

Important “Public Charge” Info!

Are you worried that receiving government benefits will endanger your immigration status?

You may have heard that “public charge” rules for immigration are changing. (Current law allows federal authorities to deny legal status to anyone who depends on the government for two kinds of financial support.) **This change will not affect everyone**— and receiving government benefits is just one factor used for immigration decisions. Get the facts.

Here’s what you need to know:

1. The “public charge” decision **ONLY** applies to:
 - People applying to enter the United States OR
 - People applying for a green card (permanent resident status)**AND, then only to people who:**
 - a. Receive cash assistance (such as CalWORKs) OR
 - b. Require long-term medical care in a facility, paid by the government.
2. If you are currently receiving government benefits, there may be no advantage to cancelling or disenrolling. *(Potential changes to public charge are not expected to be retroactive.)*
3. **YOU ARE EXEMPT** (from the public charge decision) if you are a:
 - US citizen (and most legal permanent residents)
 - Refugee or asylee
 - VAWA self-petitioner
 - TPS, T Visa, U Visa, or **SIJS** (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) applicant

Get the facts. Stay informed!

<https://www.ilrc.org/public-charge-questions-answered>

GET TRUSTED INFORMATION!