 5.3  | 11.8 | 0.5    | 18.5   | Federal       | <b>Must be qualified immigrants.</b> If entered the U.S. before 8/22/96 subtract 5 years. (T visa exempt from 5-year bar)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| SSI                            | 14.6 | 10.5 | 0.5    | 18.5   | Federal       | <b>Must be a lawful permanent resident and have 40 quarters (5-10 years) of work credit, and subject to 5 year bar if arrived after 8/22/96.</b> The 5 year bar and 40 quarters can be earned simultaneously. T visas exempt from 40 quarter and 5 year bar and are eligible for 7 years after becoming a qualified immigrant. Children can use credit from themselves and that their parents earned when they were under the age of 18. Children who use the work credit for themselves and a parent, could be up to 5 years less. U visa victims eligible 5 years after lawful permanent residence if have earned 40 quarters work credit. VAWAs calculated as 10 years after attaining work authorization. Spouses of citizens will be eligible 3.4 years faster.                                                          |

Public Benefits for Immigrant Children and Adults- Federal Law



## VAWA - Immigration and Public Benefits Timeline Calculations - South Carolina

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (July 9, 2026)

|                              |        |        |         | Year<br>calculation | Total years citizen<br>spouse/parent/<br>stepparent | Total years LPR<br>spouse/parent/<br>stepparent | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                       | Benefits Eligibility Category            |         |     |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------|-----|
| Filing VAWA Self-petition    | 0      |        |         |                     |                                                     |                                                 | VAWA self-petitioners who are abused by citizens can file their green card applications at the same time as they file their self-petitions.                                                 | PRUCOL                                   |         |     |
| Prima Facie Determination    | 3 to 4 | Months |         | 0.33                | 0.3                                                 | 0.3                                             | VAWA self-petitioners abused by citizens who file green card applications together with their VAWA self-petition receive <b>work authorization</b> in a similar time frame.                 | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant |         |     |
| VAWA Self- Petition Approval | 48.5   | Months |         | 4.04                | 4.0                                                 | 4.0                                             | All VAWA self-petitioners receive <b>deferred action</b> a formal protection against deportation.                                                                                           | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant |         |     |
| Apply for Green Card         | 0      |        |         | 0.00                | 4.0                                                 | 4.0                                             | VAWA self-petitioners who are abused by lawful permanent residents receive <b>work authorization</b> and are eligible to file green card applications once their self-petition is approved. | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant |         |     |
| Green Card Approval          | 12.25  | Months | average | 1.02                | 4.0                                                 | 5.1                                             | Lawful Permanent Residence                                                                                                                                                                  | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant | average | 4.6 |
| Apply for Naturalization     | 3      | Years  |         | 3                   | 7.0                                                 | 8.1                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                             | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant |         |     |
| Naturalization approval      | 8.25   | Months | average | 0.69                | 7.7                                                 | 8.8                                             | Naturalized Citizen                                                                                                                                                                         | Citizen                                  |         |     |
| Naturalization (N-400)       | Months |        |         |                     |                                                     |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                          |         |     |
| Charleston, SC               | 8      |        |         |                     |                                                     |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                          |         |     |
| Greer, SC                    | 8.5    |        |         |                     |                                                     |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                          |         |     |
| Green Card (I-485)           | Months |        |         |                     |                                                     |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                          |         |     |
| Charleston, SC               | 13     |        |         |                     |                                                     |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                          |         |     |
| Greer, SC                    | 11.5   |        |         |                     |                                                     |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                          |         |     |

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SIJS - Immigration and Public Benefits Timeline Calculations - South Carolina

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (July 9, 2026)

|                              |             |         |                           | Year calculation | Total years | Notes                                                                                                                                | Benefits Eligibility Category |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Judicial Findings            |             |         |                           |                  |             | Must obtain judicial findings before the child turns the age of majority in the state.                                               | None                          |
| Filing for SIJS              | 0           |         |                           |                  | 0.1         | Must file before child turns age 21.                                                                                                 | Lawfully Present              |
| SIJS Adjudication - Approval | 6 Months    |         |                           | 0.50             | 0.5         |                                                                                                                                      | Lawfully Present              |
| Apply for Green Card         | 40 Months   |         |                           | 3.33             | 3.8         | The SIJS applicant's priority date is date USCIS accepts the SIJS application for processing.                                        | Lawfully Present              |
| Green Card Approval          | 35.0 Months |         |                           | 2.92             | 6.8         | When SIJS applicants are granted lawful permanent residence they are <b>work authorized</b> and receive protection from deportation. | Qualified Immigrant           |
| Apply for Naturalization     | 5 Years     |         |                           | 5.00             | 11.8        |                                                                                                                                      | Qualified Immigrant           |
| Naturalization approval      | 8.25 Months | average |                           | 0.69             | 12.4        | Naturalized Citizen                                                                                                                  | Citizen                       |
| Naturalization (N-400)       | Months      |         |                           |                  |             |                                                                                                                                      |                               |
| Charleston, SC               | 8           |         |                           |                  |             |                                                                                                                                      |                               |
| Greer, SC                    | 8.5         |         |                           |                  |             |                                                                                                                                      |                               |
| Green Card (I-485)           | Months      |         | *SIJS is employment based |                  |             |                                                                                                                                      |                               |
| SCOPS                        | 35          |         |                           |                  |             |                                                                                                                                      |                               |

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## T Visa - Immigration and Public Benefits Timeline Calculations - South Carolina

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (July 9, 2026)

|                                |             |         |  | Year calculation | Total years if trafficking case is completed when victim is granted a T visa | Total years if case not completed | Notes                                                                                                   | Benefits Eligibility Category            |         |     |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------|--|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------|-----|
| T visa Declarations            |             |         |  |                  |                                                                              |                                   | Best practice (not required).                                                                           | None                                     |         |     |
| Filing for T visa              | 0           |         |  | 0.00             |                                                                              |                                   |                                                                                                         | PRUCOL                                   |         |     |
| Bona Fide Determination        | 6 Months    |         |  | 0.50             | 0.5                                                                          | 0.5                               | Includes <b>deferred action</b> a formal protection against deportation and <b>work authorization</b> . | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant |         |     |
| T Visa Adjudication - Approval | 29.5 Months |         |  | 2.5              | 2.5                                                                          | 2.5                               |                                                                                                         | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant |         |     |
| Apply for Green Card           | 3 Years     |         |  | 3.00             | 0.0                                                                          | 5.5                               | Either three years or when trafficking investigation complete whichever is sooner.                      | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant |         |     |
| Green Card Approval            | 42.5 Months |         |  | 3.54             | 6.0                                                                          | 9.0                               |                                                                                                         | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant | average | 7.5 |
| Apply for Naturalization       | 5 Years     |         |  | 5.00             | 11.0                                                                         | 14.0                              |                                                                                                         | Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant |         |     |
| Naturalization approval        | 8.25 Months | average |  | 0.69             | 11.7                                                                         | 14.7                              |                                                                                                         | Citizen                                  |         |     |
| Naturalization (N-400)         | Months      |         |  |                  |                                                                              |                                   |                                                                                                         |                                          |         |     |
| Charleston, SC                 | 8           |         |  |                  |                                                                              |                                   |                                                                                                         |                                          |         |     |
| Greer, SC                      | 8.5         |         |  |                  |                                                                              |                                   |                                                                                                         |                                          |         |     |

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# U Visa - Immigration and Public Benefits Timeline Calculations - South Carolina

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho and Leslye E. Orloff (July 9, 2026)

|                                |        |        |         | Year<br>calculation | Total years | Notes                                                                                                                        | Benefits Eligibility Category |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| U Visa Certification           |        |        |         |                     |             | Obtaining a certification from a government official is a required prerequisite to filing for a U visa.                      | None                          |
| Filing for U visa              | 0      | Months |         | 0.00                | 0.0         | Certification is valid for 6 months. Must file within 6 months of the certification date or must obtain a new certification. | PRUCOL                        |
| Bona Fide Determination        | 19     | Months |         | 1.6                 | 1.6         | Includes <b>deferred action</b> a formal protection against deportation and <b>work authorization</b> .                      | Lawfully Present              |
| U Visa Adjudication - Approval | 8.5    | Years  |         | 8.5                 | 8.5         | As of October 2025 they began issuing U visa approvals for cases filed in early 2017.                                        | Lawfully Present              |
| Apply for Green Card           | 3      | Years  |         | 3.00                | 11.5        | Eligible to apply three years after receiving a U visa.                                                                      | Lawfully Present              |
| Green Card Approval            | 23.5   | Months |         | 1.96                | <b>13.5</b> |                                                                                                                              | Qualified Immigrant           |
| Apply for Naturalization       | 5      | Years  |         | 5.00                | 18.5        |                                                                                                                              | Qualified Immigrant           |
| Naturalization approval        | 8.25   | Months | average | 0.69                | <b>19.1</b> |                                                                                                                              | Citizen                       |
|                                |        |        |         |                     |             |                                                                                                                              |                               |
| Naturalization (N-400)         | Months |        |         |                     |             |                                                                                                                              |                               |
| Charleston, SC                 | 8      |        |         |                     |             |                                                                                                                              |                               |
| Greer, SC                      | 8.50   |        |         |                     |             |                                                                                                                              |                               |

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