Food assistance (SNAP)

SNAP Provisions of H.R.1/OBBB – Alien Eligibility (USDA)

Refugees and most other ORR-eligible immigrants are no longer eligible for SNAP until they obtain Lawful Permanent Resident status (Green Card) and meet the income and other requirements. The only eligible immigrant groups still eligible for SNAP without an LPR are Cuban and Haitian entrants and some COFA citizens.

SNAP Q&A on New Immigrant Rules (USDA)

This Q&A by USDA explains which non-citizen groups can still get SNAP and when they are eligible. Refugees and other ORR-eligible immigrants are eligible for SNAP once they obtain LPR status and are exempt from the five-year waiting period, (see B.5.).

Health coverage and other benefits

Beginning October 1, 2026, under H.R.1/OBBB, refugees, asylees, and other ORR-eligible immigrants will lose eligibility for federally funded Medicaid and CHIP. No federal guidance has been issued on the implementation details, including whether LPRs will remain eligible under current law.

Until October 1, 2026, refugees and other ORR-eligible immigrants remain eligible for Medicaid and continue to qualify for TANF and WIC if they meet income and other program requirements. ORR-funded benefits, such as Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), also continue for 4 months after the date of arrival or grant of asylum, if other eligibility requirements are met.

Refugees and Asylees: Recent Changes in Access to Health Coverage and Other Assistance (KFF)

This brief summarizes how H.R.1 and related policies affect refugees' and asylees' access to Medicaid, Marketplace coverage, SNAP, and cash assistance, with timelines and which groups are most affected.

Public Benefits for Immigrants – Practitioner Guide (NILC PDF)

A practical guide for service providers on which immigrants can still qualify for federal and state programs (including SNAP, TANF, WIC, Medicaid/CHIP, and others) under the new rules.