**Texas Benefits Infographic – VAWA**

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

## VAWA 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:
-**Public and Assisted Housing**

5 Months after Filing: If abuser citizen parent/step-parent (USC abuser): Work Authorization, **Real IDs, Unemployment**

3-4 Months after Filing:
Prima Facie Determination (*Qualified Immigrant and Lawfully Present*)
- **Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP, In-State Tuition and State Financial Aid[2], CHIP (18 and under)[3]**

48.5 Months (≈4 years) after Filing:
-Approval; Deferred Action[4]
If abuser lawful permanent resident parent/step parent (LPR abuser): Work Authorization/[5] and eligibility to apply for Lawful Permanent Residency; **Real IDs, Unemployment, Driver's License**

Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) (Green Card)[6]:
4.0 (USC abuser) or 5.0 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing: **LIHEAP**
5.3 years after filing with LPR: **SNAP (under age 18)[7], TANF, Medicaid/CHIP**

7.0 (USC abuser) or 8.0 (abuser LPR) Years after Filing for VAWA; 3 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Apply for Naturalization

7.8 (USC abuser) or 8.7 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA; 9.10 Months after Application for Naturalization[8]: Naturalization Approved
10.3 (USC abuser) or 15.0 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA: **SSI**

*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] Available at public institutions.
[3] Child must be income-eligible, meaning their family income less than or equal to 201% of the federal poverty level.
[4] Formal protection from removal/deportation.
[5] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition.
[6] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition. The average Texas Field Office wait time is 10.90 months.
[7] Must be under age 18, disabled, met the 5-year bar, or earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.
[8] Wait time is 9.10 months on average at Texas Field Offices.

**NIWAP, American University, Washington College of Law**
4300 Nebraska Avenue NW N100B · Washington, D.C. 20016
(o) 202.274.4457 · niwap@wcl.american.edu · wcl.american.edu/niwap · https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/

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## VAWA Adults

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

Zero Months: At Filing:
-**Public and Assisted Housing**

5 Months after Filing: If abuser citizen parent/step-parent (USC abuser): Work Authorization, **Real IDs, Unemployment**

3-4 Months after Filing:
Prima Facie Determination (*Qualified Immigrant and Lawfully Present*)
- **Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP, In-State Tuition and State Financial Aid** [9]

48.5 Months (≈4 years) after Filing:
-Approval; Deferred Action,[10]
-If abuser lawful permanent resident parent/step parent (LPR abuser): Work Authorization/[11] and eligibility to apply for Lawful Permanent Residency; **Real IDs, Unemployment, Driver's License**

Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) (Green Card)[12]
4.0 (USC abuser) or 5.0 (LPR abuser) years after Filing for VAWA: **LIHEAP**
5.3 years after filing: **Medicaid**[13]**, TANF, SNAP**[14]

7.0 (USC abuser) or 8.0 (abuser LPR) Years after Filing for VAWA; 3 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Apply for Naturalization

7.8 (USC abuser) or 8.7 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA; 9.10 Months after Application for Naturalization[15]: Naturalization Approved
9.0 (USC abuser) or 10.0 (LPR abuser)

10.3 (USC abuser) or 15.0 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA: **SSI**

*State funded available prior to meeting federal: 5-year bar, 40 quarters, and lawful permanent residence requirements.

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[9] Available at public institutions.
[10] Formal protection from removal/deportation
[11] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition
[12] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition. The average Texas Field Office wait time is 10.90 months.
[13] Eligible for federal Medicaid 5 years after receiving lawful permanent residency.
[14] VAWA battered immigrants eligible as qualified immigrants after completing 5-year bar, exempting them from 40 quarters requirement.
[15] Wait time is 9.10 months on average at Texas Field Offices.