**SNAP Citizenship Desk Aid**

United States Citizens {4.305.A}

All U.S. Citizens are eligible for Food Assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Born</th>
<th>Born Abroad</th>
<th>Naturalized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • 50 U.S. States  
• Washington, D.C.  
• Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Swain’s Island | • Outside of the U.S., to U.S. citizen parents | • Became U.S. Citizens through the Naturalization process |

**Test 1**: Non-Citizens Eligible for Food Assistance **without** Additional Conditions {4.305.B, 1}

The following Non-Citizens are eligible for Food Assistance without having to meet an additional condition such as the 5-year bar; this will still be the case even if their status changes. If Test 1 is met, no further test is required. If Test 1 is not met, go to Test 2.

- Refugees
- Victims of Severe Trafficking
- Asylees
- Deportation or Removal Withheld
- Certain Amerasians
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants (SIV)
- Certain American Indians Born Abroad
- Hmong or Highland Laotian Tribal Members

**Test 2**: Qualified Non-Citizens Eligible for Food Assistance **with** an Additional Condition {4.305.B, 2}

The following Non-Citizens are only eligible for Food Assistance if they have met an additional condition such as the 5-year bar. If Test 2 is met, go to Test 3. If neither Test 1 nor Test 2 are met, and the client is a non-citizen, they are ineligible for Food Assistance.

- Lawfully Permanent Residents (LPRs)
- Parolees (Paroled into the U.S. for at least 1 year)
- Conditional Entrants
- Battered Non-Citizens

**Test 3**: Additional Conditions {4.305, B, 3}

If Test 1 is not met, but Test 2 is met, Test 3 must also be met for the client to be eligible for Food Assistance. At least one of the below conditions must apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Years of Residence (5-year bar) from date of entry or qualified status; can be interrupted for periods of less than 6 months</td>
<td>40 Qualifying Work Quarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly born on or before 8/22/31 who lawfully resided in the U.S. on 8/22/96</td>
<td>Under 18 years of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving Benefits or Assistance for Blindness or Disability</td>
<td>Military Connected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Does Military Connected Mean?

Lawfully residing in a U.S. state
- On active duty (other than for training) in the U.S.:
  - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard
  - Not National Guard
- Spouse, Surviving Spouse (if not remarried) or Dependent Child (if not married) of an honorably discharged veteran or active duty personnel
- Honorably discharged veteran

Note: Discharge cannot be due to immigration status

Ineligible Non-Citizens {4.305.1}:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Qualified Non-Citizens</th>
<th>Including but not limited to: Travel, Student and Work Visas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented Non-Citizens</td>
<td>Including those who never had a visa and those whose visa has expired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Protected Status (TPS)</td>
<td>Permitted to remain in the U.S. due to their home nation suffering under armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other “extraordinary or temporary” conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens of Palau, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands</td>
<td>All nations under the Compact of Free Association Agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals with a U Visa</td>
<td>Unless they change their immigration status</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Food Assistance eligibility cannot be impacted by a non-citizen’s previously undocumented status.

Work Quarters {4.505.61}

LPRs can become eligible based on work quarters instead of the 5-year bar. They must have 40 quarters; these can include quarters earned while the individual was undocumented and/or if Social Security taxes were not withheld. They can get these quarters through three methods:

- Earn them (40 quarters = 10 years; do not count if receiving Federal benefits at the time)
- Borrow them from a parent if earned before the applicant turned 18
- Borrow them from a spouse if earned while they were married or if the spouse is deceased

Note: Food Assistance cannot be denied for an entire household based on one member’s ineligibility.
SNAP Citizenship Desk Aid

Verification {4.505.6}

To ensure that only those who are eligible for Food Assistance receive the benefits they are eligible to receive, the immigration status of those who are applying for Food Assistance benefits must be verified. The immigration status of individuals who are applying for Food Assistance benefits on behalf of others does not need to be verified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under no circumstances may a county:</th>
<th>Require any information about the citizenship and immigration status of anyone who is not applying for Food Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deny Food Assistance benefits to applying household members because a household member who is not applying has not disclosed his or her citizenship or immigration status or Social Security Number (SSN) or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Try to establish or verify immigration status through any means other than legally defined procedures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** All household members, including any who are not applying and have not disclosed their citizenship or immigration status or SSN, must still disclose their income, resources and other information so that eligibility and benefit amounts can be determined for those individuals in the household who are applying for Food Assistance benefits.

The household has primary responsibility for providing proof of immigration status. However, if the household is cooperating then the county must assist the household in obtaining verification of immigration status. **SAVE** can and must be used to verify immigration documents.

Unless acceptable documentation is provided, a non-citizen is ineligible for Food Assistance benefits unless:

- The county has submitted a copy of a document provided by the individual to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for validation. Pending validation, the individual’s eligibility for Food Assistance cannot be denied, delayed, reduced or terminated based on immigration status.
- The individual provides documentation that the Social Security Administration (SSA) is conducting an investigation to determine if more quarters of work coverage can be credited. The individual must be certified pending the results of the investigation for up to 6 months from the date of original request for verification.
- A request has been submitted to a Federal agency (other than USCIS) for verification of information applicable to the individual’s immigration status. The individual must be certified pending the results of the investigation for up to 6 months from the date of original request for verification.