Texas Benefits Infographic – U Visa

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

U Visa 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: At Filing[2]:

19 Months (1.6 Years) after Filing:
Bona Fide Determination *(Lawfully Present)*
Deferred Action[3], Work Authorization **Real IDs, Unemployment, Driver's Licenses,** **In-State Tuition[4], CHIP[5]**

8.5 Years after Filing:
-Approval[6]

11.5 Years after Filing for U Visa: 3 Years after Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card)

13.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 23.5 Months after Application for Lawful Permanent Residence:
Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card)
(Qualified Immigrant)
-Public and Assisted Housing, LIHEAP, Federal Student Aid, SNAP (up to age 18), **TANF & TANF-funded childcare[7]**

18.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 5 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Can Apply for Naturalization
Medicaid[8], SSI

19.2 Years after Filing for U Visa; 9.1 Months after Applying for Naturalization[9]:
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. For public benefits age limit varies by benefits program see state public benefits charts.
[2] Obtaining a certification from a government official is a required prerequisite to filing for a U Visa
[3] Formal protection from removal/deportation.
[4] Available at some public institutions.
[5] Child must be income-eligible, meaning their family income less than or equal to 201% of the federal poverty level.
[6] As of October 2025 they began issuing U visa approvals for cases filed in early 2017.
[7] U visa holders are calculated as the date they obtain lawful permanent residence because 40 quarters of work credit will most likely have accrued.
[8] Eligible f for federal Medicaid having become a qualified immigrant by attaining lawful permanent residence and having completed the 5-year bar.
[9] Wait time is 9.10 months on average at Texas Field Offices.

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U Visa Adults

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

Zero Months: At Filing[10]:

19 Months (1.6 Years) after Filing:
Bona Fide Determination (*Lawfully Present)*
Deferred Action[11], Work Authorization **Real IDs, Unemployment, Driver's Licenses,** **In-State Tuition**[12]

8.5 Years after Filing:
-Approval[13]

11.5 Years after Filing for U Visa: 3 Years after Approval: Apply for Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card)
11.6: 10 years after work authorization **Medicaid**[14]**,**

13.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 23.5 Months after Application for Lawful Permanent Residence: Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card) *(Qualified Immigrant)*
-Public and Assisted Housing, LIHEAP, Federal Student Aid, **TANF & TANF-funded childcare**[15]**,** **SNAP**[16]

18.5 Years after Filing for U Visa; 5 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence:
SSI
Can Apply for Naturalization

19.2 Years after Filing for U Visa; 9.10 Months after Applying for Naturalization[17]:

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/

[10] Obtaining a certification from a government official is a required prerequisite to filing for a U Visa.
[11] Formal protection from removal/deportation.
[12] Available at some public institutions.
[13] As of October 2025 they began issuing U visa approvals for cases filed in early 2017.
[14] Eligible for federal Medicaid having become a qualified immigrant by attaining 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] U visa holders are calculated as the date they obtain lawful permanent residence because 40 quarters of work credit will most likely have accrued.
[16] In Texas, U visa lawful permanent residents are exempt from the 40 quarters requirement, but must meet the 5 year bar.
[17] Wait time is 9.10 months on average at Texas Field Offices.