Q. Can I Get Temporary Assistance If I Am Not A Citizen of the United States (U.S.)?

A. If you are not a citizen of the U.S., you must document that you are in one of the categories listed below in order to be eligible for Temporary Assistance (some people may only be eligible for Safety Net Assistance):

1. A U.S. non-citizen national; or
2. A North American Indian born in Canada to whom the provisions of Section 289 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) apply; or
3. A member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, as defined in Section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)), who was born outside of the U.S.; or
4. An alien admitted to the U.S. as a refugee under Section 207 of the INA; or
5. An alien granted asylum under Section 208 of the INA; or
6. An alien whose deportation has been withheld under Section 243(h) of the INA as in effect prior to April 1, 1997, or an alien whose removal has been withheld under Section 241(b)(3) of the INA; or
7. An alien who is a Cuban or Haitian Entrant, as defined in Section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; or
9. Certain Hmong or Highland Laotian aliens; or
10. A qualified alien who is on active military duty, other than active duty for training, in the U.S. Armed Forces, or their spouse, un-remarried surviving spouse, or unmarried dependent child if such spouse or dependent child is also an alien in a qualified status; or
11. A qualified alien who is a veteran and who (1) has received a discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces characterized as honorable and not on account of alienage, or (2) has a qualifying condition, as defined in Section 350 of the New York State Executive Law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable (and not on account of alienage) from the armed forces, or (3) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in Section 350 of the New York State Executive Law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable (and not on account of alienage) from the armed forces; or their spouse, un-remarried surviving spouse, or unmarried dependent child if such spouse or dependent child is also an alien in a qualified status; or
12. A qualified alien who has worked for 40 (Social Security) qualifying quarters and was lawfully admitted for permanent residence into the U.S. prior to August 22, 1996, or who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, and has resided in the U.S. for five or more years in a qualified status. A qualifying quarter includes any quarter worked by the parent of an alien while the alien was under 18 and any quarter worked by a spouse during marriage if the alien remains married to the spouse or the spouse is deceased. Quarters earned after December 31, 1996, do not count if the alien receives any federal means-tested public benefits during these quarters; or
13. A qualified alien who was lawfully admitted for permanent residence into the U.S. prior to August 22, 1996, or who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, and has resided in the U.S. for five or more years in a qualified status; or
14. A qualified alien who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, and who has resided in the U.S. for less than five years in a qualified status; or
15. An alien paroled into the U.S. under Section 212(d)(5) of the INA for a period of at least one year; or
16. An alien granted conditional entry under Section 203(a)(7) of the INA as in effect prior to April 1, 1980; or
17. Certain Iraqi or Afghan nationals granted special immigrant status under Section 101(a)(27) of the INA or Section 602(B)(1) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (AAPA)/Sec 1059(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2006 (NDAA); or
18. Certain battered aliens as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1641(c); or
19. An alien who is in receipt of a certification or eligibility letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services identifying them to be a victim of severe form of trafficking in persons or an alien classified as a nonimmigrant under Section 1101(a)(15)(T)(ii) of Title 8 in accordance with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, as amended; or
20. An alien whose status is not listed above and is not within the meaning of the term qualified alien but who is otherwise considered to be Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL) in the U.S., which include the following:
   a. An alien paroled into the U.S. under Section 212(d)(5) of the INA for less than one year; or
   b. An alien residing in the U.S. pursuant to an Order of Supervision under Section 241(a)(3) of the INA; or
   c. An alien granted cancellation of removal pursuant to Section 240A of the INA; or
   d. An alien granted deferred action status; or
   e. An alien granted “K3,” “K4,” or “V” visa status established under the Legal Immigration Family Equity Act (LIFE Act); or
   f. An alien granted deferred action as interim relief for a “U” visa; or
   g. An alien granted “S” or “U” visa status; or
   h. An alien who demonstrates that they entered and have continuously resided in the U.S. prior to January 1, 1972, pursuant to Section 249 of the INA; or
   i. An alien who is a permanent nonimmigrant, pursuant to Public Law (P.L.) 99-239, as amended by P.L. 108-188 (applicable to certain citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) or P.L. 99-658 (applicable to citizens of the Republic of Palau); or
   j. An alien granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); or
   k. An alien who has an asylum application pending and has been granted employment authorization by the USCIS; or
   l. An alien who is a beneficiary of deferred enforced departure pursuant to a designation by the President of the U.S.; or
   m. An alien approved by the USCIS for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) classification; or
   n. An alien 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.