



CalFresh & Medi-Cal: Non-Citizens

Applying as a Non-Citizen

- The immigration status of non-citizens who apply as documented non-citizens will be checked with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Federal law says the USCIS cannot use the information for anything else except cases of fraud.
- Information about non-citizens who apply as undocumented and unknown are not reported to USCIS.
- Getting food benefits or health care coverage will not affect immigration status. Immigration information is private and confidential.
- An ineligible person can apply for and get CalFresh benefits or cash aid for eligible people in the household. For example, undocumented parents may apply for CalFresh benefits for their U.S. citizen children.
- Citizenship status does not affect eligibility for Medi-Cal.

Eligibility by Immigration Status

Determining eligibility for non-citizens to CalFresh and Medi-Cal benefits is complicated. Applicants should talk to the Social Services Office if they have any eligibility questions. They must meet all other eligibility criteria. Rules for CalWORKs (Federally TANF) and Covered California are different from Medi-Cal and CalFresh rules. Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) rules differ among the states.

CalFresh “Qualified noncitizens”

This category refers to those potentially eligible to CalFresh benefits and includes Refugee, Cuban/Haitian, Asylee, Amerasian, Conditional Entrant, those granted withholding of removal/deportation, and persons granted Parole for one year or more, abused/battered immigrant(s) and their children. A person may be lawfully present and not be a “qualified non-citizen.”

Medi-Cal “Satisfactory Immigration Status”

Medi-Cal satisfactory immigration status refers to persons eligible for benefits and includes Refugee, Cuban/Haitian, Asylee, Amerasian, Conditional Entrant, those granted withholding of removal/deportation, persons granted Parole for one year or more, abused/battered immigrant(s), children of abused/battered immigrants, undocumented individuals and PRUCOL.

Undocumented Non-Citizens

- CalFresh ineligible, able to apply for other family members.
- Medi-Cal potentially eligible for restricted scope coverage:

Legal Permanent Resident Aliens (LPR) “Green Card”

- CalFresh potentially eligible, sponsorship information is needed. An LPR can decline CalFresh eligibility if they wish, and receive benefits for other family members.
 - The gross income of the sponsor will be considered in determining eligibility and benefit level. Sponsors withholding support will be reported to USCIS.
- Medi-Cal eligible

Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL)

- CalFresh ineligible, able to apply for other family members.
- Medi-Cal potentially eligible .
- PRUCOL was created by the courts and is not a USCIS recognized immigration status.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- CalFresh ineligible, able to apply for other family members.
- Medi-Cal potentially eligible

VISAs: work visa, student visa, tourist visa

- CalFresh ineligible, able to apply for other family members.
- Medi-Cal potentially eligible for restricted scope coverage if meeting California residency requirements

Verifications

Non-citizens applying must provide proof of their status if alleging to be a qualified non-citizen or alleging satisfactory immigration status. Social Security Numbers (SSNs) are not required for undocumented non-citizens who are applying or eligible for Medi-Cal benefits. When applying, a non-citizen should never provide a false SSN. This creates fraud issues. Acceptable documents include, *but are not limited to*:

- I-551 Alien Registration Receipt Card (sometimes known as a “green card”)
- AR-3/AR-3a Resident Cards (older versions of Alien Receipt Cards)
- I-94-Arrival/Departure Record annotated with one of the following:
 - Conditional Entry, Refugee, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, Political Asylum, Paroled or Parolee
- Foreign Passport stamped with I-551 application information
- I-181 B (Notification letter issued in connection with an USCIS Form I-181, Memorandum of Creation of Record of Lawful Permanent Residence)
- DACA approval letter
- Other letters or documents from USCIS (including Immigrations Customs and Enforcement, “ICE”) may be presented to assist with determination.
- CalFresh requires verification of citizenship status prior to authorizing benefits.