

## CASH AND FOOD STAMP/SNAP ELIGIBILITY CHART BY IMMIGRATION STATUS (in Massachusetts)

March 2011, MLRI

Immigrant Status	Food Stamps/SNAP	EAEDC Cash Assistance	Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
<b>U.S. citizens</b> (born in the United States or naturalized) and Native Americans	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<b>Refugee, asylee, Cuban or Haitian entrant, person granted withholding of deportation or removal, Amerasian immigrant, and Iraqi and Afghan SIV holders</b> (Special Immigrant Visas for Iraqi and Afghan military interpreters and their dependents**)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible without time limitation if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ received SSI or had application pending on August 22, 1996;</li> <li>▪ lawfully resided in the United States on August 22, 1996, and is disabled; or</li> <li>▪ a lawful permanent resident credited with forty quarters of work</li> </ul> Otherwise eligible for SSI for <i>seven years</i> after granted status unless extended <sup>1</sup>
Adult <b>lawful permanent resident, parolee</b> (if granted parole for at least one year)	Eligible if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ has lived in the United States as qualified immigrant for <u>five years</u>;<sup>*</sup> or</li> <li>▪ receiving a cash or medical disability-based benefit; or</li> <li>▪ lawfully resided in the United States and was 65 on August 22, 1996; or</li> <li>▪ a lawful permanent resident credited with forty quarters of work</li> </ul>	Eligible	Eligible if physically entered the United States before August 22, 1996  If physically entered the United States after August 22, 1996, eligible after having lived in the United States as "qualified immigrant" for <u>five years</u>	Eligible if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ received SSI or had application pending on August 22, 1996;</li> <li>▪ lawfully resided in the United States on August 22, 1996, and is disabled; or</li> <li>▪ a lawful permanent resident credited with forty quarters of work and has lived in the United States as "qualified immigrant" for <u>five years</u><sup>*</sup></li> </ul>

\*In this context "qualified immigrant" means (1) lawful permanent resident, (2) parolee for at least one year, (3) conditional entrant, or (4) certain abused non-citizens and their children and parents.

\*\* Iraqi and Afghan SIV holders eligible to the "same extent" as refugees, effective 12/19/2009.

**CASH AND FOOD STAMP/SNAP ELIGIBILITY CHART  
BY IMMIGRATION STATUS (continued)**

Immigrant Status	Food Stamps/SNAP	EAEDC Cash Assistance	Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
<b>Children (under age 18) — lawful permanent resident, parolee</b> for at least one year	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible if physically entered the United States before August 22, 1996  If physically entered the United States after August 22, 1996, eligible after having lived in the United States as "qualified immigrant" for <u>five years</u>	Eligible if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ received SSI or had application pending on August 22, 1996;</li> <li>▪ lawfully resided in the United States on August 22, 1996, and is disabled; or</li> <li>▪ a lawful permanent resident credited with forty quarters of work and has lived in the United States as "qualified immigrant" for <u>five years</u>*</li> </ul>
<b>Victim of Trafficking in persons</b>	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
<b>Hmong and Highland Laotians</b>	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ received SSI or had application pending on August 22, 1996;</li> <li>▪ lawfully resided in the United States on August 22, 1996, and is disabled; or</li> <li>▪ a lawful permanent resident credited with forty quarters of work and has lived in the United States as "qualified immigrant" for <u>five years</u>*</li> </ul>

**CASH AND FOOD STAMP/SNAP ELIGIBILITY CHART  
BY IMMIGRATION STATUS (continued)**

Immigrant Status	Food Stamps/SNAP	EAEDC Cash Assistance	Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
<b>Battered noncitizens, and their children and parents</b> (including Violence Against Women Act self-petitioners, family petitioners, and lawful permanent residents who have been abused)	Eligible if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ has lived in the United States as "qualified immigrant" for <u>five years</u>;* </li> <li>▪ a child under age 18;</li> <li>▪ receiving a disability-based benefit;</li> <li>▪ lawfully resided in the United States and was 65 on August 22, 1996; or</li> <li>▪ a lawful permanent resident credited with forty quarters of work</li> </ul>	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ received SSI or had application pending on August 22, 1996;</li> <li>▪ lawfully resided in the United States on August 22, 1996, and is disabled; or</li> <li>▪ a lawful permanent resident credited with forty quarters of work and has lived in the United States as "qualified immigrant" for <u>five years</u>*</li> </ul>
Lawfully residing <b>Veteran</b> , active-duty service member, spouse, and dependent children	Eligible if a qualified immigrant*	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible if a "qualified immigrant"*
Immigrant <b>permanently residing in U.S. under color of law</b> (pending application, TPS, DED, vol departure, etc)	No (except certain battered immigrants, Cuban/ Haitian entrants, Veterans in lawful status)	Yes	No	No (unless receiving SSI or application pending on August 22, 1996)
<b>Non-immigrant</b> (tourist, student)	No	No	No	No
<b>Undocumented</b>	No	No	No	No

\*In this context "qualified immigrant" means (1) lawful permanent resident, (2) parolee for at least one year, (3) conditional entrant, or (4) certain abused non-citizens and their children and parents.

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

- School lunch and breakfast
- WIC (supplemental food program for women, infants, and children)
- Head Start
- Non-means-tested benefits delivered at the community level, such as food pantries, homeless shelters, child protection services, and domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse treatment

### **Special Notes**

PRUCOL immigrants (permanently residing in the United States under color of law) are individuals who generally have work authorization or some other proof of status or contact with Immigration officials. In addition to the immigrant groups listed above, individuals are PRUCOL if they *are known to* the USCIS and the USCIS does not presently contemplate enforcing their departure.

Examples of immigrants who are considered PRUCOL include but are not limited to:

- Persons granted temporary protected status (TPS)
- Persons granted deferred action status
- Persons under order of supervision
- Applicants for permanent residency
- Applicants for asylum from any country
- U visa recipients (victims of violence)

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1. Effective 10/1/2008, “humanitarian” immigrants who reach the end of the 7-year SSI eligibility period or who lost SSI during the time limit can get an additional 2 years of SSI if they meet specific conditions and are making a good faith effort to pursue US citizenship. See “A Guide to the New and Temporary SSI Extension Law for Humanitarian Immigrants” available at [www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)