

The Trump Administration has recently proposed a change to the “public charge” test. Public charge is part of the green card application process, especially if the applicant is sponsored by a family member. In those cases, immigration officials look at whether the person will mostly depend on the government for support in the future.

Messages

- The Trump Administration and Congress have taken actions that hurt many immigrant families. This proposed rule is just one of many ways that the administration is trying to make immigrants and their families afraid of getting the help they need.
- This is a scary and stressful time for many families. We are working together to oppose these changes and make sure people have accurate information.
- **The rules have not yet changed. The Biden public charge rule is still in effect and will remain in effect until there is a final rule, which will take some time.** Most immigrants who are subject to public charge are not eligible for the benefits that count under the test.
- **Most people do not have to worry about public charge at all.**
 - Public charge does not apply to everyone. It mostly applies to people seeking a green card through a family member or who seek to enter the U.S. from outside the country.
 - **If you already have a green card, or you do not currently have a pathway to getting one, this does not affect you.**
 - Many immigrants, such as refugees and asylees, are exempt from the public charge test when they are applying for a green card.
 - If you are applying for a green card or may wish to apply, consult your attorney.
- The proposed rule would take away the Biden public charge rule but not replace it with another rule. The Trump administration says they plan to issue guidance, but we do not know what it will say. This makes it hard to know how officials will consider public benefits when reviewing a green card application. If the proposed rule is finalized:
 - It is not clear whether family members' use of benefits would be considered.
 - It is not clear which benefits programs or government services would be considered.
 - Public benefits use would be one of many factors that officials could consider during a public charge determination.
- **The confusion and uncertainty is part of their plan.** The administration is spreading fear and chaos among immigrant families to scare them from getting the help they need.
- **If you are currently receiving public benefits, continuing on those programs should not increase your risk.**
- You should do what is best for yourself and your family, based on your individual circumstances.
- If you are concerned about a public charge test, consider nongovernmental sources of support for your family, like food banks and community health centers.