Understanding the Public Benefit System

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**Public Benefits**

New York has several public benefit programs, funded either by the federal government or by the State, including Cash Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and various medical coverage programs. A federal program called Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grants money to New York State to administer several of these programs.

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There are two types of Cash Assistance programs in New York State: Family Assistance and Safety Net Assistance. The Family Assistance program helps needy families with minor children in the household by providing a monthly cash benefit for food, shelter, utilities and other living expenses. Safety Net Assistance helps needy persons who do not qualify for Family Assistance by providing a monthly cash benefit for food, shelter, utilities and other living expenses. To receive SNA or Cash Assistance, you must be a citizen or qualified alien. Family Assistance and Safety Net Assistance cash benefits are provided through an electronic benefit transfer posted to a benefit card. Rent payments may be sent by check to landlords.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp program, provides support to low-income New Yorkers to help them purchase food. If you’re eligible for SNAP benefits, you can purchase food by using an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card where you normally shop, even online at AMAZON, ShopRite and Fresh Direct.

It’s now easier than ever to apply for SNAP benefits. You can apply online at [www.nyc.gov/accesshra](http://www.nyc.gov/accesshra), at participating community-based organizations (CBO) in your neighborhood, by mail or fax, or in person at an HRA SNAP Center. You can complete an eligibility interview by phone or in person, and submit documents with your smartphone or tablet with the ACCESS HRA mobile app, in person at an Easy Access document scanner located at an HRA SNAP Center or participating CBO, or by mail or fax.

On ACCESS HRA, you can also track your application and manage your case, check your EBT card balance and other payments, update your mailing address and other information, keep track of deadlines and appointments, sign up to receive email or text updates, and request a budget letter.

You may receive SNAP benefits within five (5) days if you are eligible for expedited processing of your SNAP application and found eligible for SNAP. Use this site to estimate whether a household meets SNAP’s income guidelines, as well as the benefit amount for SNAP:

<https://bplc.cssny.org/benefit_tools/snap_calculator>

**Emergency Food Assistance Program**

There are 500 food pantries and community kitchens throughout New York City where anyone can get nutritious food or a well-balanced hot meal. For locations please go to Foodbanknyc.org or the 311 Facility Finder: <https://www1.nyc.gov/apps/311utils/providerInformation.htm?serviceId=1083>. For emergency food assistance call the NYC Emergency FoodLine at 1-866-888-8777. This is an automated hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



**Home Energy Assistance Program**

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps households with low income to pay their energy bills.

**HEAP Eligibility**

Eligibility for HEAP depends on household size, residency, immigration status, and income levels. If you meet the income criteria for other public benefits, like CA or SNAP, you will automatically be processed for HEAP and receive an automatic payment.

Certain housing situations do not qualify for HEAP benefits. For instance, if you do not have to pay for heating costs, you are living in a hotel or motel or living in a car or RV, you are a student living in a dorm or a child residing in a boarding home or group home.

Also, only “qualified aliens” can receive HEAP benefits. This generally means you are one of the following: lawful permanent resident; refugee; asylee; battered spouse and children; victim of trafficking; or individual from certain countries.

The income levels for eligibility for HEAP vary depending on the number of people in your household. There are income charts that will tell you whether your monthly income is low enough to receive HEAP benefits. Certain types of income are not considered in determining if you are eligible for HEAP, including loans, reimbursement for employment expenses or medical expenses, foster care payments and earned income tax credits. Also, assets are not considered for eligibility for HEAP.

**HEAP Benefits**

HEAP provides a regular cash benefit to pay electric and heating bills, an emergency benefit to pay those bills and also a benefit to help repair or replace heating or cooling equipment. The amount of the benefit is the same throughout New York State and depends on whether your rent includes heat and AC or whether you pay separately for those utilities.

The amount of the benefit depends on the household’s gross income, the household size and whether your heat and utilities are included in your rent or paid separately. You may receive cash payments to help pay your energy bills or you may receive a credit with the energy provider and New York State will pay the provider directly. The period for applying for HEAP benefits generally begins in November of each year.

There is an Emergency HEAP benefit which helps you if your utilities or heat is about to be turned off for non-payment, or has already been turned off. The amount of the Emergency HEAP depends on the household size and the type of emergency.

For more info: [http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#overview](http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/" \l "overview)

**New York State Cash Assistance Program**

New York State’s Cash Assistance programs provide financial help to families with minor children, as well as unmarried people and childless couples who are in financial need. The Family Assistance program (FA) helps families with dependent children and the Safety Net Assistance program (SNA) helps people who are not eligible for FA benefits. The Human Resources Administration (HRA) administers these cash assistance programs in New York City, and local social services districts administer the program in the rest of the state. The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) oversees the administration of the program state-wide.

**Cash Assistance Eligibility**

To qualify for Cash Assistance (CA), you must meet all the eligibility criteria, which include: income and resource, immigration status, and residency requirements. Also, your particular immigration status may determine whether you are eligible for Family Assistance, Safety Net Assistance, or neither program. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for CA, however, they may apply for CA for their minor children who have a different immigration status than their undocumented parents. CA is only available to residents of New York State. New York City residents must apply for the CA Program at an HRA Job Center in New York City. Call 311 or visit [https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/locations/job-locations.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/locations/job-locations.page%20) to get information on the location of the Job Center nearest to your home.

**Ongoing Cash Assistance**

If you are eligible, you may receive up to 60 months of federally-funded Cash Assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. You may receive additional City and State-funded benefits under the New York State Safety Net Assistance program if you do not have any dependent children or are on Cash Assistance longer than the 60-month federal time limit.

**Emergency Assistance**

New York City Residents may apply for an emergency assistance grant when unforeseen circumstances prevent them from meeting a basic need. To qualify, you must meet income and other requirements, and your application is subject to investigative review. Emergency grants may include rental assistance to prevent eviction; assistance with home energy and utility bills; disaster assistance including moving expenses; and assistance for purchasing personal items for you and your family’s health and safety.

**Medicaid, CHIP and The Essential Plan Coverage**

Medicaid and the Child Health Plus Program (CHIP) provide free or low-cost health coverage to millions of Americans, including some low-income people, families and children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Even if you don't qualify for Medicaid based on income, you should apply. You may qualify for NY’s program, especially if you have children, are pregnant, or have a disability. You can apply for Medicaid any time of year — Medicaid and CHIP do not have Open Enrollment Periods.

Citizenship/Immigration: Unlike Medicaid there are no citizenship/immigration status requirements for CHIP

***\*Undocumented children can apply for CHIP.\****

**Apply for Medicaid and CHIP 2 ways**

1. Through the NY State of Health Marketplace

[https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/](https://nystateof/)

* If it looks like anyone in your household qualifies for Medicaid or CHIP, they’ll send your information to your state agency. They’ll contact you about enrollment.
* When you submit your Marketplace application, you’ll also find out if you qualify for an individual insurance plan with savings based on your income instead.

1. Through your state Medicaid agency

* If you are blind, disabled or age 65 or over you must apply directly at a Medicaid office.
* **Essential Plan**

1. What is the Essential Plan?

* The Essential plan offers quality health insurance to working adults with lower incomes who do not qualify for Medicaid.

1. Who is eligible?

* Adults may be eligible if they: Are an adult who is 19 - 64 years of age. Individuals under 19 years old are eligible for Child Health Plus, not for the Essential Plan.
* Are a New York State resident.
* Meet income eligibility requirements. (Examples: single adults earning up to $24,120; adults in family of four earning up to $49,200)
* Are U.S. citizens or meet immigration status requirements.
* Meet certain income eligibility requirements tied to household size. View income levels for the Essential Plan (link to: essential-plan-income-chart).

1. How to apply:

* You can enroll in the Essential Plan any time of year. Apply online, over the phone, or in-person. Assistance is available in many languages. Visit the NY State of Health, or call 855-355-5777 or 311.
* Find an in-person enroller near you.

1. Helpful Links

* <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ochia/coverage-care/essential-plan.page>
* Essential Plan Fact Sheet
* <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/ochia/downloads/pdf/fly-952-essential-plan-english.pdf>

**Women, Infants and Children**



The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provides nutritional and health care assistance to eligible low-income pregnant or breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age five.

**WIC Eligibility**

You or your child may be eligible if you can answer yes to these questions:

*Are you:*

* pregnant;
* a mother of a baby up to six months;
* a breastfeeding mother of a baby up to 12 months old; ***OR***
* The parent of a child who is under five years old;
* Living in New York State?

*Note:* Fathers and caregivers can also apply for their children.

WIC also looks at your income to determine if you are eligible. You can use ***ACCESS NYC*** to screen and see if you might be eligible.

**WIC Benefits**

WIC provides a variety of benefits and services. There is a food package which provides food and food vouchers to participants. There is also a breastfeeding and support benefit that offers counseling and support services, as well as necessary items, like breast pumps. WIC also provides nutrition education and assistance with purchasing food from farmers’ markets.

**To apply for WIC:**

Find your local WIC agency, or call the Growing Up Healthy Hotline at 800-522-5006 and ask for the location nearest to you.

Gather your income, residency, and identity documents to bring with you.

Call the WIC agency where you wish to receive services and make an appointment.

A short nutrition assessment will be completed at the time of your appointment by a qualified WIC staff member.

The staff will tell you if you need to bring the WIC Medical Referral Form for you and/or your child completed by your health care provider.

**Affordable Public Housing**

*Public Housing | NYC Housing Authority*

**1. How it Works**

People with low and moderate income can obtain affordable housing through the New York City Housing Authority *(NY*CHA). NYCHA has Senior and Community Centers and offers residents programs to help find work and provides education on how to manage money and finances.

* Rent is based on your family’s income. Most buildings have electricity and gas included in the rent.
* You do not need to be a citizen to apply. However, at least one person who lives with you must be a citizen or have legal immigration status.
* Accessible apartments are available for people with disabilities. Some apartments have been modified and are available for persons with mobility impairments. Other reasonable accommodations can be made as well.
* Affordable housing options are also available through NYC Housing Connect and NYC Housing Development Corporation.

**2. Determine your eligibility**

To be eligible for public housing, you should be able to answer yes to these questions:

* Is at least one person in your household a US citizen? If not, does at least one person have legal immigration status (e.g. permanent resident, refugee, or asylum status)?
* Are you 18 years old or older, or are an emancipated minor?
* If you are applying with someone (a spouse or domestic partner), are they 18 years or older, or are an emancipated minor?
* If you are applying for senior public housing, are you and everyone else who will live with you 62 years old or older?
* Do you meet NYCHA’s definition of family, which includes:
* two or more people related by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, adoption, guardianship, or court-awarded custody?
* a single person?

Is your family’s income at or below the income limits?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Family size | Income in a year | Income in a month | Income in a week |
| 1 | $59,750 | $4,979 | $1,149 |
| 2 | $68,300 | $5,692 | $1,313 |
| 3 | $76,850 | $6,404 | $1,478 |
| 4 | $85,350 | $7,113 | $1,641 |
| 5 | $92,200 | $7,683 | $1,773 |
| 6 | $99,050 | $8,254 | $1,905 |
| 7 | $105,850 | $8,821 | $2,036 |
| 8 | $112,700 | $9,392 | $2,167 |

**3. How to apply**

Here are your options:

*Apply online*

* To apply for public housing, you must submit an application on the NYCHA website, <https://apply.nycha.info>
* After you apply, you will be assigned a case number and put on a waiting list for an eligibility interview.
* Use the self-service portal to check your status at any time. You’ll need to register and log in.

*Apply by mail*

Applicants are encouraged to apply online, however, paper applications are made available by mail as a reasonable accommodation. Applicants may call 718-707-7771 to request paper application.

*Apply by phone*

If you are unable to apply online, contact the NYCHA Customer Contact Center to request a paper application at 718-707-7771.

*Apply in person*

You can apply online at kiosks available at the NYCHA Customer Contact Centers located at:

* 478 East Fordham Road (1 Fordham Plaza), 2nd Floor Bronx, NY 10458
* 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11238

Centers are open Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

**More ways to get help with this program**

* Visit the NYCHA website for more information: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/index.page>
* Call 311, ask for Public Housing.
* Call NYCHA 718-707-7771 if you have questions about public housing.

*NYCHA Customer Contact Centers are located at:*

* Bronx Customer Contact Center 478 East Fordham Road (1 Fordham Plaza), 2nd Floor Bronx, NY 10458
* Brooklyn Customer Contact Center 787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11238

**Rent Issues**

A variety of government agencies and nonprofit organizations provide support to those who have fallen behind on rent.

***CityFHEPS Rent Supplement Program***

CityFHEPS is a City rental assistance program that can help you find and keep affordable housing. It is currently available to New Yorkers facing eviction or eligible for shelter. Eligibility for CityFHEPS depends on your income, housing situation, and other criteria. If you are not living in a shelter,

go to your nearest Homebase or Housing Assistance Program (HAP) office to find out if you are eligible. If you are living in a shelter, talk to your housing

specialist about CityFHEPS.

**To learn more go to:**

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/rental-assistance.page>

***Rental Arrears Grants for Single Adults and Families***

The New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) can assist tenants who have legal possession of an apartment, or applicants who have been evicted but whose landlords are willing to continue renting the apartment, by paying their arrears through a rental arrears grant. Grants are available for Public Assistance recipients and for those people ineligible for Public Assistance. Families and single adults are eligible. These grants are also known as Emergency Assistance to Families or a One Shot Deal.

Visit 311 Online to determine the HRA Job Center in your area and apply for a rental arrears grant.

**HOMEBASE services**:

HRA works with non-profit community organizations that operate Homebase homelessness

prevention offices at 24 community locations across the City. Among the services they offer are:

o Assistance obtaining public benefits

o Emergency rental assistance

o Education and job placement assistance

o Financial counseling and money management

o Help relocating

o Short-term financial assistance

*Call 311 or check online to locate the nearest Homebase office.*

***Free Legal Representation to Prevent Eviction***

HRA funds Anti-Eviction Legal Services in the housing courts and in community offices across the City, provide comprehensive, flexible and individualized legal and related services to help ensure that low-income households avoid becoming homeless. Services may include:

*Representation in housing court*

* Negotiations with landlords and/or other advocacy assistance
* Inquiries into whether a tenant's rent level is correct, whether there are conditions that require repair and whether these constitute defenses to a proceeding
* Preparation and filing of required agency and court papers

In addition to our community-based offices, residents in ZIP codes 11207, 11212, 11226, 10452, 10458, 11432, 11691, and 11692 who are facing eviction may be eligible for comprehensive anti-eviction legal services offered at housing court. The Housing Help Program provides full social services, legal intake, and assessment and case management in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens.

For more legal help regarding housing court cases see:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/legal-services-for-tenants.page>

***Foreclosure Prevention***

The Center for New York City Neighborhoods is a nonprofit entity founded by the City of New York, The New York City Council, and nonprofit partners to expand and coordinate services to homeowners and tenants facing foreclosure actions. Services include counseling, legal assistance, loan remediation, and preventive outreach, as well as education, research, and advocacy. Visit 311 Online for assistance.

**Free Citizenship Application Assistance**

*NY Citizenship | NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs*

NYCitizenship provides free legal assistance with citizenship applications and financial counseling at select NYC public libraries and in partnership with the Department of Social Services.

* Meet with a FREE immigration attorney to help you determine if you qualify to apply for U.S. citizenship
* If you qualify for a fee waiver, apply for citizenship for free with no application fee
* Receive free and confidential financial counseling
* An appointment is required to get help. Call 311 and say “Citizenship appointment”
* As a U.S citizen, you can vote in elections, apply for a U.S passport, access more jobs and more

**Determine your eligibility**

* Be at least 18 years old
* Be a permanent resident (have a “Green Card”) for at least 5 years, or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen
* Other eligibility is determined by immigration attorney.

**What you need to include**

Fill out a Naturalization Application Worksheet before your appointment. The detailed document checklist can help you gather the other documents you need to bring.

A Naturalization Application Worksheet and detailed document checklist are available in the following languages:

Naturalization Application Worksheet:

* English and Spanish, Arabic, Bangla, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, and Urdu.

Detailed document checklist:

* English and Spanish, Arabic, Bangla, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian, Traditional Chinese, and Urdu.

**How to apply**

*Apply by phone*

To receive services at a library, call 311 and say “citizenship appointment.” No walk-ins.

Fill out a Naturalization Application Worksheet (available in English and Spanish) before your appointment. The detailed document checklist (available in English and Spanish) can help you gather the other documents you need to bring to your appointment.

*Visit the NYCitizenship page for more information:*

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/help/legal-services/citizenship.page>

**SSI/Social Security Disability Benefits**

There are two Federal disability programs:

1. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is a Federal disability income program for adults who have worked and now find themselves unable to work due to a disability.
2. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is Federal program for adults and children who meet the definition of disabled and have limited income and resources. It is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income, and it provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

**Child Definition**

Under Social Security’s definition, a child is considered disabled if the child’s physical or mental impairment(s) is so severe that it results in marked and severe functional limitations. The impairment(s) must last or be expected to last for at least 12 months or result in the child’s death.

**Eligibility**

Anyone who believes they meet Federal Disability requirements is eligible to apply. Your family members may also receive benefits if you can no longer work due to a medical condition.

You are considered disabled under Social Security rules if:

1. You cannot work due to a medical condition;
2. You cannot do work that you did before;
3. We decide that you cannot adjust to other work because of your medical condition(s); and
4. Your disability has lasted or is expected to last for at least one year or to result in death.

People who have worked long enough may also be able to receive Social Security Disability Insurance benefits as well as Supplemental Security Income benefits.

**You can apply for Social Security Disability Insurance:**

*Online:*

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>

*By phone:*

Call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

*In person:*

Make an appointment at your local Social Security office: [*https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp*](https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp)

**Applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI):**

* Some people are eligible to submit online applications, others must do so at a local Social Security office or by telephone interview.
* Must be a U.S. citizen or certain “qualified alien” to be eligible.

For more info: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/>

***Glossary/Terms***

*ACCEPTED FOR ASSISTANCE- Eligibility has been fully established through investigation or emergency need and presumptive eligibility has been established and authorization for assistance has been made and approved by the social services official.*

*ASYLEE - An alien in the United States or at a port of entry who is found to be unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof must be based on the alien's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. For persons with no nationality, the country of nationality is considered to be the country in which the alien last habitually resided.*

*CIN (CLIENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER)-This is a WMS assigned number which uniquely identifies each individual known to WMS. If an applicant has been on assistance previously, this number will be on the Application/Registry and/or on the WMS Clearance Report. In New York City, this number is called RIN (Recipient Identification Number).*

*COMMON BENEFIT IDENTIFICATION CARD (CBIC)-Statewide card used by recipients to access Medicaid, Cash and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. The CBIC system is a statewide sub system of WMS.*

*DISABLED- As defined in the Human Rights Act, means a physical, mental or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological or neurological conditions which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques, a record of such impairment or a condition regarded by others as such impairment.*

*ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER- A debit card method of accessing Cash and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits*

*ELIGIBILITY- Determination as to whether an individual meets defined criteria which entitle him/her to assistance under a specific program. In most assistance programs, there are two types of eligibility - financial eligibility and categorical eligibility. An applicant must meet both sets of eligibility criteria before being granted assistance.*

*CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY - A determination as to whether an individual is a member of the class of individuals whose needs are to be served under a specific assistance program.*

*FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY- A determination as to whether an individual may be considered needy under a specific assistance program.*

*EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ADULTS (EAA) - EAA is a temporary assistance program that provides financial assistance to meet emergency needs of adults who are eligible for SSI.*

*EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (EAF) - EAF provides assistance for families with children to deal with crisis situations threatening a family, and meet emergent needs resulting from a sudden occurrence or set of circumstances demanding immediate attention.*

*EMERGENCY SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE (ESNA) - ESNA is a TA program that provides financial assistance to meet individual's emergency needs.*

*FAIR HEARING- Fair hearing is a formal procedure provided by OTDA upon a request made for an applicant or recipient to determine whether an action taken or failure to act by a local district was correct.*

*FAMILY ASSISTANCE (FA) - FA provides cash assistance to eligible needy families that include a minor child living with a parent(s) or caretaker relative. It is operated under the federal TANF rules and is funded with federal/State/local money. Under FA, eligible adults are limited to receiving benefits for a total of 60 months in a lifetime, including months of TANF-funded assistance granted in other states. Once this limit is reached, the adult and all members of his or her household are ineligible to receive any more FA benefits.*

*FEDERAL SUBSIDIZED HOUSING AUTHORITY- A public housing authority is sponsored by a legal jurisdiction, usually a town or city and received federal funds for its construction. In addition, a federally subsidized public housing authority receives an annual Federal subsidy usually in the amount of the federally subsidized public housing authority's annual operating deficit.*

*GROSS INCOME TEST- As a condition of TA eligibility, a household's total gross income, before application of any disregards or exclusions, cannot exceed 185 percent of the standard of need for a family of the same size.*

*GROSS WAGES- Total earned income before applicable income exclusions and disregards have been subtracted.*

*HOME ENERGY VENDOR- The individual or entity engaged in the business of selling electricity, natural gas, oil, wood, coal, propane, kerosene or any other fuel used for residential heating.*

*HOUSEHOLD - A household generally refers to everyone who lives together, purchases food together and prepares meals together.*

*IIMMIGRANTS- Aliens who have been admitted for permanent residence.*

*LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT- An alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing in the United State under color of law.*

*NON-IMMIGRANTS- Aliens admitted temporarily for specific purposes and specific periods of time.*

*PRUCOL- means Permanently Residing Under Color of Law, and is a category that was created by courts and is used for public benefits eligibility, including Medicaid. It is not recognized as an immigration status by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). For a person to be residing “under color of law,” the government must know about the person’s presence in the US, and has indicated that it is not contemplating the individual’s departure or planning deportation. A person residing under PRUCOL status cannot directly apply for U.S. citizenship or sponsor family members to obtain U.S. Citizenship. Though some of these individuals do not have SSNs, if financially eligible, PRUCOL individuals can get Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or Essential Plan in New York State. Depending on their particular immigration status, they may also be eligible for QHPs with or without the Premium Tax Credits or Cost Sharing Reductions.*

*RECERTIFICATION- Process by which continuing eligibility for TA is established by investigation and documentation at specified intervals and which shall include a reevaluation and reconsideration of all variable factors of need and other factors of eligibility and a decision made to continue, modify or discontinue the grant.*

*RECOUPMENT- The method of recovering overpayments made to TA households by reducing the amount of their ongoing assistance grant.*

*REFUGEES- A refugee is an alien who is outside any country of his/her nationality and who is unable or unwilling to return, and is unable to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, or is an individual designated a refugee by the President.*

*RESOURCES- Assets, income (in cash or in kind), or other property which may be used to reduce or eliminate an applicant's/recipient's need for TA.*

*RESTRICTED PAYMENT- Money payment made to or on behalf of eligible individuals or families in a form other than in cash, checks, or warrants immediately redeemable at par, with no restrictions on the use of funds by the individual imposed by the local district.*

*RSDI (Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) -The official name of benefits issued under Title II of the Social Security Act. These benefits are frequently referred to simply as "social security", and are also known as OASDI (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance).*

*SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE (SNA) - SNA is a state and locally funded program that provides cash assistance to eligible individuals, couples and families that are not eligible for family assistance.*

*SANCTION- The action of disqualifying a person from receiving TA because that person has refused to meet certain requirement(s) of a TA program. The sanction may be imposed for a specific period of time and/or until compliance depending on the program requirement.*

*SERVICE PROVIDER- A public agency or a private non-profit or private for-profit organization providing an employment related activity(ies) or service(s) to the local district or the Department through contract or agreement.*

*SPONSOR OF ALIEN- A sponsor is any person or public or private agency that executed an Affidavit(s) of Support (I-864) or similar agreement on behalf of an alien who is not the child of the sponsor or the sponsor's spouse as a condition of the alien's entry into the U.S.*

*SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM- A state program that provides food assistance to some individuals who are ineligible for federal supplemental nutrition assistance program due to their alien status.*

*TA HOUSEHOLD*

*1. Number used in the TA budgeting process to determine the total needs of a household. Generally, the household count shall include persons who indicate a desire to receive TA and who reside together in the same dwelling unit. However, some individuals are automatically included in the TA household, regardless of their desire to apply for assistance.*

*2. Persons on separate assistance grants (cooperative cases)*

*3. Non-applying legally responsible individuals with income sufficient to meet their needs. SSI recipients are not counted in the TA household unless they are applying for supplementary SNA. When the TA household number differs from the case count, a proration factor is used to determine the actual TA needs for the case. The amount of need for the number in the household is multiplied by the proration factor to give the total needs for the case.*

*TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE (TA) - TA is the cash assistance component of welfare. In New York State, temporary assistance includes: Family Assistance, Safety Net Assistance, and Emergency Assistance to Needy Families, Emergency Safety Net Assistance and Emergency Assistance to Adults.*

*UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN- Undocumented aliens are non-citizens who entered the U.S. by avoiding inspection at the border, without being admitted or paroled by INS officer or temporary visitors who overstay their nonimmigrant visa.*

**Citizenship and Alien Status**

(1) *A qualified alien is:*

(i) a refugee admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

(ii) an asylee granted asylum under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

(iii) a person whose deportation was withheld under section 241(b) or 243(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

(iv) a Cuban and Haitian entrant (as defined in section 501[e] of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980), including all Cuban or Haitian parolees;

(v) an alien admitted into the United States as an Amerasian immigrant as described in section 402(a)(2)(A)(i)(V) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612[a][2][A]);

(vi) a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States;

(vii) a person paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for a period of at least one year, except Cuban or Haitian parolees;

(viii) a person granted conditional entry into the United States under section 203(a)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; and

(ix) a battered spouse and dependents meeting the criteria of section 431(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

(2) *A specially qualified alien is:*

(i) a refugee admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, for a period of seven years from the date the person was admitted into the United States as a refugee;

(ii) an asylee granted status under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, for a period of seven years from the date that the asylee was granted status;

(iii) a person for whom deportation was withheld under section 241(b) or 243(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, for a period of seven years from the date that the deportation was withheld;

(iv) a Cuban and Haitian entrant (as defined in section 501[e] of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980) for a period of seven years from the the date such status was granted;

(v) an alien admitted into the United States as an Amerasian immigrant as described in section 402(a)(2)(A) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612[a][2][A]) for a period of seven years from the date the person was admitted into the United States;

(vi) a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence into the United States who has worked for or can be credited with 40 qualifying quarters as defined under title II of the Federal Social Security Act, or can be credited with such qualifying quarters exclusive of any quarter after December 31, 1996, in which such person or such person's parent or spouse received any Federal means tested assistance, whose entry into the United States was at least five years earlier or who entered the United States prior to August 22, 1996; and

(vii) any qualified alien who is on active duty, other than active duty for training, in the United States Armed Forces or who has received a discharge characterized as honorable and not on account of alienage, or the spouse, unremarried surviving spouse or unmarried dependent child of any such alien if such alien, spouse or dependent child is also a qualified alien.

(b) *Eligibility requirements*

(1) No person except a citizen or a specially qualified alien is eligible for family assistance or safety net assistance except as follows:

(i) A qualified alien who is not a specially qualified alien, who entered the United States before August 22, 1996, and continuously resided in the United States until attaining qualified status is, if otherwise eligible, eligible for family assistance and safety net assistance.

(ii) A qualified alien who has resided in the United States for five or more years but whose entry into the United States was on or after August 22, 1996, is, if otherwise eligible, eligible for family assistance and safety net assistance.

(iii) A qualified alien, who is not a specially qualified alien, who has resided in the United States for less than five years and whose entry into the United States occurred on or after August 22, 1996, is, if otherwise eligible, eligible for safety net assistance but is ineligible for family assistance.

(iv) An alien whose status is not within the meaning of the term qualified alien but who is otherwise permanently residing in the United States under color of law; as such term was used on August 21, 1996, by the Federal Administration for Children and Families is, if otherwise eligible, eligible for safety net assistance.

(v) A person paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for a period of less than one year is, if otherwise eligible, eligible to receive any State or local nonfederal assistance provided under this section on the same terms as such programs are available to persons who are qualified aliens.

(vi) Nothing herein precludes the receipt by an alien of community based noncash assistance in accordance with the directions of the United States Attorney General.

(2) *Eligibility for services*

(i) Qualified aliens, if otherwise eligible and except as otherwise provided by Federal law shall be eligible for services funded under title XX of the Federal Social Security Act.

(ii) Any alien, including an alien who is not a qualified alien, is eligible for adult protective services and services and assistance relating to child protection to the extent that such person is otherwise eligible pursuant to the regulations of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the Office of Children and Family Services of the department.

(3) An alien is eligible for additional State payments for aged, blind and disabled persons under the Social Services Law only to the extent that such person is not ineligible for Federal SSI benefits due to alien status.

***References:***

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