



# **Immigrant Eligibility for COVID-19 Related Benefits**

**Updated 4/2/21** 

## **Health Care**

#### What's Available

COVID-19 testing/treatment/vaccinations 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 allow enrollment during the COVID crisis.

## **Immigrant Eligibility**

Medicaid eligibility for immigrants has not changed. Emergency Medicaid is available regardless of immigration status.

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, vaccination, 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)

## Cash Assistance

#### What's Available

#### Payment #1:

- \$1200/qualifying adult
- \$500/qualifying child

#### Payment #2:

- \$600/qualifying adult
- \$600/qualifying child

Individuals earning less than \$75,000 (\$112,500 for heads of household) and joint filers earning less than \$150,000 For those above the income levels, the payment is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 over the levels.

#### **Immigrant Eligibility**

Immigrants without a valid Social Security Number (SSN) are *not* eligible.

#### For Payments #1 & #2:

Spouses and children with valid SSNs are eligible for both the first and second rebates if at least one parent has a valid SSN.

If you did not get the first rebate because only one parent had a valid SSN, you can apply for the rebate when you file your 2020 tax returns.

# **Public Charge Implications**

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

## Payment #3:

- \$1400/qualifying taxpayer with an SSN
- \$1400/qualifying dependent with an SSN

For those above the income levels, the payment is gradually reduced to \$0 at \$80,000 (individuals), \$120,00 (heads of household) and \$160,000 (joint filers).

## For Payment #3:

Anyone in the household with an SSN, even if the taxpayer claiming the dependent files with an ITIN.

More information: Immigration-Related Eligibility Requirements (Center for Popular Democracy); <a href="https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/qa-economic-impact-payments/">https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/qa-economic-impact-payments/</a>; <a href="https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/recovery-rebate-credit">https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/recovery-rebate-credit</a>

## **Food Assistance**

## What's Available

## SNAP (Food Stamps)

15% increase in SNAP benefits from January through September 2021.

#### **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.

#### 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.

School meals and P-EBT are available regardless of immigration status. Households do not have to be enrolled in SNAP to be eligible.

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

## **Public Charge Implications**

SNAP (food stamps) benefits, Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), 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 \$300/wk. in benefits thru 9/6/2021 in states that agree.
- Additional 11 weeks of extended UI benefits.
- Some states have waived the seven-day waiting period.

# **Immigrant Eligibility**

Immigrants generally must have workauthorization.

# Public Charge Implications

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

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