

11/20/03



Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

**PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANT
SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN
ILLINOIS**

*I am not a citizen.
I am trying to get out of a violent domestic situation.
Can I receive public assistance?*

You can receive cash and medical assistance if you have experienced domestic violence and:

- Are a lawful permanent resident (LPR); *or*
- Have self-petitioned under the Violence Against Women's Act; *or*
- Have petitioned for residency as a family member of a lawful permanent resident or citizen; *or*
- Have filed for or received cancellation of removal/ suspension of deportation.

What assistance can I receive?

No matter when you entered the United States, you can receive:

- A **TANF** cash grant if you have very low income and have children;
- An **AABD** cash grant if you have a disability or are over 65;
- A **Transitional Assistance** cash grant if you are a single adult who cannot work.
- Medical assistance including Medicaid and KidCare.
- If you entered the U.S. after 8/22/96, you can receive **Food Stamps** five years after you become a battered immigrant or other qualified Immigrant

What documentation do I need?

You must demonstrate that you are the spouse, widow or child of a U.S. citizen or the spouse or child of a lawful permanent resident by showing:

- A Green Card; *or*
- An I-360 Violence Against Women's Act self-petition; *or*

- An I-130 family immigration visa petition; *or*
- A petition to cancel removal or suspend deportation; *or*
- Other authoritative documents.

You must demonstrate that--

you have been abused by a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident or family member who lived with you *or*

you are the parent or child of someone who has been abused by a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident or family member who lived with you, by showing:

- An I-797 form indicating approval or validity of the I-360 Violence Against Women's Act self petition; *or*
- An Order of Protection or criminal conviction of the abuser; *or*
- Police reports or medical or other records documenting the abuse; *or*
- Statements from domestic violence or other social service providers; *or*
- Sworn statements of friends, family, neighbors or others who know about the abuse; *or*
- Your own sworn statement; *or*
- Other authoritative documents.

You must demonstrate that you need assistance "due to the abuse" – for example, to become self-sufficient, escape your abuser, replace lost financial support, make up for a job lost because of the abuse, to obtain medical attention, or to care for your children.

and

You must demonstrate that you are living separately from your abuser or plan to live separately within one month after receipt of assistance

If you are undocumented, you can still receive TANF, FOOD STAMPS, KIDCARE, WIC (Women, Infant and Children Food Supplements) or any other program for your U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant children. *The IDHS caseworker is prohibited from asking for information about your immigration status if you are requesting benefits for your child only.*

***Any pregnant woman*, no matter what her immigration status, can receive **PRENATAL CARE** and **WIC** (Women, Infants and Children Food Supplements) for herself and her baby.**

Everyone can get emergency care and free or low-cost vaccinations for themselves and their children!

To apply for cash, food and medical assistance, go to your Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) office.

If you need to talk to someone about domestic violence, call:

1-877-863-6338

or

1-800-799-7233

(in Cook County)

(national domestic violence helpline)

For more information, call the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights at (312) 332-7360; fax: (312) 332-7044; email: info@icirr.org