

# IMMIGRATION Does "public charge" apply to me?

## KNOW KNOW YOUR RIGHTS + UNDERSTAND "PUBLIC CHARGE"

The new public charge rule is set to go into effect of February 24, 2020, and it is important to be informed about potential changes. When a person applies to enter the U.S., get a green card (Legal Permanent Resident status) or change the status or length of a non-immigrant visa, immigration officials will consider whether that person is likely to become a "public charge" in the future by looking at all of the person's circumstances, including previous public benefit usage, income, employment, health, education, skills, family situation and whether a sponsor signed a contract (an "affidavit of support") promising to support the person. The changes to the public charge rule do not apply to everyone, and do not apply to all benefits.

## LEARN USE OF BENEFITS WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY MAKE YOU A "PUBLIC CHARGE"

### PROGRAMS NOT AFFECTED

- Medi-Cal used by children under 21, pregnant women or for emergency services
- WIC | School Lunch | Breakfast Programs
- Emergency Disaster Relief

### PROGRAMS AFFECTED - MOST COMMON

- Medi-Cal (over the age of 21)
- CalFresh | Food Stamps | EBT
- Cash assistance (i.e., SSI, TANF, General Assistance)
- Federal public housing and Section 8 assistance
- Institutionalization for long-term care at government expense

### EXCEPTIONS

- T & U Visa applicants + VAWA self-petitioner
- Benefits used by family members, DACA, special immigrant juveniles
- Green-card holders applying for citizenship (only when green-card holder DID NOT leave the U.S. for more than 180 consecutive days and re-enter the U.S.)
- Certain parolees and other non-citizens
- Refugees/asylees

## CONNECT WITH A TRUSTED MESSENGER

Get help making the right choice for you and your family.

OLE Health 707-254-1770

On the Move 707-251-9432

Puertas Abiertas 707-224-1786

County of Napa 707-253-4511

Community Health Initiative Napa County 707-227-0830

COPE Family Center 707-252-1123

Immigration Institute of the Bay Area 707-266-1568

UpValley Family Centers-St.Helena/Calistoga 707-965-5010

This provides general information, but is not legal advice. Immigration law can be complex, and generally can have exceptions, so you should consult with a licensed attorney or a Department of Justice accredited representative to discuss your individual circumstances.



[www.upvalleyfamilycenters.org/public-charge](http://www.upvalleyfamilycenters.org/public-charge)