

- **Food Stamp eligibility restored to disabled legal immigrants!**
- **Food Stamp Eligibility Restored to Legal Immigrants who have been in the U.S. for at least 5 years!**

Do you have to be a U.S. Citizen to receive Food Stamps?

No. Some legal immigrants can get Food Stamps. You may be eligible for Food Stamps if you are considered an “Eligible Immigrant.”

Will receiving Food Stamps affect my immigration status?

No. You will not be considered a public charge because you receive Food Stamps.

AM I AN ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANT?

**You must have “acceptable status” to receive Food Stamps.
Acceptable Status includes:**

- ? Member of a federally acknowledged **American Indian tribe**
 - ? **Refugee** in your first 7 years in U.S.
 - ? **Asylee** in your first 7 years in U.S.
 - ? **Cuban/Haitian entrant** in your first 7 years in U.S.
 - ? **Amerasian** in your first 7 years in U.S.
 - ? **Permanent resident alien** who is a former refugee or asylee and in your first 7 years in U.S.
 - ? **Victim of trafficking** in your first 7 years in U.S.
 - ? Person with **deportation withheld** in first 7 years after withholding order
 - ? **Victim of domestic violence** (after first 5 years in the country)
 - ? Permanent Resident Alien with at least **40 Social Security Credits**
 - ? **Disabled** (receiving disability benefits)
 - ? **Hmong or Highland Laotian** tribe member during the Vietnam era and lawfully residing in the U.S.
 - ? **Elderly** – Qualified alien* (see below) who was 65 or older on August 22, 1996 and was in the U.S. on August 22, 1996
 - ? **Children** – Qualified alien* (see below) who is under the age of 18 now and was in the U.S. on August 22, 1996
 - ? Qualified alien* (see below) on **active duty in U.S. Armed Forces** or an honorably discharged veteran
 - ? Qualified Alien* (see below) **Spouse or dependent child** of a qualified military alien
 - ? An individual who has lived in the U.S. as a qualified alien* (see below) **for at least 5 years** since they entered the U.S.
- *You are a qualified alien if you are a:
- Legal permanent resident (green card)
 - Refugee or asylee
 - Parolee (for at least 1 year)
 - Cuban/Haitian entrant
 - Person with deportation withheld
 - Granted conditional entry
 - Victim of domestic violence
 - Disabled (receiving federal disability benefits)

If there are undocumented (illegal) immigrants in your household...

- You may still be able to receive Food Stamps!
- Apply for Food Stamps ONLY
- Do NOT apply for cash assistance, childcare or medical assistance for ANYONE in the household without seeking legal advice first.
- Tell the Department of Human Services (DHS) everyone who lives in the home (even the undocumented person).

What to tell DHS about the undocumented/illegal person:

- This person does not want Food Stamps
- This person will not provide information about his/her immigration status. You don't have to explain why
- This person will provide information about his/her income if it is needed to determine Food Stamps for other family members
- Do not tell DHS that the person is illegal or without immigration papers
- Do not tell DHS anything about the person's immigration or citizenship status (this person does not have to provide DHS with a Social Security Number)

For more information on how to receive Food Stamps, visit www.foodstamphelp.org or call 1-800-481-4989



This pamphlet is for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for individual legal advice.

For Legal Advice:

Contact your local legal services or legal aid office, list under "Attorneys" in the yellow pages, or call the State Bar Lawyer Referral number at 1-800-968-0738

If you are a migrant farm worker, ask about special legal services programs for farm workers.

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Food Stamps for Legal Immigrants

Who can receive Food Stamps?



New rules have made many legal immigrants eligible for Food Stamps

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