

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FINAL PUBLIC CHARGE RULE?

SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT SEEKING HELP?

No. In the past, the public charge test was used by immigration officials to review visa and green card applications to see whether a person was likely to become dependent on public cash assistance or would need the government to otherwise pay for their long-term care.

WHAT IS THE RULE NOW?

- **Public Charge determinations DO NOT apply to** individuals applying for refugee status, asylee status, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), individuals seeking T or U non-immigrant status as victims of human trafficking or other criminal activity.
- **Public Charge also does not impact** those with green cards unless they leave the US for a consistent period of over 180 days and seek to re-enter, or fall under a few other exceptions.
 - **Benefits considered include** Social Security Disability, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, state/local cash assistance programs, long-term institutionalization.

The benefits listed below WILL NOT be considered when the Department of Homeland Security makes a ruling on a person's lawful permanent resident status.

So, eligible individuals/families, including mixed immigration status families with children, CAN APPLY for and ACCEPT HELP from programs and services such as:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) / food stamps
- WIC (Nutritional Assistance for Women, Infants, and Children)
- School Lunch and Breakfast
- Medicaid and CHIP (except for long-term institutionalization at the government's expense)
- food at pantries
- public housing assistance
- childcare services
- assistance with utilities (LIHEAP)
- emergency disaster relief
- Head Start

FOR MORE RESOURCES OR TO ASK ABOUT YOUR SPECIFIC SITUATION:

<https://www.houstonimigration.org/>; or 833-468-4664

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH SNAP, MEDICAID, LIHEAP? Call the **Houston Food Bank** help line at **832-369-9390**