



Food Stamps for Immigrants

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Immigrants May Get Food Stamp Benefits

If you are a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) I-551 (Green Card Holder)

- You may qualify for Food Stamp benefits five years after you entered the U.S.
- You may qualify for Food Stamp benefits even if you have not been an LPR for 5 years if
 - you are under the age of 18 or receiving federal disability benefits or certain state disability related benefits or
 - you can be credited with a work history reported to the Social Security Administration that equals 40 qualifying quarters.

Can you apply for your citizen or LPR children, even if you are not eligible yourself?

Yes! You will need to provide proof of your income and resources so the worker can determine the amount of Food Stamp benefits your children will receive, if eligible.

Is there a time limit on Lawful Permanent Resident immigrants' eligibility for Food Stamp benefits?

No! For LPRs that meet the requirements set forth in the bullets above there is no time limit of eligibility for Food Stamp benefits as long as they remain in LPR status.

Will getting Food Stamp benefits hurt your chances of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen?

No! Food Stamp benefits don't affect your citizenship application or USCIS decisions on your immigration status.

For more information, contact any of the following:

- Your Local Department of Social Services
- The New York Immigration Hotline at **1-800-566-7636 or 212-419-3737**
- The New York State Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance Food Stamp Hotline at **1-800-342-3009 (English & Spanish only)**

Note: If you are an alien with a different immigration status than LPR you may still be eligible for food stamps. To find out if you may be eligible for food stamps please contact one of the numbers listed above.