

## RESOURCES

### CASA Maryland

If you want to request legal assistance in immigration, employment, or housing matters, please call **1-866-765-2272**.

### Esperanza Center

If you want to request legal counseling or representation in immigration matters, please call **(667) 600-2900** or email **ilsinfo@cc-md.org**.

### MD Hunger Solutions

If you need assistance applying for SNAP (food stamps) by phone, please call **1-866-821-5552**.

### Public Justice Center

If you need legal assistance with wage theft, housing eviction defense, school suspension or expulsion, access to health care, benefits, interpretation or translation, please call **(410) 625-9409**.

## CONTACT US

Would you like to request free legal representation?

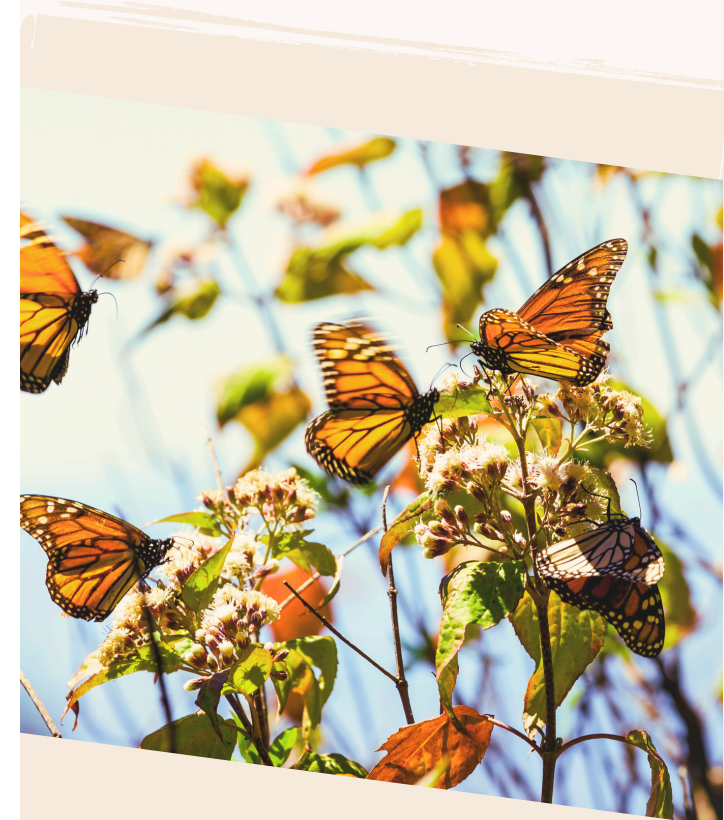
PUBLIC **JUSTICE** CENTER 

**(410) 625-9409**

**[www.publicjustice.org](http://www.publicjustice.org)**

This brochure is provided for informational purposes only and does not act as legal advice. This information is not a substitution for a careful review of your individual situation with an attorney. Revised 8/29/25.

# Know Your Rights



## Public Benefits for Non-Citizens

PUBLIC **JUSTICE** CENTER 

## Cash Assistance Program Eligibility

### Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)

Provides monthly cash assistance to families caring for children

### Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP)

Provides monthly short-term cash assistance to low-income Marylanders living with a disability.

A Non-Citizen **qualifies** for TCA and TDAP if they are:

- **A Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)**
  - After 5 years of permanent residency, non-citizens may access these benefits if they meet the program requirements
- **Non-Citizens with humanitarian or other special status.** Examples include but are not limited to:
  - Admitted to the U.S. as a refugee under § 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;
  - Is granted asylum under § 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act

A Non-Citizen **does not qualify** for TCA and TDAP if they are:

- A Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) living in the U.S. for **less than five years**
- Individuals with Temporary Status (Student/Tourist Visa)
- Undocumented Non-Citizens

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Eligibility

SNAP provides monthly benefits to low-income individuals and households to help them purchase food. A federal law signed by the president on July 4, 2025, restricts SNAP eligibility for non-citizens. Non-citizens still qualify for SNAP if they are:

- A Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR): after 5 years of permanent residency, non-citizens may access these benefits if they meet the program requirements.
- Certain Cuban and Haitian refugees, parolees, asylees or applicants for asylum.
- Individual who resides lawfully in the US with a Compact of Free Association (COFA).

### What if I do not read, write or speak English very well?

When applying for public benefits, you have a right to receive ALL written and oral communication in your primary language. The Department of Social Services (**DSS**) **cannot**:

- Require you to bring your own interpreter. DSS must provide one for you for free.
- Communicate with you in a language that is not your primary language.
- Send you any written communication in English if you told DSS you cannot read, write, speak or understand English very well.
- Deprive you of meaningful and equal access to programs, services, and information.

## What is a “non-applicant?”

A non-applicant is an individual who is not applying for public benefits but may be involved in the case in some capacity. This could include family members or guardians applying on behalf of the eligible household members.

### What if I don't have a Social Security Number (SSN)?

In Maryland, if you are applying for benefits on behalf of someone else and you will not receive benefits, then you do not have to provide an SSN for yourself. You have to provide an SSN for everyone in the household (including children), except you do not have to provide an SSN for someone who is ineligible for benefits because of their immigration status.

### Will my income count even if I am not part of the case?

It depends on the program. SNAP considers the income of an ineligible household member in determining the monthly benefit amount. For TCA/TDAP, the income may be counted but it depends.

### If I am applying for benefits on behalf of someone else, what documentation would I need to provide?

If you are not eligible for benefits and you are applying on behalf of someone who is eligible, DSS should only verify the immigration status of the individual(s) that will be receiving the benefits.