

## What is Public Charge?

"Public charge" is a test to see if a person applying for permanent residence ("Green card") or certain visas should be denied as someone likely to depend on certain government programs if admitted.

Public charge **does not affect** applicants for U.S. citizenship, asylum, refugee status, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, TPS, VAWA, U or T visas or green cards based on these visas. It **does not** affect DACA or green card renewals.

The Public charge test only looks at **certain** benefits that the applicant gets (see inside). It **also** considers his/her current situation: health, age, employment, skills, education, family/ sponsor income.

### For help applying for benefits:

- ◆ Coastside Hope—650-726-9071
- ◆ Fair Oaks Community Center—650-780-7500
- ◆ JobTrain—650-330-6428

### For immigration questions:

- ◆ Coastside Hope—650-726-9071
- ◆ International 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

Phone: 650-558-0915  
Toll-Free: 800-381-8898  
Fax: 650-517-8973



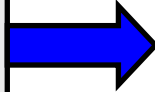
## Does Public Charge Affect You?

Getting the Help You Need

[www.thelibreproject.org](http://www.thelibreproject.org)

# Does Public Charge Affect You?

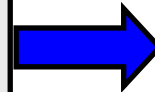
Do you and your family already have green cards?



**Public charge doesn't apply.** If you use cash benefits and plan to leave the country for more than 6 months, it is a good idea to talk with an immigration attorney.

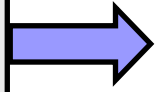
Are you applying for:

- 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



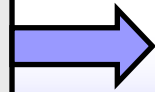
**Public charge doesn't apply to you** for these applications. You may use any benefits for which you qualify.

Do you or your family plan to apply for a green card or visa from **inside** the U.S.?



A public charge test **may apply**, but only a few benefits that the applicant receives count. It is **still safe** to get **Medi-Cal and CalFresh/food stamp benefits**. Talk to a lawyer if you have concerns.

Does your family plan to apply for a green card or visa from **outside** the U.S.?



A public charge test **applies**, but only some benefits count. Talk to a qualified attorney about this.

## Benefits currently considered for public charge test:

- Cash benefits
  - SSI
  - CalWORKs
  - CAPI
  - General Assistance
- Long-term care (nursing home) Medi-Cal

**Proposed changes** to public charge would also consider:

- CalFresh/food stamps
- Non-emergency Medi-Cal
- Medicare Part D subsidies
- Federal housing/Section 8

These changes **might never be made**. If they are, you will have time to stop these benefits before they count.

## Timeline for Proposed Rule:

