

## ASYLUM SEEKERS

The following was found at [Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants – What’s the Difference? | LIRS](#) :

Legally speaking, all those who begin their application with a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion are considered asylum seekers. Asylum seekers must arrive or cross the border to apply.

The asylum process can take years to conclude. In some cases, a person may file his or her application or pass a credible fear screening and receive a hearing or interview date years in the future. If their application is ultimately accepted, the asylum seeker receives asylee status – granting them relief from deportation and the right to work legally in the U.S.

Asylum seekers cannot apply for permission to work in the U.S. at the same time they apply for asylum. They can, however, apply for employment authorization 365 calendar days after filing a complete asylum application – a full year without the legal right to work and provide for their loved ones. Additionally, most asylees and asylum seekers aren’t eligible for federally funded benefits, so they do not commonly have access to programs such as food stamps and Medicaid. After one year in the U.S., asylees may apply for green cards, also known as legal permanent residency, and they bear responsibility for paying application fees.

The following found at [8-L Medicaid Aliens \(iowa.gov\)](#) :

A partial list of “lawfully residing” class of admission and employment authorization codes is provided below. Additional alien categories and status codes may qualify. Contact SPIRS with questions.

- Aliens currently under temporary protected status under Section 244 of the INA, and pending applicants for temporary protected status who have been granted employment authorization (A12 on EAD);
- Aliens who have been granted employment authorization under 8 CFR 274a.12(c)(9), (10), (16), (18), (20), (22), or (24) (C9, C10, C16, C18, C20, C22, or C24 on EAD);
- Pending applicants for asylum under Section 208(a) of the INA or for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) of the INA or under the Convention Against Torture who has been granted employment authorization, and such an applicant under age 14 who has had an application pending for at least 180 days;