

Appendix D: Cash and SNAP Benefits for Immigrants

**DTA Cash and SNAP Eligibility Chart
By Immigration Status for Massachusetts Residents**

October 2023 MLRI & GBLS

(Chart does not include state-funded SNAP as this book goes to print)

Immigrant Status	Federal SNAP	EAEDC Cash Assistance	TAFDC Cash Assistance
U.S. citizens (born in the United States or naturalized) and Native Americans	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Refugee, asylee, Cuban/ Haitian entrant*, person granted withholding of deportation or removal, Amerasian immigrant, and Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders, certain Afghans and Ukrainians granted humanitarian parole. This list is referred to elsewhere in this chart as the “Refugee Group”)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Victim of Trafficking (in persons)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Lawful permanent resident (LPR)s.	Eligible if LPR is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under age 18; • adjusted from refugee group status; • lived in U.S. as a qualified immigrant** for five years; • receives a cash or medical disability-based benefit; • “lawfully resided” in the U.S. and was 65 on 8/22/96; <u>or</u> • LPR credited with 40 Qs of work. 	Eligible	Eligible if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adjusted from refugee group status; • physically entered the U.S. before 8/22/96; • lived in U.S. as qualified immigrant* for five years; or • Is a battered noncitizen (see below)

Immigrant Status	Federal SNAP	EAEDC Cash Assistance	TAFDC Cash Assistance
<p>Battered noncitizens, and their children/parents including Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioners, family petitioners, and lawful permanent residents who have been abused.</p>	<p>Eligible if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lived in the U.S as qualified immigrant** for 5 years; • under age 18; • receives a disability-based benefit; • “lawfully resided” in U.S. and was 65 on 8/22/96; or • LPR with 40 Qs of work 	<p>Eligible</p>	<p>Eligible</p>
<p>Humanitarian Parole</p> <p>If granted parole for 365 days</p> <p><i>Afghan evacuees</i> paroled into the US between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022 (+ some family members paroled after Sept. 30, 2022), who are considered refugees and do not have a waiting period.</p> <p><i>Ukrainians paroled</i> into the US between February 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023, who are considered refugees, do not have to have been granted at least one year of parole, and do not have a waiting period.</p> <p><i>Haitian or Cuban nationals paroled any time to U.S.</i> (See Cuban/Haitian entrant status*.)</p>	<p>Same as LPRs above including 5 year wait for some.</p> <p>Eligible</p> <p>Eligible</p> <p>Eligible</p>	<p>All eligible, regardless of length of parole or country of origin</p>	<p>Same as LPRs above</p> <p>Eligible</p> <p>Eligible</p> <p>Eligible</p>

Immigrant Status	Federal SNAP	EAEDC Cash Assistance	TAFDC Cash Assistance
Lawfully residing Veteran , active-duty service member, spouse, & dependent children	Eligible if a qualified immigrant**	Eligible	Eligible
Immigrant permanently residing in U.S. under color of law (PRUCOL)^	In general, No. Exceptions if also falls into another category, including a battered noncitizen, Cuban/Haitian entrant, or humanitarian parole.	Eligible	In general, No. Exceptions if also falls into another category, including a battered noncitizen, Cuban/Haitian entrant, or veteran in lawful status.
Non-immigrant (tourist, student)	No	No	No
Undocumented/out of status	No	No	No

Under federal law, all non-citizens regardless of immigration status are eligible for the following:

- Federally funded National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and other child nutrition programs, Head Start programs.
- Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program for pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children under age 5.
- Meals on Wheels and other elder nutrition programs
- Other non-means-tested food provided at the community level, such as TEFAP and MEFAP funding for food pantries, food provided at homeless shelters, child protection services, and domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse treatment programs

***Cuban/Haitian entrants** include any Cuban or Haitian national who: (1) was paroled into the U.S., (2) has filed a application for asylum, or (3) is in removal proceedings but does not have a final, enforceable order of removal, including those with an Order of Supervision. Children born to Haitian parents outside Haiti are Haitian nationals who may qualify as Cuban/Haitian entrants.

** **Qualified immigrant** above means (1) lawful permanent resident, (2) parolee for at least one year (unless exempt from the 12 months as noted), (3) in the “refugee group”, or (4) a battered noncitizen.

^ **PRUCOL:** Refers to immigrants who are considered “permanently residing in the United States under color of law.” Immigrants are often considered PRUCOL under certain programs if they are known to the USCIS and the USCIS does not presently contemplate enforcing their departure. PRUCOL is not an immigration status and will not appear as a term on any immigration documents. PRUCOL immigrants often have employment authorization (EAD) or some other proof of granted immigration status or a pending status. Examples of immigrants who are considered PRUCOL include - but are not limited to - persons granted or with an application pending for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Action status, under Order of Supervision, with a pending application for Legal Permanent Residency, Asylum applicants, U Visa recipients and applicants (victims of violence) and others.



**You have
the right to**

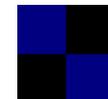
***If you have trouble
understanding them,
your case manager
can
help.***

216

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSITIONAL
ASSISTANCE

NCIB (Rev. 2/2009)
25-404-0209-05

WHAT NONCITIZENS NEED TO KNOW



SUA = Standard Utility Allowance
\$852/mo—heating or AC costs or fuel assistance
\$520/mo—non-heating/cooling utilities
\$59/mo—phone only

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE

206





W H A T A
N O N C I T I Z E N
N E E D S T O
K N O W

Your children may be eligible for Cash and/or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits even if you are not.

Don't be afraid to apply for benefits for yourself or your family. Even if you are ineligible for benefits due to immigration status, **we will not report you to immigration authorities unless you provide us with a final order of deportation.**

If you feel you cannot give us information about your immigration status, you will be ineligible for benefits. Your family members may still be able to receive benefits. Once you tell your case manager that you cannot give us this information, your case manager will stop asking you about your status.

BUT, your case manager must ask you other questions about you, including where you live, your income, child support, etc. We need this information to decide benefit eligibility for your family members. Your income and assets may be counted in determining eligibility and the amount of your family's benefits.

Certain legal permanent residents (LPR) applying for SNAP benefits may be asked about their sponsor. If you are in a household with disqualified members,

the sponsor's income and assets may be used in deciding SNAP eligibility and the benefit amount. In addition, certain non-SSI disabled and elder households may continue to be subject to sponsor deeming.

REMEMBER: *If you do not tell us your immigration status, your benefits may be lower than they should be.*

If you have questions about your immigration status or how receipt of benefits affects your ability to adjust your status or any other questions, you can call one of the agencies listed on the Noncitizens Resources brochure.