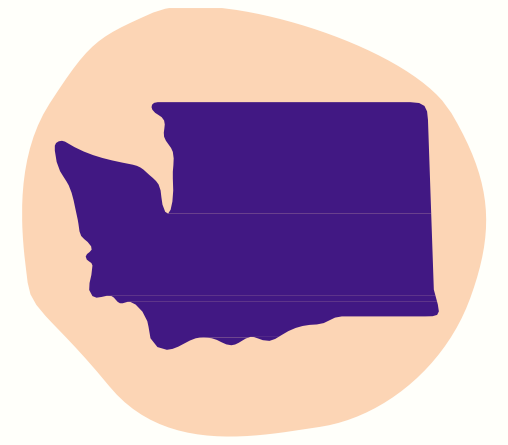


Access to Benefits is Essential for Washington Families to Thrive



For over 25 years, a policy that passed in 1996 has arbitrarily denied lawfully present immigrant families access to critical health and social services, such as Medicaid, CHIP, and SNAP.

An estimated **111,000 Washingtonians** are excluded from federal public benefits.¹

- ▶ Over **88,500** are green card holders
- ▶ **19,250** have DACA granted
- ▶ **9,500** are TPS holders²



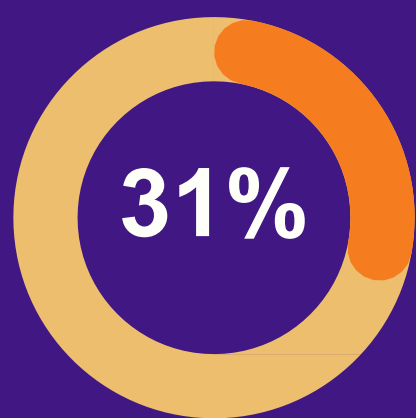
In Washington, there are **126,240** people living in immigrant families with low incomes where at least one member of the household is excluded from federal SNAP eligibility because of their status.³

Nationwide, an estimated over 3.4 million immigrants authorized to be in the United States face barriers to public benefits eligibility due to their immigration status.

Barriers to immigrants hurt communities of color in Washington. Immigrants account for 66% of Asian Americans, 31% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, 30% of Latinos, and 24% of Black people.⁴

In Washington the uninsured rate for legal immigrants is **more than double** the rate for citizens — **11.4% compared to 5.6%** — likely because many are excluded from public health care programs.⁵

In Washington, 491,500 children have at least one immigrant parent. Over **50,500 children** have a parent who faces barriers to public benefits due to the 5-year bar.⁶



of children in Washington live in a mixed status family—higher than the 26% national average.⁷

Despite the vast majority of children in mixed status families being U.S. citizens themselves, they are over

2X less likely

to access health coverage they may be eligible for in part due to their parent's immigration status.⁸

38% of children in low-income households in Washington had an immigrant parent in 2022.⁹



These exclusions hurt not only immigrant families, but also local and state governments, hospitals, food banks, and direct service organizations. Immigrant families' needs for health, food, and shelter do not go away; they only get shifted. **Congress must repeal these restrictions by passing:**

The LIFT the BAR Act (H.R. 4170/S. 2038) to repeal the 1996 restrictions on lawfully present immigrants' eligibility for public benefits, aligning the federal safety net's eligibility standards with the Affordable Care Act.

Sources:

1 Estimates based on CLASP analysis of Office of Homeland Security Statistics 2018-2022 Lawful Permanent Resident State Profiles, accounting for the number of refugees/asylees in each state and state policies which impact public benefit eligibility. The estimates of pregnant individuals were calculated by using the 2022 general fertility rate.

2 American Immigration Council, Immigrants in Washington, <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/Locations/Washington>, and Congressional Research Service, May 28, 2024 <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/homsec/RS20844.pdf>

3 Migration Policy Institute, SNAP Access and Participation in U.S.-Born and Immigrant Households, https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi_snap-brief-2023-final.pdf

4 Analysis of 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata File by AAPI Data, <https://explore.aapidata.com/>

5 Washington's non-citizen immigrant population continued to experience disparities in health coverage, <https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/dataresearch/researchbriefs/brief112.pdf>

6 National Center for Children in Poverty, Immigration Profiles, <https://www.nccp.org/immigration-profiles/>

7 Children in U.S. Immigrant Families, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/children-immigrant-families?width=900&height=850&iframe=true>

8 Kevin H. Nguyen, Ira B. Wilson, Anya R. Wallack, Amal N. Trivedi; Children's Health Insurance Coverage and Parental Immigration Status: 2015–2019. *Pediatrics* August 2022; 150 (3): e2021056012. 10.1542/peds.2021-056012 <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/150/3/e2021056012/188633/Children-s-Health-Insurance-Coverage-and-Parental>

9 Migration Policy Institute, State Immigration Profiles, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/WA>

This factsheet is adapted from a template provided by PIF, NILC, and CLASP.