

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