

SNAP (Food Assistance) for Non-Citizens

Effective November 1, 2025

Only certain immigrant groups called “Qualified Aliens” may be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, **if all other eligibility rules are met.**

Non-Citizen groups that **meet the citizenship requirements with no waiting period** include the following groups:

	U.S. Non-Citizen Nationals		Eligible immediately with no waiting period
	Cuban-Haitian Entrants (CHE): Must have verified CHE status		Eligible immediately with no waiting period
	COFA Citizens: Citizens of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, or Palau		Eligible immediately with no waiting period

Non-Citizen groups that **meet the citizenship requirements after a 5-year waiting period:**

	Lawful Permanent Resident Status (LPR)		Eligible after five-year waiting period
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Some Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders) may meet the citizenship requirements **without a 5-year wait** if they meet any of the following conditions:

- Are under 18-years old
- Have 40 qualifying work quarters
- Are blind or disabled
- Were lawfully residing in the U.S. and age 65 or older on August 22, 1996
- Have a U.S. Military connection
- Admitted as an Amerasian Immigrant with status adjusted to LPR
- Certain American Indians born abroad
- Certain Hmong or Highland Laotian tribal members
- Individuals whose deportation has been withheld
- Admitted as Refugees with status adjusted to LPR
- Certain Ukrainian Nationals granted parole from February 24, 2022 to September 30, 2024 with status adjusted to LPR
- Individuals qualified under urgent humanitarian reasons (e.g., survivors of trafficking or domestic violence)
- Individuals granted Asylum
- Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant (SIV) with status adjusted to LPR
- Afghan Nationals Paroled into U.S. between July 31, 2021 to September 30, 2023 with status adjusted to LPR



Department of Health and Human Services
Cuyahoga Job and Family Services



Available Food Resources for Non-Citizens



United Way 2-1-1

- 📞 Call 2-1-1 any time to find food pantries, shelters and other help.
- 💻 Use their online chat at <https://www.211oh.org/>



Greater Cleveland Food Bank - Community Resource Center

- 📍 Location: 15500 S. Waterloo Rd., Cleveland, OH 44110
- 📞 Phone: 216-738-2067
- 🕒 Market Hours: Visit <https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/get-help/community-resource-center> for more information.



More Food Pantries

- 🌐 Find a list of food pantries in Cuyahoga County here: <https://www.foodpantries.org/co/oh-cuyahoga>



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