Vermont Benefits Infographic – VAWA

Sarah Register, Juliana Nascimento, and Leslye E. Orloff (July 15, 2026)

VAWA Children[1]

- **All children (up to age 21) are eligible for state-funded healthcare regardless of immigration status.**
- **Vermont state issued driver's licenses and ID card are available to all state residents without regard to immigration status.**
- **All Vermont residents are eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid regardless of immigration status.**
- **All children are eligible for K-12 public education regardless of immigration status**

Zero Months: At Filing: **Public and Assisted Housing, CHIP (up to age 21), In-state tuition and financial aid, State Driver's licenses and IDs.**

5 Months after Filing: If abuser citizen parent/stepparent (USC abuser): Work Authorization, **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment**

3-4 Months after Filing:
Prima Facie Determination (*Qualified Immigrant and Lawfully Present*)
- **Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP**

48.5 Months (≈4 years) after Filing:
-Approval ; Deferred Action,[2]
If abuser lawful permanent resident parent/stepparent (LPR abuser): Work Authorization/[3] and eligibility to apply for Lawful Permanent Residency;
Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment

Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) (Green Card)[4] and **SNAP (up to age 18)** [5]: 4.0 (USC abuser) or 4.5 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing.
5.3 years after filing (LPR + completed 5-year bar): **TANF, Medicaid 21+[6],**

7.0 (USC abuser) or 7.5 (abuser LPR) Years after Filing for VAWA; 3 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Apply for Naturalization

7.8 (USC abuser) or 8.2 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA; 9 Months after Application for Naturalization[7]: Naturalization Approved
10.3 (USC abuser) or 14.5 (LPR abuser) or 10 Years after work authorization (unless naturalize): **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] Formal protection from removal/deportation.
[3] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition.
[4] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition. Burlington Field Office wait time is 5 months.
[5] Must be under age 18, disabled, met the 5-year bar, or earned 40 quarters (10 years) of work credit since work authorization.
[6] Eligible for federal Medicaid 5 years after receiving VAWA prima facie determination. Starting October 1, 2026 will also require lawful permanent residency.
[7] Wait time is 9 months at the Burlington Field Office.

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VAWA Adults

- **All pregnant individuals are eligible for state-funded prenatal care, full-scope healthcare, and 12 months postpartum care regardless of immigration status.**
- **Vermont state issued driver's licenses and ID card are available to all state residents without regard to immigration status.**
- **All Vermont residents are eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid regardless of immigration status.**

Zero Months: At Filing:-**Public and Assisted Housing, In-state tuition and financial aid, State Driver's licenses and ID, While Pregnant full-scope health care and 12 months postpartum care.**

5 Months after Filing: If abuser citizen parent/stepparent (USC abuser):
Work Authorization, **Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment**

3-4 Months after Filing:
Prima Facie Determination (*Qualified Immigrant and Lawfully Present*)
- Federal Student Aid, LIHEAP,

48.5 Months (≈4 years) after Filing:
-Approval; Deferred Action,[8]

-If abuser lawful permanent resident parent/stepparent (LPR abuser): Work Authorization/[9] and eligibility to apply for Lawful Permanent Residency;
Real IDs, Driver's License, Unemployment

Issued Lawful Permanent Residency (LPR) (Green Card)[10] 4.0 (USC abuser) or 4.5 (LPR abuser) years after Filing for VAWA: **SNAP[11]**
5.3 years after filing with (LPR + completed 5-year bar): **Medicaid 21+[12], TANF, SNAP 18+[13]**

7.0 (USC abuser) or 7.5 (abuser LPR) Years after Filing for VAWA; 3 Years after Lawful Permanent Residence: Apply for Naturalization

7.8 (USC abuser) or 8.2 (LPR abuser) Years after Filing for VAWA; 9 Months after Application for Naturalization[14]: Naturalization Approved

10.3 (USC abuser) or 14.5 (LPR abuser) or 10 Years after work authorization (unless naturalize): **SSI**

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

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[8] Formal protection from removal/deportation
[9] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition
[10] If spouse/child/stepchild of citizen abuser filed lawful permanent resident application with VAWA self-petition. Wait time is 5 months at the Burlington Field Office.
[11] 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.
[12] Eligible for federal Medicaid 5 years after receiving VAWA prima facie determination. Starting October 1, 2026 will also require lawful permanent residency.
[13] 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.
[14] Wait time is 9 months at the Burlington Field Office.