

Disability Resources for Non-Citizens

Finding services for people with disabilities when you are not a citizen can be challenging. This handout is designed to give you a sense of where you can go for assistance and resources.

Available to Everyone

- **Special Education-** All children under the age of 22 years old are eligible for free Special Education services in the school district where they live. This includes transportation to and from school, and any therapies or technologies they need to be successful in the classroom. <https://peatc.org/> is a great free resource for learning more about Special Education.
- **Children's Services Act (CSA)-** CSA is a pool of additional funding to help students with disabilities who are struggling to be successful with the services available in their school. It can provide additional services at home, private school funding, or funding for residential schools. <https://www.csa.virginia.gov/>
- **Case Management/Service Coordination and Employment/Day Funding-** If someone has a developmental disability, they're eligible to reach out to their local Community Services Board (CSB) for help. The CSB can provide some case management and help individuals link to other resources. They're also the gateway to other disability services and funding for people who are eligible, like funding for day or employment supports for people who have aged out of the public school system (only available in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax). <https://vacsb.org/csb-bha-directory/>
- **Food Pantries and Household Goods-** There are lots of small non-profits and religious groups that give food, household goods, or other necessities to anyone in need. You can see a list of option at <https://www.novahss.org/housing-resources/searching-for-housing>.
- **Information and Referral, Toolkits, and Workshops-** The Arc of Northern Virginia has free information and ways to ask questions for people trying to find disability-based benefits and services. <https://thearcofnova.org/> and <https://thearcofnova.org/resource-library/#spanish>
- You can **hire an attorney to help represent you on immigration issues**. Some attorneys with a lot of disability experience are Angela Thanyachareon (<https://thanyachareonlaw.com/>) and Lisandra Pachuta (<https://hensonpachuta.com/>)
Free legal help for low income families is available at the Legal Aide Justice Center (<https://www.justice4all.org/get-help>)

Available for Qualifying Immigrant Families

- **Social Security Benefits-** Social Security benefits are monthly cash assistance programs to families or adults with disabilities who have limited or no incomes. To be eligible, applicants should be either citizens or legal residents for five or more years. <https://www.ssa.gov/>
- **Medicaid and Medicaid Waiver-** Medicaid is health insurance to see doctors and get medications. Medicaid Waiver is for people with disabilities and pays for care in the home, employment support, and residential care. To be eligible, applicants should be either citizens or legal residents for five or more years. <https://thearcofnova.org/resource-library/#waivers>
- **State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP)-** SRAP is funds to help pay the rent for adults with disabilities who are ready to live away from their parents and grandparents. To be eligible, someone must have a Developmental Disability (DD) Medicaid Waiver or be on the waiting list for the DD Waiver, and they can apply with their Community Services Board (see above).
- **Food Assistance, Energy Assistance, and Other Public Benefits-** These programs are generally available to lawful permanent residents, asylees, and refugees. (855) 635-4370 <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/>