



Immigration Status and SFHSA Programs

Eligibility requirements for public benefits

The San Francisco Human Services Agency (SFHSA) provides valuable public benefits for immigrants, from CalFresh food assistance and Medi-Cal health coverage to cash assistance through CalWORKs, County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP), and Refugee Cash Assistance.

The information below identifies which of those programs your clients may be eligible for based on their immigration status and the required documentation.

Every situation is different. Contact the Bay Area Legal Aid Free Advice Hotline (800) 551-5554 for questions about how receiving public benefits may affect immigration status.

Program eligibility by immigration status

Immigration Status	Medi-Cal	CalFresh	CalWORKs or CalWORKs Diversion	CAAP	Refugee Cash Assistance
Asylees (Asylum has been granted)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Asylum Seekers (Asylum pending)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Legal Permanent Residents	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Parolees	Yes	Yes, if granted parole for at least one year	Yes, if granted parole for at least one year	Yes, if granted parole for at least one year	Yes, only Afghans, Ukrainians, Cubans, Haitians



Immigration Status	Medi-Cal	CalFresh	CalWORKs or CalWORKs Diversion	CAAP	Refugee Cash Assistance
Refugees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, after Refugee Cash Assistance ends	Yes
SIV – Special Immigration Visa (Afghans and Iraqis)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Student, Work/Tourist Visa	Yes, if a California resident	No	No	No	No
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)	Yes	No	No	No	No
T-Visa	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, if they are single adults or married couples without minors in the home
Undocumented Immigrants	Yes	No, but undocumented parents can apply on behalf of U.S.-born children	No, but undocumented parents can apply on behalf of U.S.-born children	No, unless catastrophically ill	No
U-Visa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
VAWA Self-Petitioners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Work Permit	Yes	Depends on status/category on work permit	Depends on status/category on work permit	No	Depends on status/category on work permit



Proof of Immigration Status for SHFSA Programs

If SFHSA is unable to verify a person’s immigration status through available electronic sources, we may ask for documentation to prove their status within 90 days.

Clients may only need to provide one or two documents below depending on their status and the program requirements.

Acceptable Document	Programs
Asylum Approval Letter from USCIS	Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, CAAP, Refugee Cash Assistance
Completed copy of Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant status	Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, CAAP, Refugee Cash Assistance
Confirmation receipt or letter from USCIS verifying that a Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status (Form I-918) has been filed.	Medi-Cal, CalFresh
Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued under category “A19” or “A20” for an approved U Visa petitioner	Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, CAAP
Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued under category “C9” along with the first page of the applicant’s Form I-485, indicating that the application to adjust to lawful permanent residence is based on U Visa status	Medi-Cal, CalFresh
Form I-797 approving a U Visa or U Visa stamp in passport.	Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, CAAP, Refugee Cash Assistance
Form I-797, which serves as a fee receipt for a Form I-485 Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, and the first page of the applicant’s Form I-485 indicating that it is based on U Visa status	Medi-Cal, CalFresh
Form I-797, which serves as a fee receipt for an employment authorization request based on a U Visa application	Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, CAAP
Form I-797C Extension of U nonimmigrant status	Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance



Form I-94	CalFresh, Refugee Cash Assistance
Legal Permanent Residency card "Green Card"	Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, CAAP
Self-declaration of intent to apply for a T Visa	CalFresh, Refugee Cash Assistance
USCIS document showing when the individual was paroled into the U.S.	CalFresh, Refugee Cash Assistance

Questions?

Email us at HSAOutreachComms@sfgov.org

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