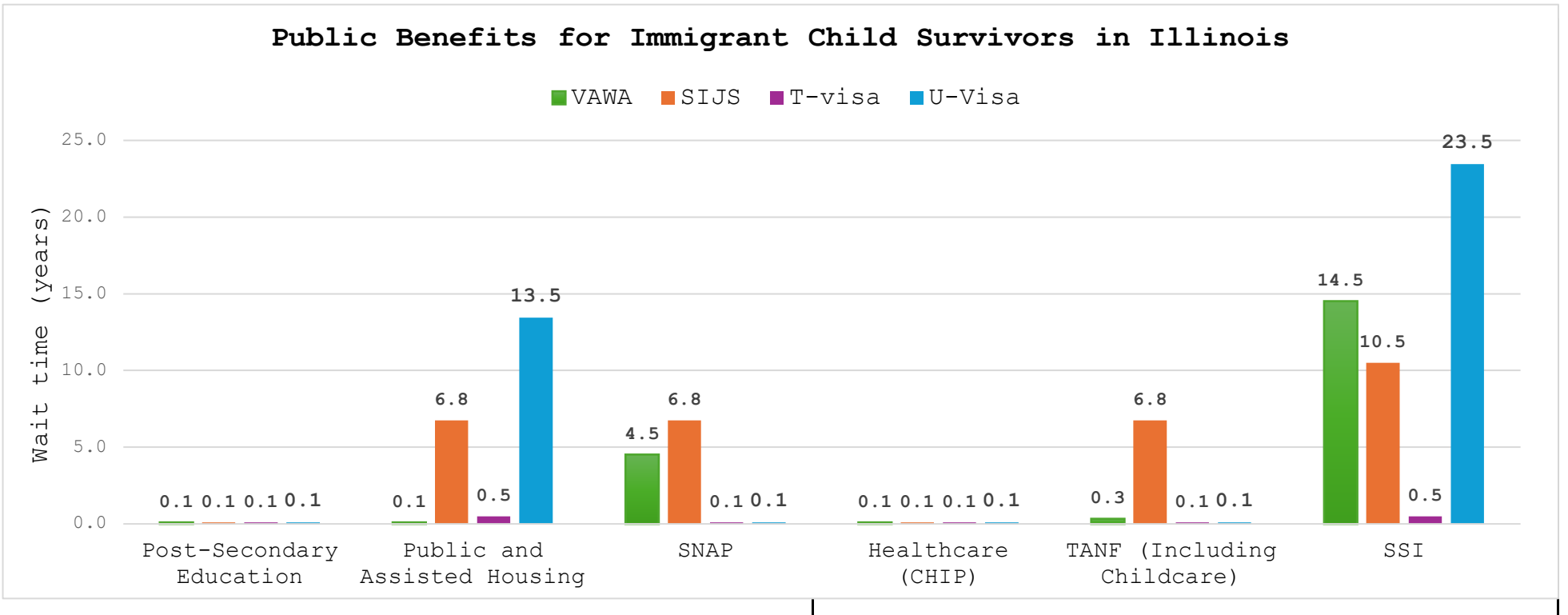
Public Benefits for Immigrant Survivor Children in Illinois						
By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (June 23, 2026)						
	VAWA	SIJS	T-visa	U-Visa	Governing Law	Conditions Notes
Post-Secondary Education	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	State	Eligible without regard to immigration status for in-state tuition, grants, and loans - must have graduated from an Illinois high school that they attended for at least 3 years.
Public and Assisted Housing	0.1	6.8	0.5	13.5	Federal	VAWAs eligibe upon filing, T visas, U visas and SIJS must be qualified immigrants
SNAP	4.5	6.8	0.1	0.1	Federal /State	Federal laws apply to VAWA and SIJS to qualify must be a lawful permanent resident and under 18 or disabled. in Illinois. U and T visa applicants and with intent to apply eligible for state-funded food-assistance.
Healthcare (CHIP)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	State	In Illinois All Kids provides comprehensive affordable health insurance for all children under age 19 without regard to immigration status.
TANF (Including Childcare)	0.3	6.8	0.1	0.1	State	In Illinois VAWAs with prima facie determinations are qualified abused immigrants eligible for TANF during the federal 5 year bar. U and T visa applicants and with intent to apply eligible with no 5 year bar. eligible. SIJS lawful permanent residents who are abused (battered or subjected to extreme cruelty) are eligible in Illinois
SSI	14.5	10.5	0.5	23.5	Federal	Federal laws apply no state funded SSI in Ilinois for children
						0.1 = immediately eligible at filing



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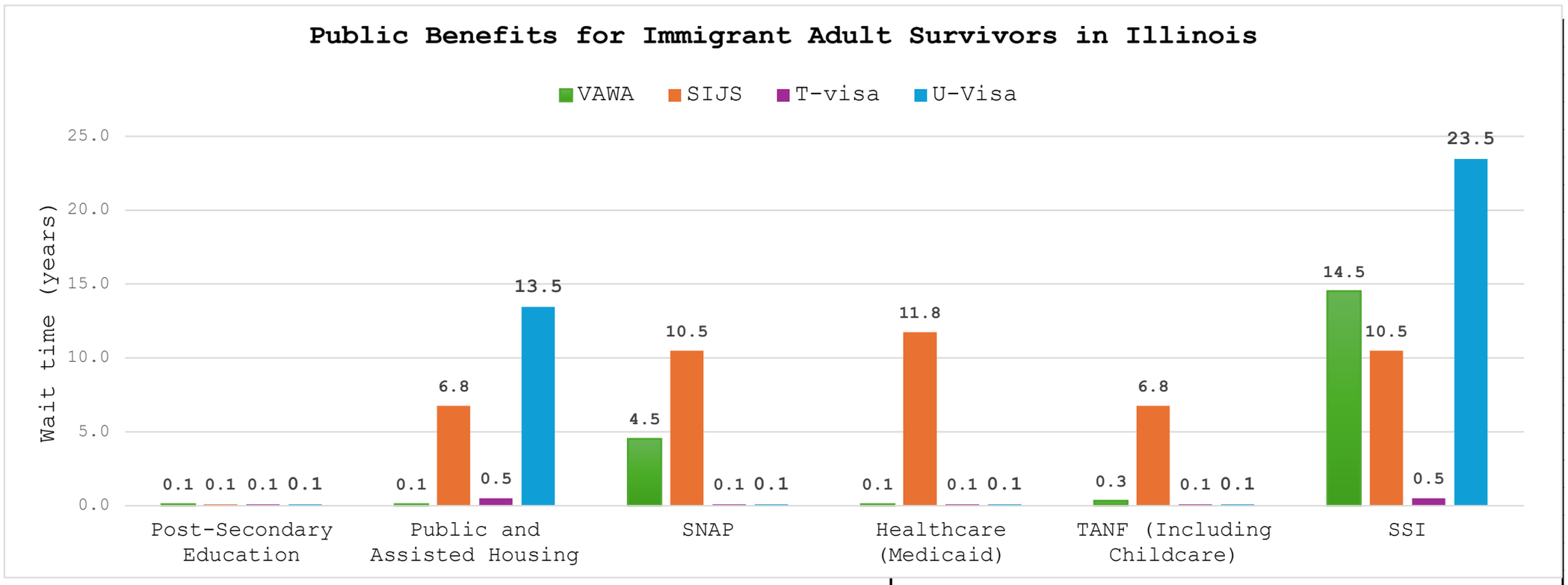
Public Benefits for Immigrant Survivor Adults in Illinois						
By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (June 23, 2026)						
	VAWA	SIJS	T-visa	U-Visa	Governing Law	Conditions Notes
Post-Secondary Education	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	State	Eligible without regard to immigration status for in-state tuition, grants, and loans - must have graduated from an Illinois high school that they attended for at least 3 years.
Public and Assisted Housing	0.1	6.8	0.5	13.5	Federal	VAWAs eligible upon filing, T visas, U visas and SIJS must be qualified immigrants.
SNAP	4.5	10.5	0.1	0.1	Federal/State	Federal laws apply to qualify must be a lawful permanent resident and completed the 5 year bar, and under 18, elderly, or disabled. SIJS LPRs must have 10 years work credit. U and T visa applicants and with intent to apply eligible with no 5 year bar.
Healthcare (Medicaid)	0.1	11.8	0.1	0.1	Federal/State	Illinois abused immigrants including VAWA self-petitioners and SIJS lawful permanent residents are eligible for state funded heath care with no 5 year bar. Other SIJS LPRs have a 5 year wait. U and T visa applicants and with intent to apply no wait times in Illinois. Low income adults ages 42-64 eligible for Health Bemefits for Immigrant Adults without regard to immigration status. Illinois also provides full scope health care, prenatal care, and 12 months post partum care to all pregnant persons withou no immigration restrictions.
TANF (Including Childcare)	0.3	6.8	0.1	0.1	State	In Illinois VAWAs with prima facie determinations are qualified abused immigrants eligible for TANF during the federal 5 year bar. U and T visa applicants and with intent to apply eligible with no 5 year bar. SIJS lawful permanent residents who are abused (battered or subjected to extreme cruelty) are eligible in Illinois
SSI	14.5	10.5	0.5	23.5	Federal /State	Federal laws apply. State funded SSI only available to some adults over age 65 who were residing in the U.S. before Aug. 22, 1996.
						0.1 = immediately eligible at filing



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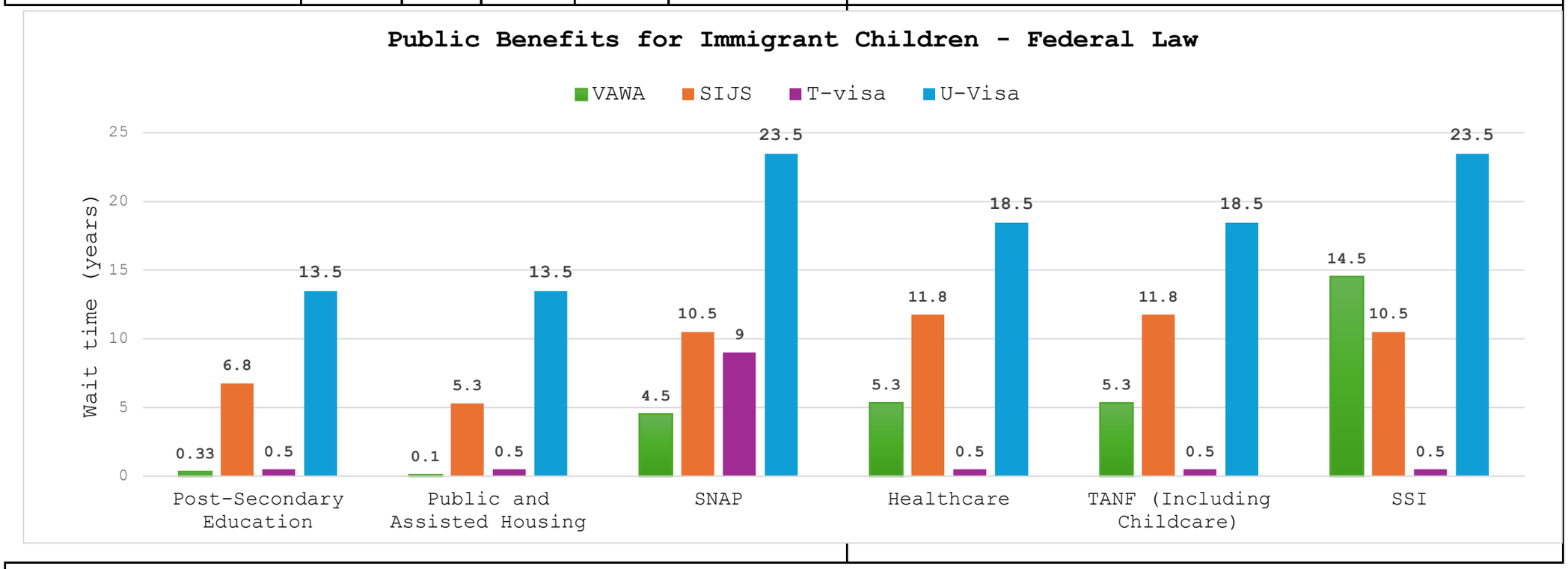
Federal Public Benefits for Immigrant Survivors

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (June 23, 2026)

	VAWA	SIJS	T-visa	U-Visa	Governing Law	Notes
Post-Secondary Education	0.33	6.8	0.5	13.5	Federal	Must be qualified immigrants.
Public and Assisted Housing	0.1	5.3	0.5	13.5	Federal	VAWA self-petition eligible upon filing; T visa, U visa and SIJS must be qualified immigrants
SNAP	4.5	10.5	9	23.5	Federal	Must be lawful permanent residents. 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. SIJS 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. SIJS or U child who can use the work credit for themselves and a parent, could be up to 5 years less.
Healthcare	5.3	11.8	0.5	18.5	Federal	Must be qualified immigrants. 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	Must be qualified immigrants. If entered the U.S. before 8/22/96 subtract 5 years. (T visa exempt from 5-year bar)
SSI	14.5	10.5	0.5	23.5	Federal	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. 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 themsleves 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 eligibe 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.



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VAWA - Immigration and Public Benefits Timeline Calculations - Illinois

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (May 26, 2026)

				Year calculation	Total years citizen spouse	Total years LPR spouse	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 **work authorization i**n 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 **deferred action** 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 **work authroization** and are eligible to file green card applications once their self-petition is approved.	Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant		
Green Card Approval	11.50	Months		0.96	**4.0**	**5.0**	Lawful Permanent Residence	Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant	average	4.5
Apply for Naturalization	3	Years		3	7.0	8.0		Lawfully Present and Qualified Immigrant		
Naturalization approval	7.50	Months	average	0.63	**7.7**	**8.6**	Naturalized Citizen	Citizen		
Naturalization (N-400)	months									
Chicago, IL	7.5									
Green Card (I-485)	months									
Chicago, IL	11.5									

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SIJS - Immigration and Public Benefits Timeline Calculations - Illinois

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (May 26, 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	When SIJS applicants are granted lawful permanent residence they are **work authorized** and receive protection from deportation.	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	35.00	Months	average	2.92	**6.8**		Qualified Immigrant
Apply for Naturalization	5	Years		5.00	11.8		Qualified Immigrant
Naturalization approval	7.50	Months	average	0.63	**12.4**	Naturalized Citizen	Citizen
Naturalization (N-400)	months						
Chicago, IL	7.5						
Green Card (I-485)	months						
SCOPS	35						

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T Visa - Immigration and Public Benefits Timeline Calculations - Illinois

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (May 26, 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 **deferred action** a formal protection against deportation and **work authorization.**	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	7.50	Months	average	0.63	**11.6**	**14.6**		Citizen		
Naturalization (N-400)	months									
Chicago, IL	7.5									

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U Visa - Immigration and Public Benefits Timeline Calculations - Ilinois

By Sarah Register, Suzana Coelho, and Leslye E. Orloff (May 26, 2026)

				Year calc.	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 **deferred action** a formal protection against deportation and **work authorization.**	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	**13.5**		Qualified Immigrant
Apply for Naturalization	5	Years		5.00	18.5		Qualified Immigrant
Naturalization approval	7.50	Months	average	0.63	**19.1**		Citizen
Naturalization (N-400)	Months						
Chicago, IL	7.5						

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