

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Many Immigrants Qualify for Cash Assistance in New Mexico

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/NM Works and General Assistance (GA) provide monthly cash benefits on a card that can be used like an ATM card.

GA is available for some disabled immigrants with no minor children and children who have no support from family members.

TANF is available for families with dependent children. Parents who do not qualify because of immigration status can still get benefits for children that qualify. Parents who receive TANF only for their children do not have to meet work requirements in the program.

Immigrants may qualify for TANF or GA if they are in any of these statuses:

- ★ Lawful Permanent Resident,
- ★ Paroled in the U.S. for at least one year,
- ★ Conditional Entrant (granted before 04/01/1980),
- ★ Spouses, children, parent of child who have applied for a visa to leave domestic violence or abuse with a pending or approved self-petition/immigrant visa, application for cancellation of removal/suspension of deportation, and whose need for benefits has a substantial connection to the battery or cruelty,
- ★ Refugee status,
- ★ Asylum status,
- ★ Withholding of deportation/removal,
- ★ Cuban/Haitian entrant,
- ★ Amerasian immigrant,
- ★ Iraqi or Afghan special immigration status,
- ★ Victims of trafficking and their derivative beneficiaries,
- ★ Veteran, active duty military; spouse, un-remarried surviving spouse, or child,
- ★ Member of Hmong or Laotian tribe during the Vietnam era, when the tribe militarily assisted the U.S.; spouse, surviving spouse, or child of tribe member,
- ★ Any person residing “under color of law” (even if you are not an immigrant listed above) who entered the U.S. before August 22, 1996, or
- ★ Certain American Indians born abroad.



Cash assistance counts in a “public charge” test that the federal government can use to deny some immigrants admission to the United States or to deny their applications for lawful permanent residency, but this rule does not apply to many immigrants who qualify for cash assistance. Very few individuals that qualify for cash assistance are subject to the public charge test. If you have any questions about this, please call the number at the bottom of this page and see our handout about public charge.