

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)  
Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide**

**Non-Citizen/Citizen Status**

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**Revision Date:**

September 1, 2020

**Background:**

This section provides the citizenship/non-citizen status requirements for CAPI.

**Purpose:**

This section is updated to add instructions for expired Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) cards.

**Policy:**

Verification of United States (U.S.) citizenship or immigration status is required for staff to determine CAPI eligibility. A non-citizen must be one of the following to be eligible for CAPI:

- A legal immigrant who meets the immigration status requirements for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program (SSI/SSP) on August 21, 1996, which are either:
  - A qualified non-citizen
  - A non-citizen permanently residing in the U.S. under color of law (PRUCOL)
- A victim of human trafficking, domestic violence, or other serious crime.

**PRUCOL Definition:**

PRUCOL individuals are those non-citizens residing in the U.S. with the knowledge of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and where USCIS does not intend to enforce their departure from the U.S.

Do not rely on an applicant's self-declaration or another program's determination that an applicant is PRUCOL. Analyze each case to determine if the applicant qualifies as PRUCOL for CAPI.

**Determining PRUCOL Status:**

PRUCOL refers to categories 15-26 on Desk Aid 99-101.2A, Non-Citizen/Citizen Status Chart and Desk Aid and 99-101.2C, Non-Citizen/Citizen Verification Desk Aid. Immigrants who do not meet the requirements of categories 15-25 often attempt to qualify under category 26, which is a non-citizen who can show that USCIS both:

- Knows they are in the U.S.
- Does not intend to deport him/her, either because of the person's status category or individual circumstances

See Desk Aid 99-101.2C, Non-Citizen/Citizen Verification Desk Aid, for the verification requirements for this category.

**Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE):**

SAVE is an electronic federal/state information sharing database that USCIS makes available to state and county governments. SAVE will verify a customer's immigration or citizenship status and will indicate if the applicant is authorized to work in the U.S. See EOPG, "Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Secondary Verification" for procedures for e-SAVE for secondary verification if the initial response is "Institute Secondary Verification."

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As USCIS does not recognize PRUCOL as a valid immigration status, SAVE will not identify individuals as PRUCOL. Make the PRUCOL determination using the actions in Desk Aid 99-101.2C, Non-Citizen/Citizen Verification Desk Aid.

Sponsorship:

If an immigrant who is a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) alleges no sponsor, verification of that lack of sponsorship must be obtained from USCIS, using e-SAVE.

Extended CAPI:

Extended CAPI eligibility is for new entrants (who entered the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996) who:

- Do not have a sponsor; or
- Have a sponsor who is not deceased, disabled, or abusive; and
- Meets all other CAPI eligibility requirements

Originally, this category of eligibility was time limited. Later changes removed the time limitation and changed sponsor deeming for these recipients from five years to ten years. The ten-year deeming period applies to all extended CAPI recipients who are sponsored immigrants, regardless of which Affidavit (I-134 or I-864) the sponsor signed, unless the sponsor is otherwise exempt.

Non-Citizen/Citizen Status:

Desk Aid 99-101.2A shows the CAPI eligibility, SSI/SSP eligibility, and required actions for each non-citizen/citizen category.

Immigrant status will be reviewed at least at redetermination of non-medical eligibility. If, at any time, the Human Services Specialist (HSS) becomes aware of any change in the immigrant's status that could affect the individual's eligibility, notify the recipient to take the appropriate action. Appropriate action may be to file for SSI/SSP since the status would now make the individual eligible to federal benefits.

Non-Citizen Status Verification:

Desk Aid 99-101.2C shows the verification requirements for each non-citizen/citizenship status.

Expired LPR Card

Accept expired LPR cards if SAVE verifies the customer has current LPR status. Only discontinue/deny CAPI benefits if the immigration status cannot be verified. Include images of the expired LPR card and SAVE reports in the case file.

Conditional Benefits after Naturalization

Senate Bill (SB) 84 provides a conditional continuation of CAPI benefits for recipients who are naturalized while in the program. Individuals who naturalize while receiving CAPI benefits will continue to receive those benefits if they:

- Remain eligible for CAPI
- Request conditional benefits by completing the mandatory Request for Conditional CAPI, SOC 830
- Apply for SSI in a timely manner (A timely application filing shall be considered a filing within 30 calendar days of signing for SOC 830.)

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- Fully cooperate in the application and appeal process of the Social Security Administration (SSA)

Conditional benefits begin the month following the recipient’s report of their naturalization, provided the recipient signs form SOC 830 within 30 days.

Processing Guide 99-101.2A shows the actions for Conditional Benefits after Naturalization.

Desk Aid 99-101.2D shows some examples of Conditional Benefits after Naturalization.

Form SOC 830:

By completing and signing form SOC 830, the recipient acknowledges that they:

- Want to receive Conditional CAPI
- Understand the terms and conditions for receiving the Conditional CAPI benefits
- Are obligated to repay any overpayments should they fail to comply with the eligibility conditions.

Termination of Conditional CAPI Benefits:

The table below shows the conditions in which conditional CAPI benefits will be terminated.

<b>If the ...</b>	<b>Then ...</b>
Newly naturalized citizen loses their CAPI eligibility for any reason other than naturalization, regardless of the status of their SSI application,	Terminate the Conditional CAPI.
Conditional CAPI recipient does not successfully complete the SSI application and/or appeal process,	
Conditional CAPI recipient becomes eligible for an SSI payment,	

A naturalized citizen receiving Conditional CAPI benefits cannot be reinstated into CAPI once CAPI benefits have been terminated.

Overpayments:

Current overpayment rules will apply to any regular CAPI benefits received by the recipient after their date of naturalization, up to the date that naturalization is reported. The table below shows when an overpayment occurs for Conditional CAPI benefits.

<b>If ...</b>	<b>Then ...</b>
Conditional CAPI benefits are received for a month in which SSI/SSP is also received, and not recovered through the Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) process,	an overpayment subject to normal recovery procedures has occurred.
The individual fails to fully cooperate in the SSI/SSP application process,	the individual has been overpaid for all Conditional CAPI benefits received.
The individual remains otherwise eligible for CAPI and fully cooperates in the SSI/SSP application and/or appeal process,	any Conditional CAPI benefits received after the individual signed form SOC 830, for which the individual does not receive SSI/SSP benefits is not an overpayment.

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**Procedure:**

See Processing Guide 99-101.2A for procedures for Conditional Benefits after Naturalization.

**Other Program Impacts:**

None.

**References:**

MPP 49-020

ACLs 98-82, 08-03, and 20-88

ACIN 36-05 and I-79-16

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by August 31, 2023

**Approval for Release:**

*Rick Wanne, 9-22-20*

Rick Wanne, Director  
Eligibility Operations