

TIMELINE FOR NEW ASYLEES

For those who have recently been granted asylum, the following is a guideline of timeframes which may be of importance.

IMMEDIATELY after asylum is granted

- Begin the time period to apply for your spouse or unmarried children who are under the age of 21 to join you in the U.S.
- Apply for a Regular Social Security Number (unrestricted) at Social Security Office. Get receipt!
- Disabled, blind or aged (65+) who are low income, apply for SSI at the Social Security Office.
- With SSN receipt in hand, apply for public benefits such as Medi-Cal/RMA, CalWORKS/RCA/CalFRESH at your local Social Service Agency.
- Those with private health insurance through an employer or "Covered California," begin immunizations with your doctor needed to later apply for Legal Permanent Residency. Schedule an appointment with your primary care doctor.

45 DAYS after asylum is granted

- Receive Medi-Cal determination and, if approved, your Benefits ID Card.
- For those on Medi-Cal or Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) make an appointment for Refugee Health Screening Services (RHS) through your county specific RHS site. When complete, get your records and chose a medical provider.

1 YEAR after asylum is granted

- After being granted asylum and residing in the U.S. for a total of 365 days or more, you are now eligible to submit your application to adjust status to Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) for your 'green card.' NOTE: Do not submit this application early. It MUST be at least 365 days total residence since the date you were granted asylum and include your I-693 medical exam. USCIS application fee waivers may be available for those who provide proof from their local Social Services Agency that they receive means-tested benefits such as Medi-Cal, CalFRESH, or CalWORKS.
- You are now eligible as a California resident to qualify for in-state California tuition fees to attend college or university instead of being charged very high fees as a foreign or out-of-state student.

5 YEARS after LPR is granted

- You are now eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship!

30 DAYS after you apply for Social Security

- Receive your Social Security Card in the mail.
- With SS card, go to DMV to apply for a California ID or driver's license.
- With SSN, ALL MEN age 18-25 years register for Selective Service.
- Hear back regarding your applications for CalWORKS/RCA/CalFRESH or SSI.

11 MONTHS after asylum is granted

- Review instructions for Green Card Medical Exam on uscis.gov website under "Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record" and gather all immunization and medical records.
- Schedule an appointment with a Civil Surgeon who will complete the I-693 form and provide it to you in a sealed envelope to include with your application to adjust status.
- Some refugee health clinics can help fill out the I-693 for a reduced fee. Or use uscis.gov to locate a civil surgeon and inquire about costs. Shop around as costs vary greatly.

2 YEARS after asylum is granted

- This ends the time period to apply for your spouse or unmarried children who are under the age of 21.