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## Norway | Financial Assistance Requirement for Permanent Residence Changed

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Norwegian officials <u>announced</u> they have lifted the requirement that permanent resident applicants cannot have received financial assistance under the Social Services Act.

## **Key Points:**

- Norwegian officials removed the requirement that permanent resident applicants must prove they have not received any financial assistance in the last 12 months when applying for a permit.
- Effective immediately, permanent residence applicants only have to prove that they received a certain amount of income in the last year.
- Exemptions to the income requirement apply to certain groups of individuals, including students and people with disabilities, among others.

Additional Information: The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration stated that permanent residence applicants must prove that they have earned at least NOK 296,550 (about US\$26,900) in the previous year. Exceptions do apply for certain individuals either through employment or alternative means of financial support.

**BAL Analysis:** The announcement is a welcome change for permanent resident applicants and should provide greater access to candidates who previously were unable to qualify.

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