

LET'S TALK ABOUT PUBLIC CHARGE

The public charge rule was designed to be confusing and scary on purpose. Very few immigrants who are eligible for public benefits are affected by public charge.

1

The public charge test does not apply to all immigrants.

It does not apply to:

- refugees
- asylees
- VAWA self-petitioners
- special immigrant juveniles
- survivors of: trafficking, of domestic violence, or other serious crimes (T or U visa applicants/holders)

Lawful permanent residents (green card holders) are not subject to a public charge test when they apply for U.S. citizenship.

3

The public charge test does not apply to all public benefits.

Until October 15, 2019, the public charge test only applies to cash benefits:

- CalWORKs,
- General Relief
- SSI
- CAPI
- Institutional long-term care

After October 15, 2019 it might also apply to:

- Medi-Cal
- CalFresh
- Section 8
- Public housing

(Exceptions include: Emergency Medi-Cal, state-funded Medi-Cal, and Medi-Cal for children under 21 and pregnant women up to 60-days postpartum)

The public charge test does not apply to all other benefits like:

- Medicare Part D
- WIC
- CHIP
- School meals
- Head Start
- Food banks
- Shelters
- And many more

2

Use of public benefits will not automatically make you a public charge.

Other things looked at are your:

- age
- health
- income
- assets
- resources
- education
- family support

You will have a chance to show why you are not likely to rely on certain benefits in the future.



Stay calm. You have until October 15, 2019 to make decisions about your public benefits.

Newly added benefits to the Public Charge test will only be considered if they are received after October 15, 2019. **You have time to speak to a trusted attorney** before dropping any benefits.



The public charge test does not consider benefits used by family members.

Benefits used by eligible family members, including US Citizen children, are not counted unless they are also applying for a green card.



Your personal information is protected.

Government agencies processing benefits **will not share your personal information for immigration enforcement**. You do not have to give information about people not applying for benefits for themselves.



The new rule might be stopped.

Lawsuits to stop this rule have already been filed. It is possible the new rule will be stopped before October 15, 2019.

PUBLIC CHARGE: DOES THIS APPLY TO ME?

