

# Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs in Indiana

This table provides an overview of immigrant eligibility for the major federal public assistance programs in Indiana.

Program	"Qualified" Immigrants who entered the U.S. before Aug. 22, 1966	"Qualified" Immigrants who entered the U.S. on or after Aug. 22, 1966	"Not Qualified" Immigrants
<b>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</b>	<p><b>Eligible only if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving SSI (or application pending) on Aug. 22, 1996</li> <li>• Qualify as disabled and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on Aug. 22, 1996(1)</li> <li>• Lawful permanent resident with credit for 40 quarters of work (1,2)</li> <li>• Were granted refugee or asylum status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, or Amerasian immigrant, but only during first 7 years after status was granted</li> <li>• Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau**</li> <li>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child (1)</li> <li>• Certain American Indians born abroad</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eligible only if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawful permanent resident with credit for 40 quarters of work (2) (but must wait until 5 years after entry before applying)</li> <li>• Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, victim of trafficking, or Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status, ++ but only during first 7 years after status was granted</li> <li>• Certain Ukrainian parolees +++</li> <li>• Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau**</li> <li>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child1</li> <li>• Certain American Indians born abroad</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eligible only if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving SSI (or application pending) on Aug. 22, 1996</li> <li>• Certain American Indians born abroad</li> <li>• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries during the first seven years after status was granted</li> <li>• Certain Ukrainian parolees +++</li> </ul>

\* Table last revised February 25, 2025.

+Iraqi and Afghan special immigrant visa holders (SIV) are eligible for federal benefits to the same extent as refugees. Other Afghans granted parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023 – and their spouses and children, and parents/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 the end of their parole term.

<b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were granted refugee or asylum status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, or Amerasian immigrant</li> <li>• COFA Citizens**</li> <li>• Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for 5 years (1)</li> <li>• Are receiving disability-related assistance (1, 4)</li> <li>• Lawful permanent resident with credit for 40 quarters of work</li> <li>• Were 65 years or older and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on Aug. 22, 1996 (1)</li> <li>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child (1)</li> <li>• Member of Hmong or Laotian tribe during the Vietnam era, when the tribe militarily assisted the U.S.; spouse, surviving spouse, or child of tribe member</li> <li>• Certain American Indians born abroad</li> </ul>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are under age 18 (3)</li> <li>• Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, victim of trafficking, or Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status, ++ certain Ukrainian parolees+++</li> <li>• COFA Citizens**</li> <li>• Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for 5 years</li> <li>• Are receiving disability-related assistance (1,4)</li> <li>• Lawful permanent resident with credit for 40 quarters of work</li> <li>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child (1)</li> <li>• Member of Hmong or Laotian tribe during the Vietnam era, when the tribe militarily assisted the U.S.; spouse, surviving spouse, or child of tribe member(1)</li> <li>• Certain American Indians born abroad</li> </ul>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of Hmong or Laotian tribe during the Vietnam era, when the tribe militarily assisted the U.S., spouse, surviving spouse or child of tribe member, who is lawfully present in the U.S.</li> <li>• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries</li> </ul>
<b>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</b>	<b>Eligible (1)</b>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, victim of trafficking, or Iraqi or</li> </ul>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries</li> </ul>

+++ Ukrainians paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024 – 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. (There is an exception for an initial resettlement program). Benefits are available to this group regardless of the length of their parole period – but eligibility continues only until their parole is terminated.

\*\* Individuals who lawfully reside in the U.S. pursuant to a Compact of Free Association (COFA).

		<p>Afghan special immigrant status, (5,++) certain Ukrainian parolees+++</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau**</li> <li>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child(1)</li> <li>• Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for at least 5-years (1, 5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain Ukrainian parolees+++</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Medicaid (includes labor and delivery)</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible</b>
<b>Full-Scope Medicaid</b>	<b>Eligible (6, **)</b>	<p><b>Eligible only if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, victim of trafficking, or Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status, (7, ++) certain Ukrainian parolees+++</li> <li>• Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau**</li> <li>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child (1)</li> <li>• Receiving federal Foster Care</li> <li>• Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for 5 years or more (1, 7)</li> <li>• Lawfully residing children and pregnant people (without 5-year waiting period)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eligible only if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were receiving SSI on Aug. 22, 1996</li> <li>• Certain American Indians born abroad</li> <li>• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries</li> </ul>
<b>Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP)</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible (8)</b>	<b>Not Eligible (8)</b>

<b>Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were granted asylum or refugee status or withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, victim of trafficking, or Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status, ++ certain Ukrainian parolees+++</li> <li>• Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau**</li> <li>• Veteran, active duty military; spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child(1)</li> <li>• Have been in “qualified” immigrant status for 5 years or more(1)</li> <li>• Lawfully residing children under 21 and pregnant persons (without 5-year waiting period)</li> </ul>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries</li> <li>• Lawfully residing children under 21 and pregnant persons (without 5-year waiting period)</li> </ul>
<b>Medicare “Premium Free” Part A (hospitalization) (eligibility based on work history)</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawfully present, and eligibility for assistance is based on authorized employment</li> </ul>
<b>Premium “Buy-in” Medicare</b>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawful permanent resident who has resided continuously in the U.S. for at least 5 years</li> </ul>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> Lawful permanent resident who has resided continuously in the U.S. for at least 5 years	<b>Not Eligible</b>
<b>HUD Public Housing and Section 8 Programs</b>	<b>Eligible except:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain Cuban/Haitian entrants</li> </ul>	<b>Eligible except:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain Cuban/Haitian entrants</li> </ul>	<b>Eligible only if:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Note:</b> If at least one member of the household is eligible based on immigration status, the family may reside in the housing, but the subsidy will be prorated.</p>	<p><b>Note:</b> If at least one member of the household is eligible based on immigration status, the family may reside in the housing, but the subsidy will be prorated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain Ukrainian parolees+++</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> For other immigrants, eligibility may depend on the date the family began receiving housing assistance, the immigration status of other household members, and the household composition.</p> <p><b>Note also:</b> If at least one member of the household is eligible based on immigration status, the family may reside in the housing, but the subsidy will be prorated.</p>
<p><b>Social Security</b></p>	<p><b>Eligible</b></p>	<p><b>Eligible</b></p>	<p><b>Eligible only if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawfully present</li> <li>• Were receiving assistance based on an application filed before Dec. 1, 1996</li> <li>• Eligibility required by certain international agreements</li> </ul>

**KEY TERMS USED IN TABLE (Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs)**

**“Qualified” immigrants** are: (1) lawful permanent residents (LPRs); (2) refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, conditional entry (in effect prior to Apr. 1, 1980), or paroled into the U.S. for at least one year; (3) Cuban/Haitian entrants (as defined in 45 C.F.R. § 401.2); (4) battered spouses and children with a pending or approved (a) selfpetition for an immigrant visa, or (b) immigrant visa filed for a spouse or child by a U.S. citizen or LPR, or (c) application for cancellation of removal/suspension of deportation, whose need for benefits has a substantial connection to the battery or cruelty (parent/child of such battered child/ spouse are also “qualified”); (5) victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries who have obtained a T visa or whose application for a T visa sets forth a prima facie case. (A broader group of trafficking victims who are certified by or receive an eligibility letter from the Office of Refugee Resettlement are eligible for benefits funded or administered by federal agencies, without regard to their immigration status); and (6) Individuals who lawfully reside in the U.S. pursuant to a Compact of Free Association (COFA).

**“Not qualified” immigrants** include all noncitizens who do not fall under the “qualified” immigrant categories.

## NOTES

1. Eligibility may be affected by deeming: a sponsor's income/resources may be added to the immigrant's in determining eligibility. Exemptions from deeming may apply.
2. LPRs are eligible if they have worked 40 qualifying quarters in the U.S. Immigrants also get credit toward their 40 quarters for work performed (1) by parents when the immigrant was under 18; and (2) by spouse during the marriage (unless the marriage ended in divorce or annulment). No credit is given for a quarter worked after Dec. 31, 1996, if a federal means-tested public benefit (SSI, SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, or CHIP) was received in that quarter.
3. Children are not subject to sponsor deeming in the SNAP program.
4. Disability-related benefits include SSI, Social Security disability, state disability or retirement pension, railroad retirement disability, veteran's disability, disability-based Medicaid, and disability-related General Assistance if the disability determination uses criteria as stringent as those used by federal SSI.
5. In Indiana, TANF is available only to immigrants who entered the U.S. on or after Aug. 22, 1996, who are: (1) LPRs credited with 40 quarters of work; (2) veterans, active-duty military (and their spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child); or (3) refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/ Haitian entrants, victims of trafficking, and Amerasian immigrants during the five years after obtaining this status. Indiana provides TANF to "refugees" listed in (3) regardless of the date they obtained that status and does not provide benefits to post-Aug. 22, 1996 entrants listed in (1).
6. In Indiana, lawfully residing pregnant people and children are eligible for Medicaid regardless of their date of entry into the U.S. Otherwise, only LPRs with 40 quarters of work credit, parolees, veterans, active duty military (and their spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child), refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and Amerasian immigrants who entered the U.S. prior to Aug. 22, 1996, are eligible for full-scope Medicaid.
7. Indiana provides Medicaid to "qualified" immigrant veterans, active duty military (and their spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or child) regardless of their date of entry into the U.S. LPRs who enter the U.S. on and after 8/22/96 are eligible for emergency coverage only for 5 years unless they are honorably discharged U.S. veterans or in active duty in the U.S. military. However, the state denies full-scope Medicaid to qualified immigrants who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, unless they are LPRs credited with 40 quarters of work, and/or limit eligibility for refugees, asylees, persons granted withholding of deportation/removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, trafficking survivors, persons granted Iraqi or Afghan special immigrant status or Amerasian immigrants, to the five-year waiting period after obtaining this status.
8. Indiana offers prenatal care to lawfully residing pregnant person's under the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women in Medicaid and CHIP. For non-citizens whose immigration status does not meet the requirements to obtain health coverage through an Indiana Health Coverage Program (IHCP), one can apply for limited service coverage. In October of 2019, IHCP added a new package to expand benefits for qualifying immigrants: "Package B-Emergency Services Only Coverage with Pregnancy Coverage." Package B will cover prenatal and postpartum services in addition to emergency services only, which includes labor and delivery.

