



Food Stamps

for

Immigrants

The law has changed. Now more legal immigrants may get food stamp benefits

What has changed?

- If you get disability benefits, you may qualify for food stamp benefits, no matter when you entered the U.S.
- Starting April 2003, you may qualify for food stamp benefits five years after you entered the U.S.
- Starting October 2003, you may qualify if you are under the age of 18, no matter when you entered the U.S.

Can you apply for your citizen children, even if you're not eligible yourself?

Yes! You will need to provide proof of your income and resources so the worker can determine how much your children will receive.

Does the law change the rules for immigrants who are already eligible?

No! Everyone who was eligible before remains eligible now. But beginning in April 2003, there is no longer any time limit.

Will getting food stamp benefits hurt your chances of becoming a U.S. citizen?

No! Food stamps don't affect your citizenship application or INS decisions.

For more information, contact:

- 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 and Spanish only)

George E Pataki Governor