

### Citizenship/Eligible Immigration Status

In order to receive assistance, a family member must be a U.S. Citizen or have legal immigrant status. Individuals who are neither may elect not to declare their status. Eligible immigrants are persons who are in one of the immigrant categories as specified by HUD. Individuals claiming eligible immigration status must present appropriate immigration documents, which must be verified through the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

All family members are required to provide verification of a Social Security Number. If the family member is new to the U.S. and does not yet possess a Social Security Number, they must present a letter from an acceptable source certifying that they are in "Good Standing" and do not have an arrest record for drug-related or violent criminal behavior and are not subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender program.

The citizenship and eligible immigration status of each member of the family is considered individually before the family's eligibility is determined. Families including ineligible members may be classified as mixed families or as ineligible families.

***Mixed Families:*** A family is eligible for assistance as long as at least one member is a citizen or eligible immigrant. Families that include eligible and ineligible individuals are called "mixed families." Mixed families will be given notice that their assistance will be pro-rated and that they may request a hearing if they contest this determination.

***Ineligible Families:*** Applicant families that include no eligible members will be ineligible for assistance. Such families will be denied admission and offered an opportunity for an informal hearing.