



Immigrant Eligibility for COVID-19 Related Benefits

Health Care

What's Available

COVID-19 testing/treatment for the uninsured

Some states cover testing and treatment of COVID-19 under their emergency Medicaid program

Community Health Centers (CHCs)

Individuals who lose health coverage (due to job loss, for example), may qualify for a special enrollment period in the Marketplaces, including the federal Healthcare.gov Marketplace. Some statebased marketplaces have elected to generally allow enrollment during the COVID crisis.

Immigrant Eligibility

Medicaid eligibility for immigrants has not changed. Emergency Medicaid is available regardless of immigration status, but applicants must meet their state's other Medicaid eligibility requirements, such as low-income, age, pregnancy, disability, etc. For example, in some states Medicaid does not cover a non-pregnant adult without disabilities or children.

CHCs provide primary and preventive health care to everyone regardless of their immigration status or ability to pay.

Immigrants who are lawfully present may be eligible to buy subsidized health insurance in the Marketplaces.

Public Charge **Implications**

USCIS announced that testing, prevention, and treatment for COVID-19 will NOT be considered in a public charge test. Immigrant families should seek the care they need during this difficult time.

More information: Update on Access to Health Care for Immigrants and Their Families (NILC) Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs (NILC)

Cash Assistance

What's Available

Under the CARES Act, most individuals earning less than \$75,000 are eligible for a onetime cash payment of \$1,200. Married couples will each receive a rebate and families will get \$500 per child.

Immigrant Eligibility

Individual tax filers and their spouse if filing jointly must have valid Social Security Numbers (SSNs). (Exception for spouses filing jointly if one spouse was in armed forces last tax year and at least one spouse has a valid SSN.) Children claimed as dependents for the \$500 rebate must have valid SSNs.

Public Charge Implications

The stimulus payment is a tax credit. Tax credits are NOT counted in a public charge determination.

More information: Immigration-Related Eligibility Requirements (Center for Popular Democracy)

Food Assistance

What's Available

SNAP (Food Stamps)

Emergency supplemental SNAP benefits up to the maximum monthly benefit amount.

School Meals

Pandemic EBT or "P-EBT" – For children who attend a school that has closed and who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price meals. Up to \$365 per child will be loaded onto an EBT card.

Other Nutrition Programs

Provides additional funding for WIC, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and home-delivered meal program.

Immigrant Eligibility

Only certain non-citizens are eligible for SNAP, such as asylees, refugees, and some green card holders (see below). Parents who are not eligible for SNAP can apply for their eligible household members.

P-EBT is available regardless of immigration status. Households do not have to be enrolled in SNAP in order to be eligible.

WIC, TEFAP, and home-delivered meals are available regardless of immigration status.

Public Charge Implications

Federally funded SNAP benefits may be considered in a public charge determination. But few individuals who are eligible for SNAP are also subject to a public charge determination. Other family members' use does NOT affect the immigrant.

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is <u>NOT</u> considered in a public charge test.

WIC, TEFAP, and home-delivered meals are <u>NOT</u> included in the public charge test.

More information: Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs (NILC) COVID-19 Updates (FRAC)

Unemployment Insurance

What's Available

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) covers workers like independent contractors and other situations where individuals are unable to work due to the public health crisis.
- Additional 13 weeks of extended UI benefits.
- In states that agree, \$600 added to employees' UI weekly benefit through 7/31/2020.
- Some states have waived the seven-day waiting period.

Immigrant Eligibility

Immigrants generally must have work-authorization.

Public Charge Implications

UI is <u>NOT</u> considered in public charge determinations

More Information: Immigrant Workers' Eligibility For Unemployment Insurance (NELP)

California Disaster Assistance

What's Available

One-time cash payment of \$500 for workers or \$1,000 for two adults in a household.

Immigrant Eligibility

Undocumented adults who are not eligible for federal COVID related assistance like tax payments or unemployment insurance, who experienced a hardship as a result of COVID-19.

Public Charge Implications

CDA is <u>NOT</u> considered in public charge determination.

More Information: Coronavirus Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (CA Dept. of Social Services)