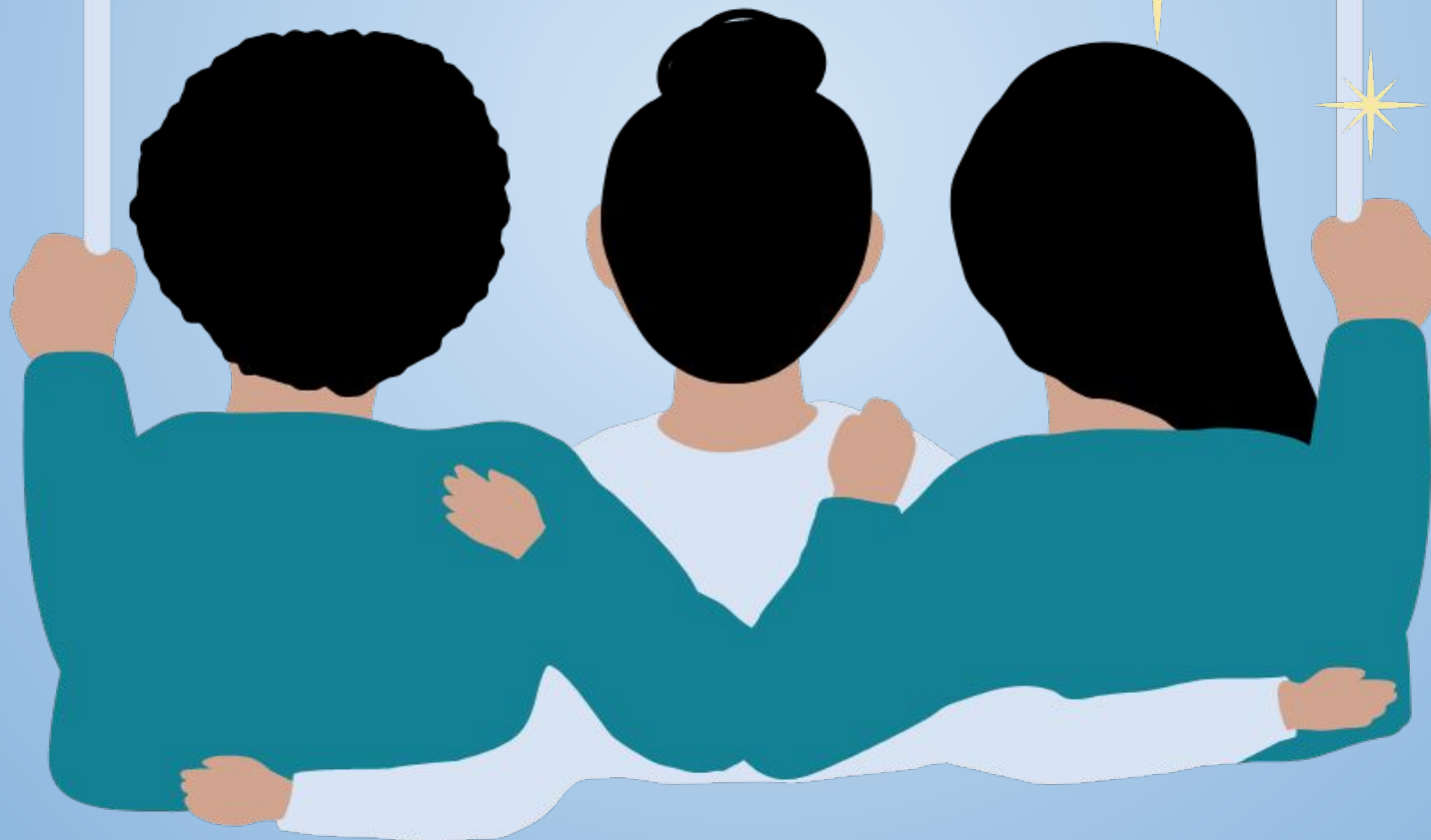


OUR RIGHTS, OUR BENEFITS

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.

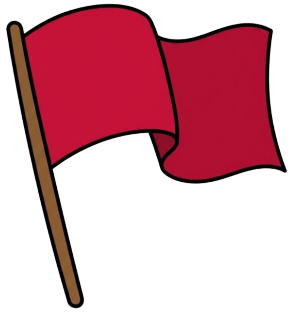
Humanitarian Protection

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

Eligibility by Immigration Status

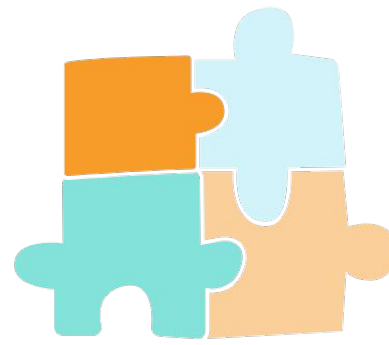
- **Citizens** – eligible for all public benefits if they meet other requirements
- **LPRs** – eligible for MOST public benefits BUT a five-year waiting period and other restrictions may apply
- **“Humanitarian” immigrants** – eligible for some programs but not all
- **Deferred / Other lawfully present 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

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

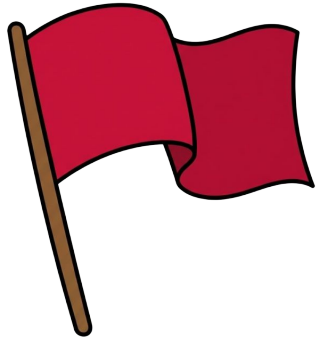
Employment

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

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.

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**