

Policy Changes in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) For Qualified Immigrants

Changes made to the non-citizen policy went into effect December 1, 2025, making certain individuals no longer eligible for SNAP benefits.

Qualified immigrants who previously were eligible for SNAP are not eligible unless they have Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status and meet all other SNAP eligibility criteria. They include:

- Refugees and people who were granted asylum by an immigration judge.
- Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders.
- Most people who were allowed into the U.S. temporarily (parolees).
- Certain Afghan and Ukrainian groups granted parole (Afghan nationals granted parole between 7/31/2021 and 9/30/2023 and Ukrainian nationals granted parole between 2/24/2022 and 9/30/2024).
- Survivors of domestic violence, victims of severe human trafficking and some family members.
- People who were allowed to enter the U.S. under special rules or whose deportation was stopped (withholding of removal).

Immigrants with the following status may be eligible for SNAP, if all other SNAP eligibility criteria are met:

- Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status (may have a 5-year waiting period).
- Cuban/Haitian entrants.
- COFA (Compact of Free Association) citizens: People from Micronesia, Palau or the Marshall Islands.
- Non-citizen U.S. nationals.

More Information

If you have questions or would like more details, contact your [local department of social services](#).

Other Resources

The Office of New Americans coordinates comprehensive assistance for immigrants, related to employment, healthcare, education and more. Visit them at <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/ona/>.

Foods banks can be found throughout Virginia at <https://vafoodbanks.org/find-food/> and www.findhelp.org.

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