



THE CENTER ON
IMMIGRATION
AND CHILD WELFARE

IMMIGRANT ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC BENEFITS IN NEW MEXICO DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has created serious financial stress and hardship for many families across New Mexico. This factsheet is intended to provide information about key resources available to immigrants living in NM to help meet basic needs.

Key Points:

- ◆ Many benefits are available regardless of immigration status, including the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, WIC food assistance and free COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccines.
- ◆ If you do not qualify, you can still apply and receive benefits for other family members that do.
- ◆ Immigration status and social security numbers are only required for family members that will be receiving benefits and may not be required to receive benefits in many cases.
- ◆ Families have a right to document their household income in different ways if needed. If you cannot document income through a paycheck or employer statement, your own sworn statement should almost always be accepted.
- ◆ You have a right to get help in applying for programs in the language you speak. Ask for an interpreter if you need one and seek legal help (e.g., NM Legal Aid 1-833-LGL-HELP [1-833-545-4357]) if one is not provided.
- ◆ Getting most COVID relief benefits will not have immigration consequence.¹ Many immigrants, such as refugees and asylees are not subject to the public charge test.



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This content is summarized from the NM Center on Law and Poverty's "[Financial Resource Guide During COVID-19](#)," published July 2021. Content is supplemented by information from the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign's "[Immigrant Eligibility for Public Programs During COVID-19](#)."

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Type of Benefit/Program ¹	Are Immigrants Eligible?	Are there Public Charge Implications?
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 **ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS & TAX CREDITS** 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1st Stimulus Payment (CARES Act: \$1200 per qualifying adult; \$500 per qualifying child dependent) ● 2nd Stimulus Payment (HR 133: \$600 per qualifying adult; \$600 per qualifying child dependent) ● 3rd Stimulus Payment (American Rescue Plan: \$1400 per qualifying taxpayer with an SSN; \$1400 per qualifying dependent with an SSN) ● Child Tax Credit: \$3,600 for qualifying children under age 6. \$3,000 for other qualifying children under age 18. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first payment (CARES Act) required that for married couples filing taxes jointly, BOTH taxpayers had to have a valid SSN and work authorization ● The second payment (HR 133) included some mixed-status families by allowing for a taxpayer with an SSN married to an ITIN² filer and filing taxes jointly to be ELIGIBLE. Child dependents with SSNs with at least one taxpayer or parent with an SSN were also eligible. These households also became retroactively eligible for the first stimulus payment. However, 2.2 million children with SSNs who do not have at least one taxpayer/parent with an SSN claiming them as a dependent still couldn't receive the first and second stimulus payments. ● The third payment (ARP) is available to everyone in a household with an SSN, even if a taxpayer/parent claiming dependents file with an ITIN.* This new eligibility is NOT retroactive to the last two payments. ● Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments: If a child has a Social Security number and their parent(s) have an ITIN, they can get the CTC as long as they meet the other income and eligibility requirements. 	<p>→ Tax credits (which include the stimulus payments) are NOT considered in a public charge test. They are also NOT counted in eligibility considerations for federal programs like Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).</p>
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*If you haven't received the 3rd stimulus payment already, you can get these payments by filing your 2021 taxes. You can also apply for an ITIN at the same time if you don't have one. If you're eligible for the first 2 stimulus payments and haven't gotten them, you need to file or amend a 2020 tax return.







¹ These tables list some of the most common public benefits available and whether immigrants may qualify.
² Individual Taxpayer Identification Number



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CASH ASSISTANCE		
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) ● General Assistance (GA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many immigrants qualify for TANF, including lawfully permanent residents, asylees, refugees, victims of trafficking and more. Children can receive “child-only” TANF benefits if their parents are ineligible because of their immigration status. 	<p>→ Yes, cash assistance may be considered for public charge. However, most immigrants who are eligible for cash benefits are not subject to a public charge test.</p>

FOOD ASSISTANCE		
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ● Women, Infants and Children (WIC) → For more info about NM WIC: https://www.nmwic.org/ ● Pandemic EBT (PEBT) ● The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children can receive SNAP benefits regardless of their parents’ or other household members’ immigration status or eligibility. Non-eligible parents can apply for their eligible household members. ● Household members who are not seeking this benefit do not have to provide their legal status or SSN in the application, but household income information may be required. ● Many immigrants are eligible for SNAP, including lawful permanent residents with 5 years in the U.S., refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking and others. ● LPR Children 18 and under are also eligible without a waiting period. ● Immigrants are eligible for WIC, P-EBT, and TEFAP regardless of immigration or citizenship status. For P-EBT, prior enrollment in SNAP is not required for eligibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SNAP, P-EBT, WIC, TEFAP, and home-delivered meals do NOT trigger a public charge test.

→ For more information about most of the types of assistance listed in this factsheet and how to apply, go to the **NM Human Services Department** website: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/lookingforassistance/>.

- Resources for info on other programs with different websites/application platforms is provided where applicable.

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 UNEMPLOYMENT 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unemployment Insurance (Additional pandemic unemployment benefits expired in September 2021). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Generally, to qualify, immigrants must have work-authorization at the time they completed the work, where they apply for the benefit, and during the time they are receiving the benefit. 	<p>→ “Earned” benefits such as UI are NOT included as part of a public charge determination.</p>
 HEALTHCARE 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medicaid ● Emergency Medicaid ● NM Health Insurance Exchange (BeWellNM) → For more info: https://www.bewellnm.com/ ● COVID-19 testing, treatment, vaccines → For info on COVID-19 testing: https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-19-testing/ → For info on the COVID-19 vaccine: https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-vaccine/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many immigrants qualify for coverage through Medicaid and federal assistance on the Exchange, including green card holders, asylees, refugees and others with humanitarian status; lawfully residing children and pregnant women. ● Immigrants can access Emergency Medicaid regardless of immigration status as long as they meet the other eligibility requirements ● Immigrants can get hospital financial assistance and access county programs and UNM Care regardless of immigration status as long as they meet income and residency requirements. 	<p>→ COVID-19 testing, prevention, treatment, and vaccines will NOT be considered in a public charge test.</p>
 HOUSING 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emergency Rental Assistance Program → For more info: https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/office-of-the-secretary/emergency-rental-assistance-program/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emergency rental assistance is available regardless of immigration status. 	<p>→ No</p>

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 UTILITIES 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one person in the household must be a U.S. Citizen or have a qualifying immigration status (can be a child). 	→ No

 CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare Subsidy <p>→ For more info on this program, go to: https://www.nmeccd.org/child-care-assistance/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrant families qualify if their income is below 200% of the federal poverty line and if the children (6 weeks to 13 years) are U.S. citizens or have a qualifying immigrant status, regardless of the parent or guardian's immigration status. Qualifying statuses include U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, asylees, refugees, victims of trafficking or domestic violence. 	→ No

Immigration Legal Assistance Resources in NM		
Organization	Location	Contact Information
Catholic Charities Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assistance	Albuquerque, NM Santa Fe, NM	ABQ: 505-539-0274 Santa Fe: 505-424-9789 www.ccasnm.org
Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Immigration Services	Albuquerque, NM	505-724-4600/505-724-4649 www.ccasnm.org/dvsasis.html
Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico	Las Cruces, NM Roswell, NM	Las Cruces: 575-527-0500 Roswell: 575-622-1636 www.catholiccharitiesdlc.org
NM Immigrant Law Center	Albuquerque, NM	505-247-1023 www.nmilc.org
Origin Immigration Law	Las Cruces, NM	575-201-3630 www.originimmigrationlaw.com
Santa Fe Dreamers Project	Santa Fe, NM	505-490-2789 www.santafedreamersproject.org