CalFresh & Medi-Cal: Non-Citizens

It’s Safe to Apply

- 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 to USCIS are not reported to USCIS.
- Getting food benefits or health care coverage will not affect immigration status. Immigration information is private and confidential.
- A person can apply for and get CalFresh benefits or cash aid for people who are eligible, even if the family includes others who are not eligible. For example, undocumented immigrant parents may apply for CalFresh benefits for their U.S. citizen children.
- Citizenship status does not affect eligibility for Medi-Cal, it affects level of benefits for adults.
- Children 18 years old and under can get full-scope Medi-Cal (“regular” Medi-Cal [MC]) regardless of citizenship status.
- MC eligible U.S. citizens and many legal non-citizens get full scope MC. Medi-Cal eligible undocumented adult non-citizens currently get restricted/emergency only services.

Verifications

Non-citizens applying should be prepared to provide proof of their status if alleging to be a qualified non-citizen or alleging satisfactory immigration status (see back page). Acceptable documents include, but are not limited to:

- I-551 Alien Registration Receipt Card (sometimes known as a “green card,” issued to LPRs)
- 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 Immigration Customs and Enforcement, “ICE”) may be presented to assist with determination.

Other Information

CalFresh requires verification prior to authorizing benefits. Medi-Cal allows sixty (60) days from the time the applicant alleges “satisfactory immigration status” for the person to get proof.

Medi-Cal has a “Statement of Citizenship, Alienage and Immigration Status” MC13 form that may be required. Social Services provides the form. If a person chooses to complete the form on their own or with a community partner’s assistance, they might want to call Social Services.

Social Security Numbers: Social Security numbers (SSNs) are not required for anyone who is only applying or eligible for restricted benefits. When applying, a non-citizen should never provide a false SSN. This creates fraud issues.

Other programs are different: Rules for CalWORKs (Federally TANF) and Covered California are different from Medi-Cal and CalFresh rules. Medicaid rules differ among the states.

Public Charge notes: Receipt of CalFresh or Medi-Cal (Medicaid) does NOT confer “Public Charge” status (except for long-term care benefits).
Determining eligibility for benefits for non-citizens for CalFresh and Medi-Cal is complicated. There are many non-citizen statuses and various regulations. This is a general guide. For a final answer, a person should always talk to the Social Services Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immigration Status</th>
<th>CalFresh</th>
<th>Medi-Cal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented non-citizens</td>
<td>Not eligible. Can apply for other family members</td>
<td>Children 18 and under: full scope benefits Adults: restricted/emergency services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Permanent Resident Aliens (LPR) “greencard”</td>
<td>Eligible</td>
<td>Eligible for full scope benefits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL)  
(1) Not recognized as an immigration status by the USCIS. This category was created by the courts. For a person to be residing "under color of law," the USCIS must know of the person’s presence in the US, and must provide the person with written assurance that enforcement of deportation is not planned. | Likely NOT eligible | Eligible for full scope benefits, specific form to complete |
| Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: “DACA”              | Likely NOT eligible | May be eligible for full scope benefits under PRUCOL (see above) |
| VISAs: work visa, student visa                              | Not eligible | Eligible: restricted/emergency services (May be eligible to full scope in limited cases) |
| Sponsored Non-citizens                                      | The gross income of the sponsor will generally be considered in determining eligibility and benefit level | No effect on eligibility |
| “Qualified noncitizen”  
(2) A person may be lawfully present in the US and NOT be a “qualified non-citizen” | Potentially eligible | Potentially Eligible for full scope benefits |
| “Satisfactory Immigration Status”  
Medi-Cal term  
(3) CalFresh Non-citizen guide ACIN I-102-10, dss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acin/2010/I-102_10.pdf | N/A. Medi-Cal Term. Most eligible, however PRUCOL are NOT | Eligible for full scope benefits |

Must meet all other eligibility criteria.

1 Not recognized as an immigration status by the USCIS. This category was created by the courts. For a person to be residing "under color of law," the USCIS must know of the person’s presence in the US, and must provide the person with written assurance that enforcement of deportation is not planned.
2 A person may be lawfully present in the US and NOT be a “qualified non-citizen”
4 A person may be lawfully present in the US and NOT be in "satisfactory immigration status"