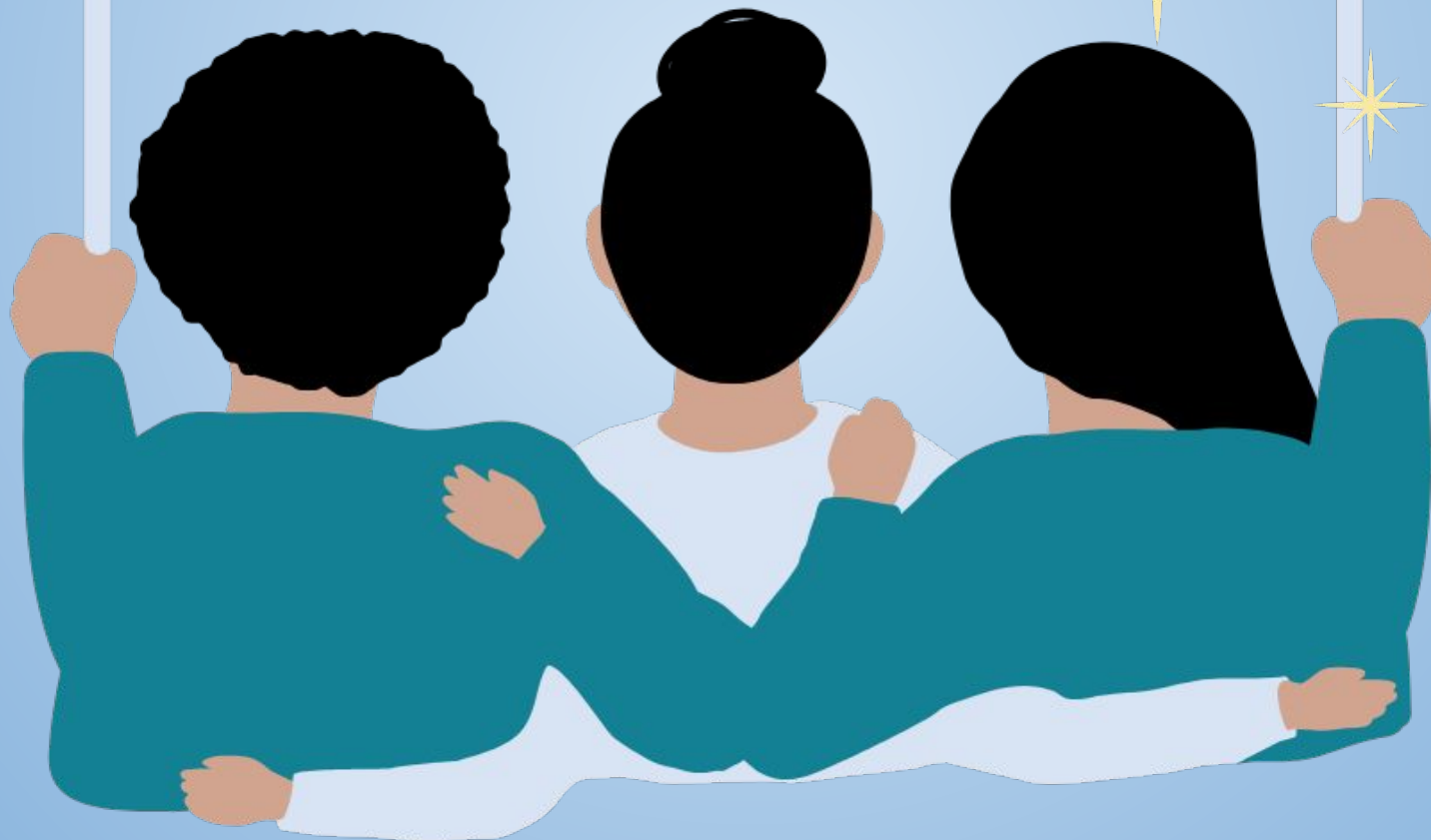


OUR RIGHTS, OUR BENEFITS

Immigrant Rights and Public Programs
Information Session



Today, you will learn about:



- Public Programs and Immigrant Access
- Your Rights with Public Programs
- What is Public Charge, and Whom it Applies to
- 5 Important Facts to Remember!

Public Benefits Programs

Common Government Programs to Help Families



Health
Insurance



Food & Nutrition



Cash Assistance
& Tax Credits



Housing



Disaster Recovery

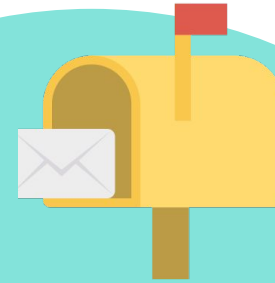
Program Eligibility



- Income
- Resources



- Age
- Family Status
- Disability
- **Immigration Status**



- Residency (in state or county)
- Verifications, work, etc.



Types of Immigration Status

Undocumented

People currently
without lawful
immigration status

Nonimmigrant

Visitors, students,
temporary workers

Immigrant

Lawful Permanent Resident
("Green Card" holder)

Deferred / Other

TPS, DACA,
etc.

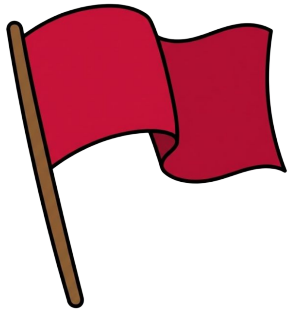
Humanitarian Protection

Refugee, asylee, T
and U visa
holders, etc.

Eligibility by Immigration Status

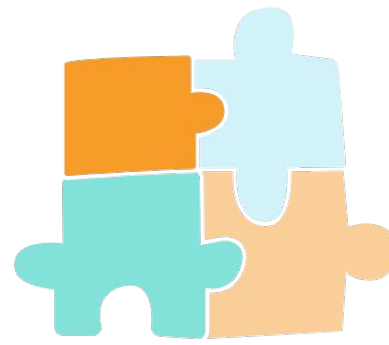
- **Citizens** – eligible for all public benefits if they meet other requirements
- **LPRs** – eligible for MOST public benefits BUT a five-year waiting period and other restrictions may apply
- **“Humanitarian” immigrants** – eligible for some programs but not all
- **Deferred / Other lawfully present immigrants** - eligibility may depend on a person’s status and the program
- **Undocumented** – eligible for few programs, only certain health and food assistance, depending upon the state

Eligibility Changes for Some Programs



- In 2025 Congress and the White House changed access to several programs, such as SNAP (food assistance), the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and Medicaid (health care).
- Some, but not all changes have started. They will take effect between now and 2027.
- Many programs will only be available to U.S. citizens, green card holders, and a few other groups.

Mixed-Status Families



- In many families, not all members have the same citizenship or immigration status.
- ***Members of the same family can qualify for different programs.***
- “Non-applicants” do not need to provide information about their citizenship or immigration status.
- If a parent is ineligible but applying for a loved one, they can write “Non-Applicant” on application, where possible.



Right now, a child's receipt of benefits will not impact a parent's immigration applications

Disaster Assistance



- You are entitled to assistance
- Call for help if you need it during a disaster - traditionally, there is no federal / ICE enforcement during emergency response
- There are programs to help everyone, regardless of immigration status
 - Some FEMA and HUD programs have immigration requirements - but if any member of your family has “qualified” status, your family may be eligible for help

Data Protections in Public Programs



- Public programs like **Medicaid and SNAP** can be very helpful, and you should balance the benefits with the risks of sharing information. Only you can decide what's best for your family.
- **Getting benefits does not increase your risk** if you have completed any immigration-related processes, since your address is already known.
- **You do not need to provide information about your own status or Social Security Number** if you are not seeking benefits for yourself, and you should not.

What is Public Charge?



- When an immigrant applies for a green card (permanent residency), their application is reviewed by government officials before they can obtain a legal status.
- “The public charge test” is part of this review by government officials - to see if an immigrant is likely to primarily depend on the government for support in the future.
- The public charge test is not part of all immigration applications.

Whom does Public Charge apply to?

APPLIES TO:

Immigrants applying for a family-based green card (lawful permanent residence) or a visa to enter the United States.

DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- U.S. Citizens
- Citizenship applications
- Green card renewals
- Refugees/Asylees
- VAWA visas
- T/U visas
- SIJ visas
- DACA applications or renewals
- TPS applications or renewals
- Liberian DED eligible for LRIF

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - Many immigrants are NOT subject to public charge. It does not apply to all immigrants.

The Public Charge Test

- The public charge test looks at many factors and all of an immigrant's circumstances
- Use of benefits in the past is just one part of the larger test. Only two types benefits are currently considered:



cash assistance



long-term institutionalization.

- An **Affidavit of Support** is also considered in support of an immigrant's application

Age

Education

Skills

Income or
Assets

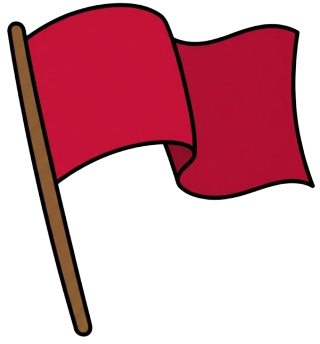
Employment

Health

Affidavit of
Support

Certain
Benefits Use

Proposed Changes to the Rule



- The Trump administration has proposed ending the Biden public charge rule, but has not explained what will replace it.
 - This makes it hard to know how officials will consider public benefits when they review a green card application in the future.
- If you are currently receiving public benefits, stopping them now won't likely affect your public charge determination, but only you know what is best for your family's future.
- For now, the Biden rule is still in place, and we'll share more information if it is ended.
- We are fighting back against this proposal.

Immigration Attorney Advice

If you are applying for permanent residency and have concerns about public charge, consult with an immigration attorney

- Many times, however, immigration attorneys are not experts in public benefits
- If you are concerned that your immigration attorney does not have accurate information about public charge:



- Know your rights!
- Refer them to keepyourbenefits.org for more information

Protecting Immigrant Families

- Together, we can push back against attacks on our families
- In 2019, we successfully delayed and reduced the harm of an earlier Trump public charge proposal
- In 2025, we have slowed and halted data privacy violations, passed new protections in many states, and mobilized communities to work together to protect families.
- We all have a part to play.
- What is yours?



Ways to stay informed



KeepYourBenefits.org

is a tool to quickly check for the latest information on public charge, and whether public charge applies to your situation.

There's a state-specific page available for several states in English, Spanish, and Simplified Chinese, that you can share with families that names state-specific programs.



Follow PIF Coalition for updates and information on immigrant rights and public benefits access



@pifcoalition
@pifcoalición



5 Facts for Families to Remember



Many public programs are available for eligible immigrant families, which help with food, healthcare, housing, and more.



Eligibility is a complex mix of income and immigration status, which is different for different programs.



Members of the same family can qualify for different programs.



Non-citizen parents can fill out a benefits application as “non-applicants” so that their children can receive benefits.



You should balance the benefits of applying for public programs with the risks of sharing information.

QUIZ

¿TRUE OR FALSE?

QUIZ

**Only US Citizens can get
public benefits**

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

**Only US Citizens can get
Public Benefits**

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

You can apply for SNAP for your kids even if your spouse is undocumented

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

You can apply for SNAP for your kids even if your spouse is undocumented

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

My family uses Section 8 housing. This makes me a public charge.

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

My family uses Section 8 housing. This makes me a public charge.

TRUE

FALSE



QUIZ

My Citizen children receive food stamps (SNAP). That affects my chances of becoming a Permanent Resident.

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

My Citizen children receive food stamps (SNAP). That affects my chances of becoming a Permanent Resident.

TRUE

FALSE



QUIZ

**I don't have to worry about the
public charge test if I'm applying for
citizenship**

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

I don't have to worry about the public charge test if I'm applying for citizenship

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

My brother lives with me and receives a check from SSI. This affects my chances of getting Permanent Residency.

TRUE

FALSE

QUIZ

My brother lives with me and receives a check from SSI. This affects my chances of getting Permanent Residency.

TRUE

FALSE



EXPERTS!



Congratulations!
You are now experts!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PIFCOALITION.ORG

and visit <https://keepyourbenefits.org> for a personalized screening to know if your public benefits could affect your immigration options

**Please include more local resources and
contact information specific to your audience**