

.01 40 Quarters Requirements

The requirement for a noncitizen to have 40 quarters of coverage differs based on the following programs:

- The 40 quarters of coverage policy is not a requirement for CA. However, when a [Sponsored Noncitizen](#) has attained 40 quarters of coverage, the sponsor's income and resources no longer apply.
- [Lawful Permanent Residents](#) (LPR) who meet the 40 quarters of coverage (whether concurrent or not) are potentially eligible for NA benefits.

NA EXCEPTION

The [40 quarters requirement](#) does NOT apply to noncitizens who meet any of the following:

- Are currently lawfully residing in the U.S. and are either under the age of 18 or permanently disabled, regardless of entry date. (See [Qualified Disabled Noncitizens](#))
- Have been lawfully residing in the U.S. for five years or more. (See [LPR Eligibility](#))

- Applicants are not required to meet the 40 quarters requirement for MA.

A Quarter of Coverage is a quarter that meets the minimum amount of earnings as determined by SSA. The income must also be legally earned by a [U.S. citizen](#) or one of the following:

- For CA, noncitizens legally authorized to work in the U.S. under one of the following:

Employment authorization status

[Lawful Temporary Resident](#) noncitizen status

[Lawful Permanent Resident](#) noncitizen status

- For NA, a noncitizen regardless of their noncitizen status at the time the work is performed. This is true regardless of whether a valid Social Security number is used for the work.

The wages must be earned in or connected to the U.S. (e.g., civil servant working in a U.S. embassy abroad)

Covered or noncovered earnings may be acceptable. The following are covered and noncovered earnings:

- Covered Earnings are wages or self-employment income for which FICA/SECA (Social Security) taxes are withheld. QCIN displays verified Covered Earnings. Use this as the primary source of verification. For a listing of employment with covered earnings, see the [Covered Employment Chart](#).
- Noncovered Earnings are wage or self employment income for which FICA/SECA (Social Security) taxes are not withheld.

A quarter may be used to qualify more than one noncitizen. (See [Accumulating 40 Quarters](#))