Okay, I fit into one of the immigration categories listed on page 1. Can I get SSI?

Were you in the U.S. legally and permanently before August 22, 1996?

Yes

were you granted refugee, asylum or withholding status?

No

You can get SSI for 7 years after you got that status. After 7 years you need to become a U.S. citizen.

No

Were you getting SSI on August 22, 1996?

Yes

Are you a U.S. veteran or active duty member of the armed forces? (or a spouse or dependent of one?) see note #2 below

No

You can keep getting SSI as long as you are elderly or disabled.

Yes

You can get SSI without time limits.

No

Are you disabled?

No

You can't get SSI.

Yes

You can get SSI.

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**Note #1: Work Time:** Time that your spouse spends working counts as your work time. If you immigrated as a child, your parents’ work time while you were a minor can be counted. It can be complicated. SSI helps you figure out work time.

You can't count work time after December 31, 1996 if you got public benefits (AFDC, Food Stamps, SNAP, MA or MFIP). Talk to SSI or a lawyer for details.

**Note #2: Hmong soldiers and veterans with sponsors**

Hmong soldiers who fought with the CIA during the Vietnam War are not “U.S. veterans” under U.S. law.

If you are a veteran or active duty member of the armed forces who came to the U.S. through the petition of a relative after December 12, 1997, income and assets of your sponsor and your sponsor’s spouse are counted as if they are your own. That could put you over the limit to be able to get SSI. But, if you do not have food and shelter because your sponsor is not supporting you, you may get benefits. You may also be able to get benefits if you have been abused by your spouse or parent, you no longer live with your abuser, and your need for benefits is because of the abuse.