

Will Using Public Benefits Affect My Immigration Status?



On November 19th, the federal government proposed changes to the “public charge” rule.

Under current law, a **public charge** is someone who relies on cash assistance or is in a long-term care facility covered by Medicaid. Immigration officials may deny some green card or visa applications if they believe an applicant may primarily depend on public benefits now or in the future.

The proposed changes make it harder for someone to get a green card or certain other immigration statuses. **The proposed changes are not currently in effect.**

Could this change affect me?

Even if the proposed rules go into effect, they will not apply to all immigrants.

There will be several exceptions. For the latest information about the public charge rule, go to nyc.gov/publiccharge.

The proposed rules would not change your ability to access public benefits, health care, or other City services if you are eligible for them or already receiving them.

What should I do now?

It is unclear when these new rules will go into effect, though it could be soon.

Remember, NYC provides many no- and low-cost health care and social services to NYC residents. You can access these City services regardless of your immigration status, ability to pay, employment status, or ability to speak English.

NYC residents with questions can get free legal help by calling the
MOIA Immigration Legal Support Hotline:



1-800-354-0365

Free, confidential, and in your language. For hours of operation, visit nyc.gov/immigrants.