



COMMUNITY ALERT FEE WAIVER

The rules are changing. As early as May or June 2019, we expect new rules that will no longer allow a person to use receipt of public benefits as a way to prove they can't afford to pay the immigration filing fee. Receipt of public benefits has generally been the most common and easiest way to request a fee waiver and prove that a person cannot afford to pay an immigration filing fee. The changes will make it much harder.

There will be even more changes this summer. Immigration fees will probably go up and the fee waiver could be taken away. **If you can apply now, do not delay!**

It is easier to apply for a fee waiver based on your public benefits and that option will be taken away. USCIS is also changing the documents that you must submit to prove you qualify for a fee waiver.

Apply before the rules change!

KEY QUESTIONS FEE WAIVER

1. Are you thinking about applying for:

- U.S. citizenship through naturalization?
- a U visa, T visa, VAWA, TPS?
- a green card based on:
 - U visa, T visa
 - VAWA, SIJS
 - TPS, asylum?
- green card renewal?
- a work permit or work permit renewal?

2. Do you, your spouse, or the head of your household receive benefits based on your income? For example:

- Medicaid
- SNAP (food stamps)
- SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
- TANF (welfare)

If you answered yes to both these questions, submit your immigration application as soon as possible!

If you wait, it could be too late to have the filing fees waived for your application.



RULE CHANGE

MAKING YOUR CASE

After the changes take effect, you will only qualify for a fee waiver if you can show:

- Your household income is at or below 150% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)
OR
- You have “financial hardship” due to things like costly medical expenses, unemployment, eviction, or homelessness

COST TO APPLY WITHOUT FEE WAIVER

FILING FEES FOR SOME OF THE MOST COMMON IMMIGRATION APPLICATIONS:

• Naturalization (U.S. citizenship) application	\$725**
• Green card application*	\$1,225**
• Waiver application, usually filed with green card application*	\$930
• Green card renewal application	\$540**
• Work permit application or renewal	\$410
• Certificate of citizenship (for people who became U.S. citizens through their parents)	\$1,170
• Appeal of naturalization denial	\$700
• Other appeal	\$675

* fee waiver only available for some applicants

** includes \$85 biometrics fee

LEARN MORE

DO YOU QUALIFY?

Fee Waiver Calculator

newamericanscampaign.org/fee-waiver/

Low-cost Immigration Help

immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/

Fee Waiver Application Form

uscis.gov/i-912