

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE



VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING TORTURE & OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES

As of January 1, 2018, individuals who intend to file or have filed a U-Visa, T-Visa, and/or an Asylum application qualify for state funded public benefits:



**Medical Assistance
(Medicaid/Medicare)**



**A state funded food program similar
to SNAP/Food stamps**



**TANF Cash
Assistance**

The program through IL Department of Human Services (IL DHS) is referred to as Victims of Trafficking, Torture and Other Serious Crimes (VTTC).

In order to apply, you must be:

- ✓ Within benefit specific income requirements
- ✓ 9 years or older
- ✓ Preparing to file or have filed one of the above visa applications
- ✓ A resident of Illinois

BENEFIT SPECIFIC INCOME REQUIREMENTS

Each type of public benefit has different requirements based on how much you earn, your age, disabilities, size of household, etc. The requirements include:

Food Assistance: Gross Income Limit is 165% FPL & 200% FPL for those Age 60 or older
OR Disabled

Cash Assistance: Gross Income Limit is 50% of FPL

Medical Assistance: Gross Income Limit is 100% of FPL and must not be eligible to receive any other medical program

A household for an individual applying for the State Food Program includes: the primary applicant/survivor, children under 22 years old who live with the applicant/survivor, spouse/parent of children if they live in the household. Everyone else living with you who buys food separately is not part of your household.

A household for an individual applying for TANF Cash and/or Medicaid includes: the primary applicant/survivor, spouse of primary applicant/survivor, and applicant/survivor's children under 19 years old. Everyone else in the household must apply separately.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Apply online via <https://abe.illinois.gov>.
2. Upon completion of the application, upload the required documents needed to supplement the application. If you don't have these readily available, you can submit after submission.
 - a. Government issued Photo Government Issued Photo ID (a passport is acceptable)
 - b. Proof of income for all "earners" in household (paystubs, letter from your employer, W-2, taxes)
 - c. Proof of residency (photo ID, lease, official mail, car insurance);
 - d. Social Security numbers for all members of household who have one;
 - e. Birth certificates for all members who have one;
 - f. Sworn Statement from the client stating that you are eligible and plan to apply;
 - g. Sworn statement from a service provider/attorney stating that you are eligible because of the visa for which you are applying;
 - h. If you've already filed, you can submit a receipt of your application.

All VTTC benefits are being processed through the Special Units DHS office.

Special Units will also handle any companion cases associated with the VTTC cases. Upon submitting your application, send an email to DHS.FCS.VTTC@illinois.gov with the application # and indicate that you applied for your client(s) for VTTC benefits. You can send supplemental documentation then.

- a. Sometimes, a local office gets the application before Special Units can pull it from the queue. In that event, the local office should accept the application and forward to Special Units for processing.

PUBLIC CHARGE: VTTC food and medical assistance are not considered as part of the public charge test. People who are applying for and have been granted asylum, a U-Visa or a T-Visa are exempt from the test for public charge for inadmissibility.