

WHAT IS PUBLIC CHARGE?



PUBLIC CHARGE is a rule that immigration can use to deny an application for permanent residence (green card) or certain other visas if the applicant is likely to depend on certain government programs in the future. The public charge test only looks at certain benefits that the applicant receives (see other side). It also considers his/her current situation, health, age, employment, skills, education, family/sponsor income.

Public charge **DOES NOT AFFECT APPLICANTS** for:

- U.S. citizenship
- Green card renewals
- Asylum/refugee status
- Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status
- TPS
- VAWA, U or T visas
- Green cards based on U/T/SIJ, VAWA or Asylum
- DACA renewals

FOR HELP APPLYING FOR BENEFITS:

- Coastside Hope: 650-726-9071
- Fair Oaks Community Center: 650-780-7500
- JobTrain: 650-330-6571

FOR IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS:

- Coastside Hope: 650-726-9071
- Immigration Institute of the Bay Area: 650-780-7530
- Catholic Charities: 650-295-2160
- Community Legal Services in EPA: 650-326-6440
- Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach: 415-567-6255
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County: 650-517-8936

FOR LEGAL ADVICE ABOUT PUBLIC BENEFITS OR PUBLIC CHARGE:

- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County: 650-558-0915
Toll-Free: 800-381-8898 | Fax: 650-517-8973

DOES PUBLIC CHARGE AFFECT YOU?



Do you already have a green card?



PUBLIC CHARGE DOESN'T APPLY.

But, if you use the listed benefits and plan to leave the U.S. for more than 6 months, get immigration legal advice.



Are you applying for:

- Citizenship
- Green card renewal
- DACA renewal
- U or T Visa
- Asylum or Refugee status
- TPS
- VAWA
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Green Card based on U/T/SIJ, VAWA or Asylum



PUBLIC CHARGE DOESN'T APPLY

for these applications. You may use any benefits for which you qualify.



Are you or your family applying for a green card in the U.S. through a family member?



A PUBLIC CHARGE TEST MAY APPLY.

- USCIS (immigration) weighs many factors (income, health, skills) in the test, including the listed benefits.
- Family members may use any benefits for which they qualify, unless it's the family's only income.
- Talk to a qualified lawyer if you have concerns.



Keep Your **BENEFITS**

Visit www.keepyourbenefits.org and click "**Use the Guide**" to see if public benefits could affect different immigration options.



Only these benefits **obtained for the applicant** count for the public charge test:



- Monthly cash benefits
- SSI, CalWORKs/TANF, CAPI, General Assistance



- Long-term care (nursing home) under Medi-Cal/Medicaid

Income, health, skills, and sponsor also count.

