

PUBLIC CHARGE RULE MAY CHANGE: What do I need to know now?

A week ago the Trump administration released a proposed regulation that seeks to penalize legal immigrants for accessing programs that help working families with health care, housing and nutrition, or for holding low-wage jobs that don't enable them to meet an arbitrary income threshold.

The draft regulations would vastly expand the definition of "public charge" – someone who is deemed to be dependent on government benefits and thus may be denied a green card – to include not only people who receive cash benefits or need long term care, but also those who participate in "safety net" programs used by millions of working Americans. It would also make it easier to deny permanent residency to anyone earning less than 250% of the federal poverty line (\$62,750 for a family of four).

To learn more please click here: <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/resources/>

What do you need to know now?

- You are not alone. There is still time to fight back as groups are doing around the US. PLEASE take action by following the link below:
- <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/#take-action>
- The policy on public charge decisions made within the U.S. has not yet changed.
- The proposed rule is still a draft. Now that it is posted, the federal agency must accept and respond to comments on it. It will not be implemented until after it becomes final, which will take additional time.
- Not all immigrants are subject to the public charge test
- The public charge test looks at all the person's circumstances, weighing positive factors against any negative ones.
- If the proposed rule becomes final, noncash benefits (other than long-term care) used before that time will not be considered. Using benefits now can help you or your family members become healthier, stronger, and more employable in the future.
- Federal and state laws protect the privacy of people who apply for or receive health care coverage, nutrition, economic support, or other public benefits.

- Get help deciding what's best for your family and, if you can, consult with an immigration attorney or a Board of Immigration Appeals–accredited representative about your own situation.
 - Please understand that until the regulation is finalized- after the public comment period- we can only speculate as to what this may mean. Take action and stay tuned!
- 