



COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits Needed During the Coronavirus Crisis

Help with Applications: Benefits Data Trust (BDT) is helping people with applications for benefits statewide: **(833) 373-5869**. BDT will get an interpreter if necessary

Immigrant eligibility for Medical Assistance, SNAP, TANF, and LIHEAP varies somewhat depending on the program. Generally:

- You must be a “qualified immigrant”
For example:
 - Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) (green card)
 - Humanitarian immigrant (refugee, asylee)
 - Battered spouse or child of US citizen or LPR who has applied for status under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- Some adults who are qualified immigrants must have a qualified status for 5 years before they are eligible for benefits. This is called the “five-year bar.”
- There is no five-year bar for children.
- There is no five-year bar for TANF cash assistance, including the TANF Diversion program.
- Immigrants who are not qualified to receive benefits, including undocumented immigrants, may be eligible for Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) if they have an emergency medical condition. EMA is available for Coronavirus testing, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Immigrants who are not qualified to receive benefits themselves, including undocumented immigrants, can apply for benefits for their citizen or qualified immigrant children.

To be eligible for unemployment compensation, an immigrant must be legally authorized to work in the United States.

Community Justice Project is a nonprofit legal aid program that provides legal assistance at no cost to income-eligible clients

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