Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
Public Benefits Screening Chart for Immigrant Survivors by Forms of Immigration Relief[1]

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The purpose of this simplified chart is to provide a tool that victim advocates, attorneys, judges and court staff can use to identify which immigrant survivors and immigrant children qualify for which state or federally funded public benefits, programs and services. This tool was designed to be a first step to identify which immigrant survivors may qualify for which benefits and services. When an immigrant survivor is listed as qualifying or qualifying with conditions on this chart, the second step is to turn to the full public benefits chart NIWAP developed for your jurisdiction where you can look up the details/conditions of what is needed to prove eligibility and what are the sources of law that prove eligibility.

This chart is not an exhaustive list of public benefits available to immigrants in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and but a simplified snapshot of access to certain benefits including cash assistance, healthcare, and housing. This chart is meant to be used in conjunction with NIWAP's Access to State-Funded Public Benefits in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Survivors, Based on Immigration Status, available at: https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/cnmi-benefits that provides detailed information with citations to all of the relevant sources of law, regulations, and policies. This more detailed publication includes citations to materials that you can take with you when you accompany an immigrant victim applying for state or federal public benefits or other forms of assistance. In addition to the benefits and services discussed on this chart below, there is also a wide range of assistance that is available as a matter of law to all immigrants regardless of status.[1] For an interactive map that breaks down available public benefits based on the state and immigration status go here: http://map.niwap.org/.

Note: The 1996 welfare reform laws authorized states to implement state laws that offer immigrants more state funded benefits than federal public benefits provided and also authorized states to impose more restrictions on the federal public benefits immigrants living in the state could access. This territory has elected to:

- Offer COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHER MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)-FUNDED BENEFITS to certain groups of immigrants in the following benefits programs: Medicaid for qualified immigrant children and pregnant persons.

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- The FEDERAL GOVERNMENT or CNMI imposes MORE RESTRICTIONS on immigrant access to federal public benefits: TANF, TANF funded-child care, Health insurance exchange Marketplace, Emergency Medicaid, Income Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Disaster-SNAP, and Unemployment Insurance.

PROGRAM	Lawful Permanent Residents, COFA Nationals,[2] , and Naturalized Citizens	VAWA Self Petitioner and Battered Spouse Waiver[3]	Refugees,[4] Asylees, T Visas	T Visa Bona Fide or Continued Presence	Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)	Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)	U Visa, Bona Fide, or Wait List Approval	U Visa (Petition Filed)	Undocumented
	CASH & NUTRITION ASSISTANCE, AND CHILDCARE								
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (Cash Assistance)	TANF is not available in CNMI. Since the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is one of the Federated States of Micronesia. Under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA), citizens of the freely associated states including the Federated States of Micronesia, who leave CNMI, once they reside in the United States are eligible to receive federally funded TANF as qualified immigrants with no 5-year bar.								
Child Care Funded by TANF and the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)	Eligible for CCDF. TANF-funded child care not available.	Eligible for CCDF. TANF-funded child care not available.	Eligible for CCDF. TANF-funded child care not available.	Eligible for CCDF. TANF-funded child care not available.	Eligible for CCDF.	Eligible for CCDF. TANF-funded child care not available.	Eligible for CCDF. TANF-funded child care not available.	Eligible for CCDF.	Eligible for CCDF.
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Lawful permanent residents, eligible with conditions. Naturalized citizens and COFA Nationals eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon prima facie determination.	Eligible during first 7 years after status is granted.	Eligible with conditions upon receipt of HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon lawful permanent residency.	Eligible with conditions upon lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)	Lawful permanent residents eligible with conditions. Naturalized citizens and COFA Nationals eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible with conditions upon obtaining lawful permanent residency.	Eligible with conditions upon obtaining lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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Nutrition Program: For Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.
	HEALTHCARE								
Emergency Medicaid and Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Examinations	Emergency Medicaid is not available in CNMI. Forensic Medical Examinations are option to all victims without regard to immigration status.								
Health Insurance Exchanges	Individuals in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are not eligible to use the federal health care insurance Marketplace. However, persons needing health insurance can find and compare insurance coverage options using HealthCare.gov's Plan Finder.								
Medicaid	Lawful permanent residents eligible with conditions. In CNMI, lawful permanent residents are eligible while pregnant. Naturalized citizens and COFA nationals eligible.	Eligible with prima facie VAWA determination with conditions. In CNMI, eligible while pregnant.	Eligible	Eligible upon HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible. In CNMI, eligible while pregnant.	Eligible with conditions upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In CNMI, eligible while pregnant.	Eligible with conditions upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In CNMI, eligible while pregnant.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
Prenatal Care	In CNMI, eligible for prenatal care and full-scope health care while pregnant. Naturalized citizens and COFA nationals eligible.	In CNMI, eligible for prenatal care and full-scope health care while pregnant.	Eligible	Eligible upon HHS certification or eligibility letter.	In CNMI, eligible for prenatal care and full-scope health care while pregnant.	In CNMI, eligible for prenatal care and full-scope health care while pregnant.	In CNMI, eligible for prenatal care and full-scope health care while pregnant.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.

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Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	In CNMI, lawful permanent residents are eligible up to age 19. After age 19, lawful permanent residents are eligible with conditions. Naturalized citizens and COFA nationals eligible.	In CNMI, eligible up to age 19 upon prima facie determination. After age 19 eligible with conditions upon prima facie determination.	Eligible	Eligible upon HHS certification or eligibility letter.	In CNMI, DACA recipients are eligible up to age 19.	In CNMI, eligible up to age 19 upon filing. After age 19 eligible with conditions upon receiving lawful permanent residency.	In CNMI, eligible up to age 19 upon receipt of bona fide determination, wait list approval, U visa or lawful permanent residency. After age 19 eligible with conditions upon lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	The Victims of Crime Act compensation is not available to crime victims in CNMI. Victim's assistance programs are supported by VOCA.								
Family Medical Leave Act – State Law	The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has no territorial Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) law. Federal FMLA law applies.								
	HOUSING AND WEATHERIZATION								
Public & Assisted Housing and Low Income Tax Credit Housing[5]	Eligible. In CNMI, may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible upon filing. In CNMI may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible. In CNMI may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible upon HHS certification or eligibility letter. In CNMI may also be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Not eligible. In CNMI may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In CNMI may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Eligible upon receiving lawful permanent residency. In CNMI may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Not eligible. In CNMI may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.	Not eligible. In CNMI may be eligible to live in Low Income Housing Tax Credit property.

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Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Health, and Life and Safety Services	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.	Eligible.
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible for LIHEAP.	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible for LIHEAP with conditions upon prima facie determination.	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible for LIHEAP with conditions.	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible for LIHEAP with conditions upon receipt of HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings.	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible with conditions for LIHEAP upon receiving lawful permanent residency.	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings. Eligible with conditions for LIHEAP upon receiving lawful permanent residency.	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings.	Eligible for WAP with conditions if living in multi-family dwellings.
	EDUCATION								
Federal Education	Eligible.	Eligible upon prima facie determination.	Eligible.	Eligible with HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Not eligible.	Eligible upon lawful permanent residency.	Eligible upon lawful permanent residency.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
State Education	Eligible	Not eligible.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
	All children, without regard to immigration status or citizenship are eligible to attend public elementary and secondary (K-12) schools. State schools may not request citizenship or immigration status information and may not bar students from enrolling in public elementary or secondary schools based on the citizenship or immigration status of the student, their parent or their guardian. Eligible to apply for and enroll in state funded colleges and universities without regard to immigration status. Although eligible to apply for and enroll in state funded colleges and universities without regard to immigration status, students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents are not eligible in CNMI for state funded post-secondary educational grants and loans.								
	LEGAL SERVICES, DRIVER'S LICENSES, AND EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS								

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Legal Services	Lawful permanent residents, applicants for lawful permanent residency, COFA nationals, and naturalized citizens eligible for all LSC funded legal services. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for Legal Services Corporation (LSC)-funded legal services with conditions and fully eligible when victims file for lawful permanent residency. Eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for all LSC funded legal services. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for LSC funded legal services when they receive HHS certification or eligibility letter. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	May be eligible if victims of abuse for LSC funded legal services with conditions. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	May be eligible if victims of abuse for LSC funded legal services with conditions and when SIJS children file for lawful permanent residency fully eligible. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for LSC-funded legal services with conditions and fully eligible when victims file for lawful permanent residency. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	Eligible for LSC-funded legal services with conditions and fully eligible when victims file for lawful permanent residency. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.	May be eligible if victims of abuse for LSC funded legal services with conditions. Victims of domestic, sexual, or dating violence, or stalking eligible for VAWA funded legal services.
Driver's License	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of HHS certification or eligibility letter.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible f for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of work authorization.	Eligible for federally recognized driver's license and ID upon receipt of work authorization.	Not eligible.	Not eligible.
Professional and Occupational Licenses	No CNMI laws or policies regarding immigrant access to professional or occupational licenses including whether or not work authorization is sufficient or required.								
Income Tax Credit	Not Available								

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Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Not Available								
	FEMA AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE								
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) **FEMA**	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible for food, unemployment and all other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible upon prima facie determination for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible upon receipt of HHS determination or eligibility letter for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible upon receipt of lawful permanent residency for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief. Eligible upon receipt of lawful permanent residency for food, unemployment and other FEMA assistance.	Eligible for disaster relief.	Eligible for disaster relief.
Unemployment Insurance	The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a territory that is not eligible to participate in the unemployment insurance program run by the U.S. federal government.								

[1] Catherine Longville & Leslye E. Orloff, *Programs Open to Immigrant Victims and All Immigrants Without Regard to Immigration Status*, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (July 23, 2015), https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/programs-open-to-all-immigrants.

[2] For those working with immigrant clients who are Compact of Free Association (COFA) citizens/nationals please see NIWAP's Hawaii Public Benefits Chart (https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/hawaii-benefits/) which contains a detailed explanation with footnotes for each public benefit describing what COFA nationals/citizens are eligible for in all U.S. jurisdictions. Under COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION ACT (COFA) Pacific Islanders who are citizens/nationals of the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia (collectively the Freely Associated States or FAS) living in the United States (including all U.S. territories) are eligible for federal public benefits without being subject to the 5-year bar. COMPACT IMPACT FAIRNESS ACT (CIFA) included in CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT of 2024 (March 9, 2024). Information about COFA eligibility for public benefits is also being included in each state's listing in NIWAP's public benefits map https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/benefits-map/

[3] Battered Spouse Waiver (BSW) applicants/recipients have the same eligibility for public benefits purposes as VAWA self-petitioners. BWS victims are eligible either as conditional permanent residents if they still have that status and/or are or continue to be eligible once they file their battered spouse waiver

application. Battered spouse waiver applicants have greater benefits access than conditional and lawful permanent residents because they have access to exemptions from deeming and have access to benefits that are only available to battered immigrants.

[4] Afghans granted humanitarian parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022 — and their spouses and children, and parents or guardians of unaccompanied children granted parole after September 30, 2022 — also are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Eligibility for this group continues until March 31, 2023, or the end of their parole term, whichever is later. Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. 117-43 (Sept. 30, 2021). Ukrainians paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023 – and their spouses and children, and parents, guardians or primary caregivers of unaccompanied children paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023 – are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Department of Homeland Security, President Biden to Announce Uniting For Ukraine, a New Streamlined Process to Welcome Ukrainians Fleeing the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. (April 21, 2022) https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/04/21/president-biden-announce-uniting-ukraine-new-streamlined-process-welcome-ukrainians.

[5] Some households, depending on the immigration status of its residents, may qualify for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit; see Access to State-Funded Public Benefits in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Survivors to determine whether the immigrant or family members may be eligible. For more information on LIHTC *see* https://www.vawahome.com/.