2026 Benefit Eligibility for Qualified Noncitizens

Recent federal changes may affect benefit eligibility for some noncitizen groups. The chart below outlines how these changes apply to specific immigration statuses and how eligibility differs across SNAP, TANF and Medicaid.

Important Note:

This is not a complete list of eligible statuses. Benefit eligibility is based on the immigration status of each individual in the household. For the statuses listed below, the five-year bar (waiting period) does not apply after a person becomes a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)/Green Card holder.

Immigration Status / Category	SNAP Food Assistance?	TANF Cash Assistance?	Full Medicaid as of October 1, 2026?	
			For non-pregnant adults	For under age 19 or pregnant
Refugee	✗	✓	✗	✓
Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holder	✓*	✓	✓*	✓
Asylee	✗	✓	✗	✓
Certain Afghan or Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee	✗	✓	✗	✓
Victim of Human Trafficking	✗	✓	✗	✓
Amerasian	✓	✓	✓*	✓
Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) / Green Card holder adjusted from statuses above	Individuals with the immigration statuses listed above become eligible for SNAP and Medicaid as soon as they become a LPR/Green Card holder, if they meet other program rules.			

** These groups generally arrive with LPR status and are therefore eligible.*

Individuals with statuses listed above who do not yet have LPR/Green Card holder status, but meet all other Medicaid eligibility rules, may still be able to receive Medicaid coverage for emergency services.

For assistance related to employment, healthcare, education and more visit the Office of New Americans at **dss.virginia.gov/community-and-volunteer-services/ona** and Resources for Navigating Eligibility Changes at **dss.virginia.gov/relief/eligibilitychangeresources**

Find further information about Medicaid changes at dmas.virginia.gov/news-updates/new-federal-requirements

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES