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

October 2022 MLRI & GBLS

Immigrant Status	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	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
chart as the "Refugee Group")			
Victim of Trafficking (in persons)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Lawful permanent resident (LPR)s.	 Eligible if LPR is: 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; or 	Eligible	 Eligible if: 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)
	 LPR credited with 40 Qs of work. 		

Immigrant Status	SNAP	EAEDC Cash Assistance	TAFDC Cash Assistance
Battered noncitizens, and their children/parents including Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self- petitioners, family petitioners, and lawful permanent residents who have been abused.	 Eligible if: 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 	Eligible	Eligible
Humanitarian Parole			
If granted parole for 365 days	Same as LPRs above including 5	All eligible, regardless of	Same as LPRs above
Afghan evacuees paroled into the US between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022 (+ some family members baroled after Sept. 30, 2022), who are considered refugees and do not have a waiting period.	year wait for some. Eligible	length of parole or country of origin	Eligible
Ukrainians paroled 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.	Eligible		Eligible
Haitian or Cuban nationals paroled any time to U.S. (See Cuban/Haitian entrant status*.)	Eligible		Eligible

Immigrant Status	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.

Produced by the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) and Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) Updated Oct 2022