



SNAP Facts for Non-Citizens



Some low-income non-citizens may be eligible for nutrition assistance through SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, (formerly the Food Stamp Program).

The Department of Human Services (DHS) uses the term “non-citizen” to describe someone who is neither a natural born nor naturalized citizen of the United States. Some, but not all, non-citizens are eligible for SNAP benefits.

Immigrants with Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status may be eligible for SNAP benefits.

Children under age 18 who have LPR status may be eligible for SNAP benefits. Adults age 18 or older with LPR status may be eligible for SNAP benefits only after they’ve had that status for five years. That date can be found on their green card. Adults with LPR status who have not had that status for 5 years may also be eligible for benefits if they have served in the US armed forces or have 40 quarters of work history registered with the US Social Security Administration.

Children of immigrants may be eligible even if their parent does not qualify.

Children who are Legal Permanent Residents or US citizens may receive SNAP benefits even if their parents do not meet immigrant eligibility guidelines.

Adult household members will only have to prove income and household expenses. Proof of identity and immigration status for the ineligible adult is not necessary.

Immigrants who have come to this country as refugees or asylees may be eligible for SNAP benefits.

Applicants still must meet income eligibility guidelines.

Receiving SNAP benefits does not affect an application for citizenship.

An immigrant will not be deported, denied entry to the U.S., or denied permanent status or a green card because their family receives SNAP. The U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services does not consider an immigrant who receives SNAP to be a “public charge.”

Undocumented individuals are not eligible for SNAP benefits.

Undocumented immigrants are NOT eligible for SNAP, but other members of their household (including children who are US citizens) may be.

See the reverse for a quick look at immigrant status eligibility.

URI SNAP Outreach Project: 1-866-306-0270

www.eatbettertoday.com



Immigration Status	Eligible?	Subject to: 5 year rule	Subject to: Sponsor Deeming
Immigrants who are eligible			
Naturalized US Citizens	Yes	No	No
Immigrants who have had Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status for 5 or more years	Yes	No	Possibly
Refugees, Asylees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, Trafficking Victims	Yes	No	No
Lawful permanent residents with 40 quarters of work	Yes	No	No
Lawful permanent residents who've served in the US military	Yes	No	No
Lawful permanent residents under the age of 18	Yes	No	No
Immigrants who are eligible with certain restrictions			
Adult immigrants whose sponsor signed an affidavit of support but have not achieved 40 quarters of work	Yes	Yes	Yes
Qualified immigrants who are disabled and receiving disability benefits	Yes	No	Yes
Ineligible Immigrants			
Qualified immigrant adults who have been in the US for fewer than 5 years	No		
Non-qualified immigrants lawfully residing in the US (ie. Student visa, temporary protected status)	No		
Undocumented immigrants	No		

Definitions

- Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) – green card holders, LPR status timelines use the date on the immigrant's green card.
- Sponsor – a US citizen who signs an affidavit of support indicating he or she would like to bring an immigrant to the US and will provide some financial support for that immigrant.
- Sponsor deeming – the portion of a sponsor's income considered part of the immigrant's income.