



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON IMMIGRANTS IN MARIN COUNTY

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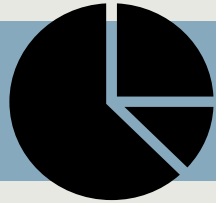
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AGENDA

- ❑ **Introduction:** low-income immigrants are among the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic. They live in communities with high infection rates; work as essential workers in industries where the risk of transmission is high; and face barriers accessing accurate information, health, food services and economic relief programs.
- ❑ **Public charge**
- ❑ **Overview of services available to immigrants during the pandemic**
- ❑ **Update other immigration policy changes**
- ❑ **Ways to support low-income immigrants & Latinos in Marin**
- ❑ **Community resources**
- ❑ **Q & A**



DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS

□ General Demographics

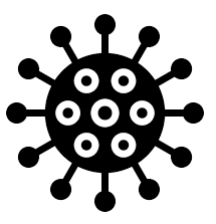
- ✓ 16% of the total population in Marin is Hispanic/Latino (includes US born population)
- ✓ 18% of Marin's total population (44,700) is foreign-born ; 44% from Latin American Countries
 - * *Unclear % of indigenous (9% of Canal Alliance's clients)*
- ✓ ~17,500 undocumented & high number of unaccompanied minors since 2014 from Guatemala

□ Population by City (Latino/Hispanic)

- ✓ San Rafael ~18,300 (31%)
- ✓ Novato ~10,400 (18%)
- ✓ Marin City ~6,600 (29.5%)

□ Other Data

- ✓ More than half of the families living in the Canal earn less than \$35,000.
- ✓ The majority of families in the Canal live in rental apartment housing where there is a “very high degree of overcrowding” with multiple families sharing a unit
- ✓ The number of students in the San Rafael and Novato School districts, identifying as a newcomer, rose from 647 in 2017 to 793 in 2018-19, an increase of 23% in just two years (413 in San Rafael and over 60% from Guatemala)
- ✓ 65% of children in San Rafael Elementary schools qualify for subsidized lunch
- ✓ Digital divide
- ✓ Criminal Justice System: overrepresentation of Latino youth in Juvenile Justice System (majority of those confined in juvenile hall)



COVID-19 LOCAL IMPACT ⁽¹⁾

Disproportionate infection rates

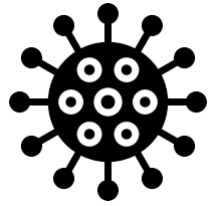
- Over 60% of Covid-19 cases are Latino/Hispanic

Housing conditions

- Overcrowding facilitates virus transmission and presents a barrier to quarantine and isolation

Many work as essential workers

- Unclear if some industries have sufficient guidelines or follow them. Perhaps lack of enforcement and confusion about employee's rights create additional risks



COVID-19 LOCAL IMPACT (2)

Examples of Socio-economic inequity



- Lack of housing
- Lack of health insurance
- Unbanked - check cashers
- Segregated schools with low academic success for Latinos
- Limited childcare
- Limited workforce education
- Newcomer population and lack of important supports for English Learners (ELs) in schools
- Unfair immigration policies and constant fear of enforcement
- Trauma (before, during & after immigration journey)
- Lack of political representation or lobbying ability
- Overrepresentation in juvenile probation
- Lack of transportation
- Insufficient neighborhood investments

CV-19 AND PUBLIC CHARGE

- Many new benefits and services are available to people at the local, state, and federal level
- Many immigrants are concerned these may be considered a public charge determination
- The short answer is ***emergency (non-cash) programs during this time will not be considered***

HEALTH

Fearing deportation, many immigrants at higher risk of Covid-19 are afraid to seek testing or care

By USHA LEE MCFARLING / APRIL 15, 2020



[Full article here](#)

PUBLIC CHARGE OVERVIEW

Ground of inadmissibility in U.S. immigration: someone who is likely at any time to become a public charge is generally inadmissible to the United States and ineligible to become a lawful permanent resident



New definition as February 2020: a non-citizen who receives or is likely to receive one or more of the specified public benefits for more than 12 months in the aggregate within any 36-month period (such that, for instance, receipt of two benefits in one month counts as two months)

The benefits considered are cash assistance for income maintenance from any level of government, SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), public housing, Section 8 housing assistance, and Medicaid (with exceptions for persons under age 21, women during pregnancy and for 60 days after the pregnancy ends and emergency services).

New regulations add to the totality of circumstances factors standards and evidentiary requirements that disadvantage low- and moderate- income applicants (age, health, family status, assets, resources, financial status, education, and skills, and affidavit of support)

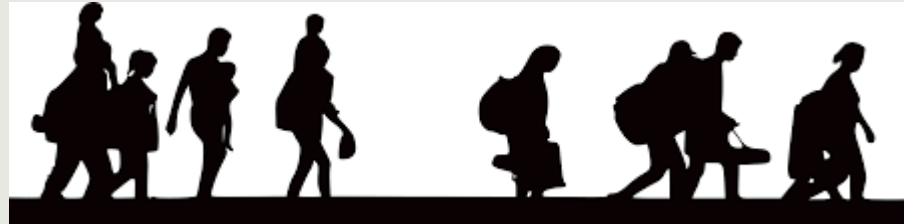
PRESENTED BY CANAL ALLIANCE



PUBLIC CHARGE CONT...



Primarily affects family-based immigration



Does not apply to refugees and asylees; Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS); VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) self-petitioners; U and T non-immigrant status (U or T visa); Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)*; Temporary Protected Status (TPS)*; majority of lawful permanent residents (LPR or “green card” holder); or when applying for *citizenship*

PUBLIC PROGRAMS – NO PUBLIC CHARGE

- ❑ Testing, Treatment and preventative care for Covid-19 (includes vaccines) (<https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge>)
- ❑ Emergency Medical: receiving MediCal for emergency services, use by children under age 21 or pregnant women (including women who are 60 days postpartum)
- ❑ Cash Assistance under CARES Act: individuals earning less than \$75,000 per year are eligible to receive a one time cash payment. Individual filers **must have a valid SSN** to receive payment. It's a tax credit.
- ❑ SNAP for minor children. Note: SNAP may be included in a public charge determination
- ❑ P-EBT (Pandemic EBT)
- ❑ WIC, TEFAP (Emergency Food Assistance Program) and home-delivered meal program
- ❑ Unemployment Insurance (UI) Disability Insurance (DI) and Paid Family Leave (PFL are not considered in public charge test. Visit the [EDD website](#) or get assistance at Canal Alliance (415-454-2640) or Legal Aid of Marin (415) 492-0230

COVID-19 LOCAL SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ❑ Food Pantries; Canal Alliance, NMCS, MCM, MCC, Ritter Center, <https://www.sfmfoodbank.org/find-food/> & <https://canalalliance.org/covid19resources/food-pantries/>
- ❑ Care and Shelter for Covid-19 +: hotel, meals, cash assistance* (Marin Community Foundation and County Funds)
- ❑ Some local non-profits have client emergency funds
 - ❑ Canal Alliance <https://canalalliance.org/canal-alliance-emergency-fund-application/>
- ❑ Rental assistance (Marin Community Foundation and County Funds) – waitlist closed
- ❑ Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI)* – (30,000 individuals) – applications closed for Marin
- ❑ Great Plates: applications closed for Marin

*** Unfortunately USCIS has not provided guidance specifically addressing government emergency cash assistance programs and potential effect on public charge. Strong arguments can be made that these are disaster relief programs**

IMMIGRATION POLICY UPDATES (1)

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted nearly every aspect of the U.S. immigration system. The administration has used the pandemic to justify aggressive changes to our immigration system through executive action

- ❑ On April 22, 2020, President Trump signed the COVID-19 immigration ban suspending the entry of certain immigrants for an initial period of 60 days (another immigration ban)
- ❑ In April, USCIS suspended all in-person services at its office. On June 4th limited reopening started for in person services. Very limited staff levels
- ❑ Current backlog of over 700,000 applications for naturalization. Limited naturalization ceremonies
- ❑ Chaos and confusion in immigration courts. Detained hearings and unaccompanied children's hearings continue
- ❑ SCOTUS DACA decision on Thursday (maybe they postpone). Program could end leaving thousands of people at risk of deportation and without a job. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos barred colleges from granting virus relief funds to foreign to undocumented students, including DACA.

IMMIGRATION POLICY UPDATES (2)

Before COVID-19, the government was already designing policies to effectively dismantle our asylum system (i.e. Migrant Protection Protocols or MPP)

- ❑ The border is “shut down”: Centers for Disease Control “Suspension of Entry” with no end date. More than 20,000 people “expelled” through end of April.
- ❑ Asylum restrictions have made the application process almost impossible for asylees
- ❑ All MPP hearings suspended through at least June 22, and 18,000 people are stuck in a dangerous limbo
- ❑ Fewer people being detained and sent to ICE detention facilities during the pandemic
- ❑ Countless reports demonstrate ICE's failure to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning and hygiene supplies to people in detention
- ❑ People in ICE detention facilities have inadequate access to medical care. ICE's failed to release people from detention, even those at high risk of infection



HOW TO SUPPORT LATINO IMMIGRANTS



Become knowledgeable about the issues affecting immigrants and BIPOC in Marin



Don't ask us for more data or another focus group to tackle inequities or take action



Support Census outreach

Reflect: is my program offering language and culturally appropriate services?



Am I creating additional barriers to access? Can I remove those barriers?



Are we over policing?



Prioritize housing



HOW TO SUPPORT LATINO IMMIGRANTS (2)

 Help the County recruit Covid-19 contact investigators

Spread the word about the importance of Covid-19 testing 



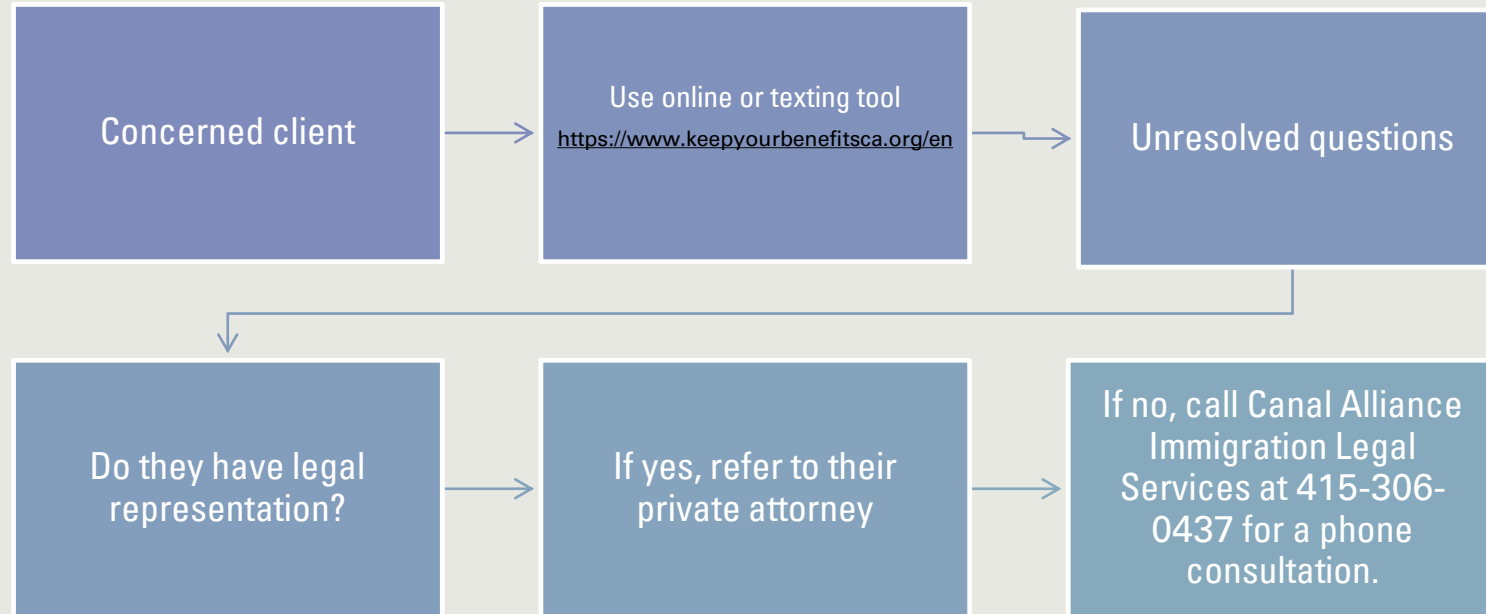
Support cash and emergency programs with minimum bureaucracy

Support housing protections (Cancel rent? 😊)



Prioritize access to legal services

PUBLIC CHARGE CONSULTS DURING CV-19



ALL OTHER IMMIGRATION CONSULTATIONS

Immigration Legal Services offered by Canal Alliance

Legal consultations, DACA, VAWA, U & T Visas, naturalization, asylum and SIJS (removal defense only for unaccompanied minors)

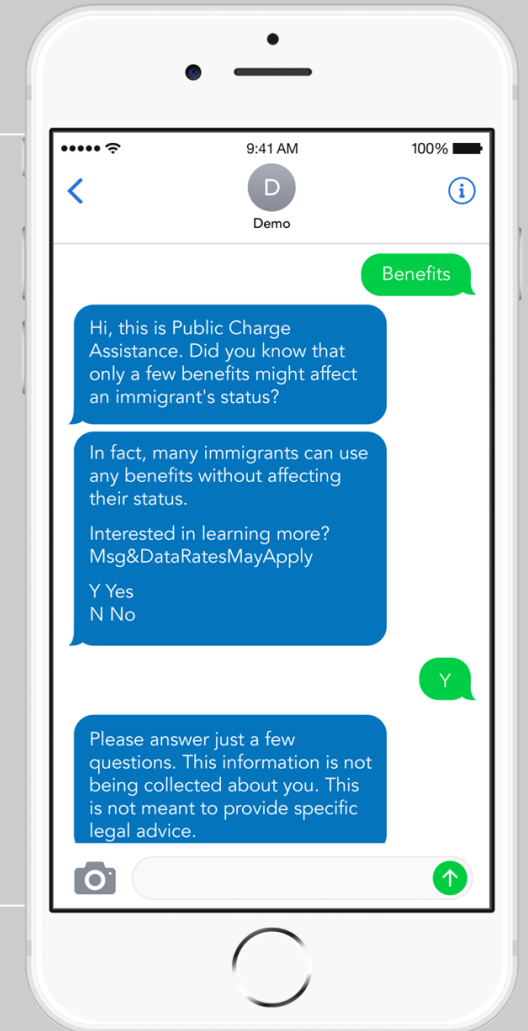
Call 415-306-0437



TEXT 650-376-8006 “BENEFITS” (ENGLISH)
OR “LIBRE” (SPANISH) TO TRY!

PUBLIC CHARGE TEXTING TOOL

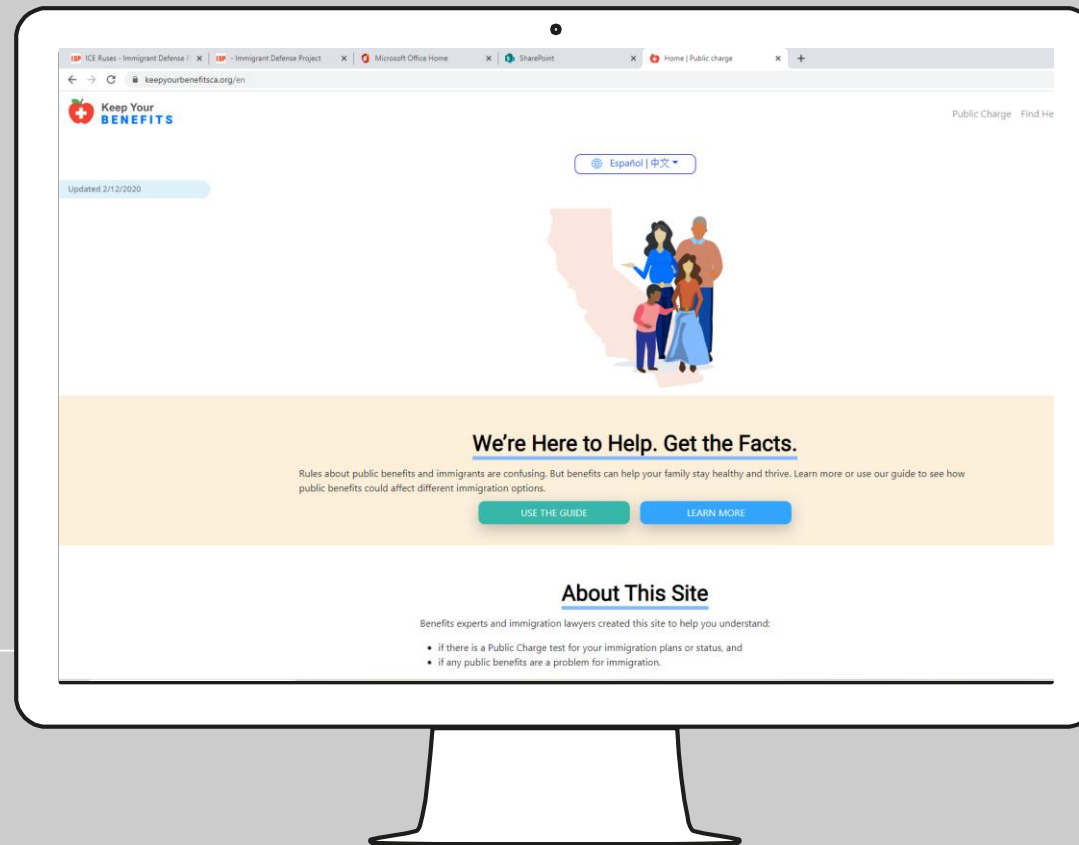
Developed by CommunityConnect Labs and community partners, this texting tool allows for clients to answer yes or no questions through texting to determine whether public charge may apply to that individual.



KEEP YOUR BENEFITS

An online screening tool to help clients determine whether the changes to public charge could affect their immigration process

<https://www.keepyourbenefitsca.org/en>



RESOURCES (1)

Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) FAQ

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zHLRaciDqIZfkl_icRGVJWKWcinP6cAwvkuAeae8eog/edit

Immigrant Eligibility for Public Programs During COVID-19

<https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/IMMIGRANT-ELIGIBILITY-FOR-PUBLIC-PROGRAMS-DURING-COVID-19/>

ILRC Advisories

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

Public charge Screening Tool

<https://www.keepyourbenefitsca.org/en> (various languages)

See American Immigration Council The Impact of COVID-19 on Noncitizens and Across the U.S. Immigration System:

https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/the_impact_of_covid-19_on_noncitizens_and_across_the_us_immigration_system.pdf

Census Data City Comparisons

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/marinacitycalifornia,novatocitycalifornia,sanrafaelcitycalifornia,marincountycalifornia/RHI725218>

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Disability Insurance (DI) and Paid Family Leave Applications

[EDD website](#) or get assistance at Canal Alliance (415-454-2640) or Legal Aid of Marin (415) 492-0230

RESOURCES (2)

Census Data City Comparisons

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/marinacitycalifornia,novatocitycalifornia,sanrafaelcitycalifornia,marincountycalifornia/RHI725218>

The Book of the Mom: report of qualitative research conducted in the Fall of 2018 by the Marin Community Foundation and The Curious Company (2018)

<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mcf-redesign-assets/pdfs/MCF-Book-of-Mom-ONLINE-Version-030519.pdf?mtime=20190712152630>

Latinos and Education in Marin (Canal Alliance)

In Marin County, high rates of low academic achievement and increasing poverty among Latinos is perhaps the most glaring reflection of profound racial disparities and inequities (2018)

<https://canalalliance.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Latinos-Education-in-Marin.pdf>

Just the Facts: Undocumented Immigrants in California (2017)

https://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/jtf/JTF_UndocumentedImmigrantsJTF.pdf

Voces de Canal (2014)

http://www.datacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/VDC_Report_Final_Draft_ENGLISH_WEB.pdf

Portrait of Marin an in-depth look at how the residents of Marin County are faring in three fundamental areas of life: health, access to knowledge, and living standards (2012)

http://measureofamerica.org/docs/APOM_Final-SinglePages_12.14.11.pdf

¡Viva Marin!

<https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/departments/hh/vivamarin.pdf>

Race Counts

<https://www.racecounts.org/county/marin/>

QUESTIONS?

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