



## 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 may qualify for state funded public benefits:



**Medical Assistance**  
(Medicaid)



**VTTC Food Assistance**  
(A state funded food program similar to SNAP/Food stamps)



**VTTC Cash Assistance**  
(A state funded cash program similar to TANF)

The program through IL Department of Human Services (IDHS) 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
- ✓ 19 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% of the federal poverty level (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 age 22 and younger 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 the 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. In the Office Information section of the application, select the Special Units office from the dropdown menu.
3. Enter “VTTC application” to the comment section of the application before you submit. You may include additional information about the applicant’s status in this section.
4. 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, employer letter, 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 they are eligible and plan to apply;
  - g. Sworn statement from a service provider/attorney stating that they are eligible because of the visa for which they 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 the application, send an email to [dhs.fcs.vttc@illinois.gov](mailto:dhs.fcs.vttc@illinois.gov) with the application # and indicate that you applied for your client(s) for VTTC benefits. You can attach supplemental documentation via email to the Special Units.

- 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.
- Interviews for cash and SNAP benefits are required and can be conducted via Telephone Interview. Please ensure applicant knows to expect telephone call from DHS; It may be helpful if community partner/organization assist applicant through the interview process.

**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.**

### Need more help?

[HelpHub](#) is an online community where enrollment assisters in Illinois can share their experiences, ask questions, and troubleshoot problems they are having helping customers enroll into public benefit programs and health care. HelpHub experts answer questions on immigrant eligibility for public benefits and on the intersection of public benefits and public charge. Visit [www.HelpHub@povertlaw.org](http://www.HelpHub@povertlaw.org) for more information.