



Immigrant Status and SFHSA Programs

Eligibility requirements for public benefits

SFHSA provides valuable public benefits for immigrants, including food, cash, and health care assistance. Below, view the public benefits available based on your immigration status and the [required documentation](#).

Every situation is different. To learn how getting public benefits may affect your immigrant status, call the Bay Area Legal Aid Free Advice Hotline **(800) 551-5554**.

For citywide services for immigrants, including legal help, job and career services, and housing and shelter, visit the City's [Immigrant Services and Resources](#) page.

Regardless of your immigration status, you can still apply for benefits for your children who are born in the U.S. We encourage noncitizens to apply or contact SFHSA for more details about their specific case.

Program eligibility by immigration status

| Immigration Status | Medi-Cal | CalFresh | CalWORKS or CalWORKs Diversion | CAAP | Refugee Cash Assistance |
|---|----------|----------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Asylees (asylum has been granted) | Yes | No | Yes | Yes, after Refugee Cash Assistance ends | 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 |



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|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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 for Cubans and Haitians |
| Refugees | Yes | No | Yes | Yes, after Refugee Cash Assistance ends | Yes |
| Special Immigration Visa (SIV) (Afghans and Iraqis) | Yes | No | 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 | Yes, after Refugee Cash Assistance ends | |
| 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 | Yes, only if you are catastrophically ill | No |
| U-Visa | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| VAWA Self-Petitioners | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |



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|--|----------|--|---|---|---|
| Work Permit (Employment Authorization Card/Document) | Yes | Depends on status/category on work permit | Depends on status/category on work permit | Depends on status/category on work permit | Depends on status/category on work permit |
| Conditional Entrants; Victims of Trafficking; Battered Noncitizens | No | Yes | No | No | No |
| Individuals with Deportation or Removal Withheld | No | Starting April 1, 2026, CalFresh eligibility ended for certain immigrants without Lawful Permanent Resident status that were previously eligible – applies to new applications. Households with these immigration statuses that are currently receiving CalFresh will be | No | No | No |



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|--------------------|----------|---|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| | | impacted at their next recertification period, starting for households with recertifications due in April 2026. | | | |

Proof of Immigration Status for SFHSA 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. 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, 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, CAAP |
| Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued under category “A19” or “A20” for an approved U Visa petitioner | Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, CAAP |



| Acceptable Document | Programs |
|---|---|
| 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 |
| 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, CalWORKs, CAAP |
| Form I-797C Extension of U nonimmigrant status | Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance |
| Form I-94 | Medi-Cal, 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 | Medi-Cal, CalFresh, Refugee Cash Assistance |
| USCIS document showing how long the individual has been paroled in the U.S. | Medi-Cal, CalFresh, Refugee Cash Assistance |

Questions?

View our webpage: sfhsa.org/services/immigrants/public-benefits-immigrants

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