What should I do when I receive asylum?

1. Apply for work authorization

When you receive asylum, you are granted permanent legal status. You are allowed to work in the United States and to travel outside of the United States without a visa. You can apply for work authorization within 30 days of your asylum interview. To apply, you can complete Form I-765 online or submit it in person at a local USCIS office.

2. Enroll in Social Security

You can apply for Social Security benefits up to 3 months before you receive asylum. To enroll, go to www.ssa.gov or call 1-800-772-1213. You need to provide proof of your asylum status.

3. Get your Social Security card

Once you are enrolled in Social Security, you will receive a Social Security card in the mail. You can also apply for a Social Security card online at www.ssa.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

4. Apply for a driver's license

You can apply for a driver’s license in your state. The process will vary depending on your state, but it typically involves providing proof of identity and residence. You can check with your state’s Department of Motor Vehicles for more information.

5. Get your state ID card

You can apply for a state ID card in your state. The process will vary depending on your state, but it typically involves providing proof of identity and residence. You can check with your state’s Department of Motor Vehicles for more information.

6. Get your federal ID card

You can apply for a federal ID card at a local USCIS office. You will need to provide proof of your asylum status, identification, and proof of your residence in the United States.

7. Get your health insurance

You can enroll in health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. You can also contact your state’s Medicaid program to see if you qualify for coverage.

8. Get your bank account

You can open a bank account at a local bank. You will need to provide identification and proof of residence in the United States.

9. Get your unemployment benefits

You can apply for unemployment benefits through your state’s Department of Labor. You will need to provide proof of income and employment history.

10. Get your housing

You can apply for housing assistance through your local government or non-profit organization. You will need to provide proof of income and residence in the United States.

For more information, visit www.uscis.gov or call 1-800-375-5283.

To learn more about HIAS and ASYLEEOUTREACH, visit www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/map/find-resources-and-contacts-your-state or www.uscis.gov/i-485.

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Call 1-888-685-0543 or contact us at info@asyleeoutreach.org.