



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	23DC080 Upstate and New York City
Date:	November 10, 2023
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, HRA Centers, TA Directors, MA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	New WMS Citizenship Code "W"
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance Bureau at: 518-474-9344 or tabureau@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform social services districts (districts) of the creation of a new Welfare Management System (WMS) Citizenship Code (CIT), previously referred to as the Alien/Citizenship Indicator (ACI) code, and when to use the code.

On May 12, 2023, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) released [GIS 23 TA/DC039](#) to notify districts of updates to the Agency's policy pertaining to non-citizens who are considered Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL). PRUCOL is not an immigration status, but a public benefit category used by OTDA for the purposes of Safety Net Assistance (SNA) eligibility.

To track the number of non-citizens that receive SNA pursuant to [GIS 23 TA/DC039](#), OTDA created a new WMS Citizenship Code: "W – Individual who falls under the 2023 expanded PRUCOL definition who may be eligible for SNA/ Medical Assistance (MA)." WMS functionality of Citizenship Code "W" mirrors the functionality of Citizenship Code "O". When assigning the appropriate WMS Citizenship Codes for Temporary Assistance (TA) eligibility purposes, districts must use Citizenship Code "W" for the following non-citizen categories:

- Applicants for Asylum
- Applicants for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Applicants for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Applicants for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Classification
- Applicants for Adjustment of Status to Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR)
- Applicants for Cancellation of Removal

- Applicants for Suspension of Deportation (under former 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA))
- Applicants requesting Deferred Action
- Persons Granted Stays of Deportation – non-citizens who have been found deportable, but deportation is deferred for a specified period
- Indefinite Stay of Deportation – non-citizens who have been found deportable, but deportation is deferred indefinitely
- Indefinite Voluntary Departure – relief that was granted before April 1997 to non-citizens who have been found deportable, but deportation is deferred indefinitely
- Suspension of Deportation pursuant to former Section 244 of the INA (non-citizens in this category have been found deportable, have met a period of continuous residence, and have filed an application for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) to suspend deportation, which has been granted)
- Persons who have filed applications for adjustment of status to LPR under Section 245 of the INA that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has accepted as “properly filed”
- Persons on whose behalf an immediate Relative Petition has been approved and family members covered by the petition (non-citizens who are immediate relatives (spouse, father, mother, or unmarried child) of a United States (U.S.) citizen/LPR who has filed an I-130 Relative Petition on their behalf)
- Applicants for a special non-immigrant visa, including individuals applying for a K Visa (spouse or fiancé of a U.S. citizen), S Visa (certain non-citizens supplying critical information related to terrorism or organized crime), T Visa (trafficking victims and their family members), U Visa (victims of criminal activity and their spouse/children), or V Visa (spouse and children of LPR who are in the process of immigrating to the U.S)

It is important to note that WMS Citizenship Code “W” cannot be assigned to non-citizens on a MA only case. For non-citizen SNA and MA recipients who are coded WMS Citizenship Code “W” that become ineligible for SNA but remain eligible for MA, the WMS Citizenship Code “W” must not be changed, unless there is a change in the non-citizens’ immigration status. For further guidance, upstate districts should refer to the [23.3 WMS Coordinator Guidance](#).

Districts must continue to assign WMS Citizenship Code: “O – PRUCOL” for all non-citizen categories recognized by OTDA as PRUCOL prior to May 12, 2023. When assigning the appropriate WMS Citizenship Codes for TA eligibility purposes, districts must use WMS Citizenship Code “O” for the following non-citizen categories:

- Parolee (for less than one year)
- Subject to an Order of Supervision
- Cancellation of Removal
- Granted DACA
- Granted Deferred Action Status
- "U" visa granted
- "S" visa granted
- "K3," "K4," or "V" visa granted under the Legal Immigration Family Equity Act (LIFE Act)
- Continuous entry and residence in the U.S. prior to January 1, 1972
- Permanent non-immigrant, pursuant to P.L. 99-239, as amended (applicable to citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands) or P.L. 99-658 (applicable to citizens of Palau)
- Granted TPS
- Granted Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)
- Asylum Applicant with Employment Authorization
- Persons granted withholding or deferral of removal under Convention Against Torture (CAT)

- Approved for SIJ classification
- Non-citizen who the USCIS has officially determined is legitimately present in the U.S. and who the USCIS is allowing to reside in the country for an indefinite period of time

Please note that updates to the [LDSS-4579](#): “Non-Citizen Eligibility Desk Aid” and other documentation will be forthcoming. Districts may contact the TA Bureau with any questions by calling: 518-474-9344 or emailing: tabureau@otda.ny.gov.