Texas Benefits Infographic – SIJS

Sarah Register, Emma Buchanan, and Leslye E. Orloff (June 9, 2026)

SIJS Children[1]

- **All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status.**
- **Pregnant people are entitled to prenatal care and two post-partum visits regardless of immigration status.**

Zero Months: Filing *(Lawfully Present)*
In-State Tuition[2], CHIP[3]

6 Months after Filing for SIJS: Approval
-Work Authorization, Deferred Action[4]
Real IDs, Unemployment, Driver's License

3.8 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency[5]

6.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 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)**

10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after work authorization: **SSI, TANF & TANF-funded childcare[6]**

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
Medicaid[7], TANF, Can apply for Naturalization

12.5 years after Filing for SIJS: 9.1 months after Application for Naturalization[8]: 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 Texas this age is 18. For public benefits age limit varies by benefits program see state public benefits charts.
[2] Available at some public institutions.
[3] Child must be income-eligible, meaning their family income less than or equal to 201% of the federal poverty level.
[4] 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.
[5] Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.
[6] Must have earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.
[7] Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.
[8] Wait time is 9.10 months on average at Texas Field Offices.

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SIJS Applicants Who Become Adults[9]

- **Pregnant people are entitled to prenatal care and two post-partum visits regardless of immigration status.**

Zero Months: Filing *(Lawfully Present)*
In-State Tuition[10]

6 Months after Filing for SIJS: Approval
-Work Authorization, Deferred Action[11]
Real IDs, Unemployment, Driver's License

3.8 Years (40 Months) After SIJS Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency[12]

6.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 Months after filing for Lawful Permanent Residence
-Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card)
(*Qualified Immigrant)*
-Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP; Public and Assisted Housing

10.5 Years after Filing for SIJS: 10 years after work authorization: **SSI, TANF & TANF-funded childcare**[13]**, Medicaid**

11.8 Years after Filing for SIJS: 5 years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
Medicaid[14]**, TANF, SNAP** Can apply for Naturalization

12.5 years after Filing for SIJS: 9.1 months after Application for Naturalization[15]: 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/

[9] 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.
[10] Available at some public institutions.
[11] 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.
[12] Time to application may vary depending on when priority date becomes current. The current backlog is approximately 5 years.
[13] Must have earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.
[14] Eligible for federal Medicaid having attained lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar. Texas adds that 40 quarters of work credit must be accrued unless the person is a battered immigrant.
[15] Wait time is 9.10 months on average at Texas Field Offices.