



3SquaresVT for New Americans: Who is eligible?

You may apply for 3SquaresVT food assistance, no matter when you came to the U.S., if you are:

- under 18 (children under 18 may receive benefits even if their parent are not eligible)
- an asylee or refugee
- receiving disability benefits
- a Cuban or Haitian immigrant
- an individual granted withholding of deportation or removal
- an Amerasian
- Hmong or Highland Laotian tribe member
- Canadian-born American Indian
- Iraqi Special Immigrant (SIV)
- a victim of domestic violence or human trafficking
- Afghan Special Immigrant or Ukrainian (paroled prior to 9/30/2023)

If you are a Legal Permanent Resident who does not fall into any of the above categories, you may get benefits if:

- you **have lived in the U.S. for five years** or
- you, your parents, and/or spouse have worked in the U.S. for 10 years total



All immigrants must be lawfully residing in the U.S. and meet income, resource and other eligibility requirements in order to qualify for 3SquaresVT benefits. For more information, materials in other languages, or to get an application: **Call 1-800-479-6151 or 1-855-247-3092 for a spoken language interpreter.**

Will I have problems getting my green card if I get 3SquaresVT benefits?

No. Getting 3SquaresVT benefits or other non-cash assistance will not count against you when you apply for your green card.

Can my child get 3SquaresVT benefits even if I do not qualify?

Yes. Even if you are not a Legal Permanent Resident or cannot get 3SquaresVT benefits for yourself, your lawfully residing child under age 18 can get benefits. If you apply for 3SquaresVT on behalf of your child, you will not have to give a social security number or answer questions about your immigration status. However, you will have to give information about your income and resources.

If I apply for 3SquaresVT, will the people who live with me have to answer questions about their immigration status?

People who live in the house but do not want or are not eligible for 3SquaresVT benefits will not have to show any immigration papers or give their social security number. Those who do not provide their SSN (or citizenship documentation) will be excluded from the household, however their income and resources may count.

Will the Department for Children and Families Economic Services Division (ESD) report me to Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) if I refuse to answer questions about my immigration status?

No. If you do not want to answer questions about your immigration status, DCF and ESD are not allowed to ask you any more questions or try to find out about your immigration status from anyone else. They will not report you to ICE.

Can I get an interpreter to help me apply for 3SquaresVT benefits?

Yes. If you need someone to help you communicate, you can ask for a spoken language interpreter, and ESD will pay for it. Call 1-855-247-3092 for a spoken language interpreter.

I applied for 3SquaresVT and was denied. What can I do?

If you think you are eligible for 3SquaresVT benefits, you can call the Benefits Center and ask for an explanation. You can also appeal ESD's decision, you must file for an appeal within 90 days by writing or calling the ESD office (writing is the best way). Vermont Law Help can give you a lawyer or paralegal to talk with you, call 1-800-747-5022 to learn more.

If you need help or have questions, please call the Benefits Service Center at **1-800-479-6151**.