



Public Charge - update

KEITH SEINFELD / PUBLIC HEALTH—SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

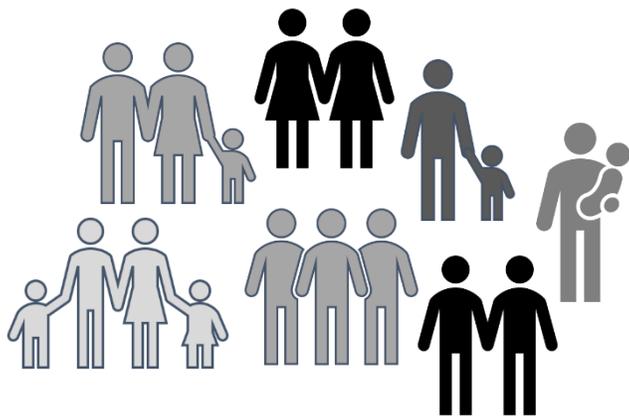
What is Public Charge?

Is it how the government can find out where I am?

Does it mean that if my children use health care, I will be deported?

What is it?

I think it means I should get off of benefits now.



Does it mean that if use public benefits, I won't qualify to become a citizen?

I think it means my family cannot access any benefits.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CHANGES IN PUBLIC CHARGE ?

GREEN CARD APPLICANTS

TEMPORARY VISA
APPLICANTS

92% of
immigrants
are not
affected

Timing

February 24th- New rule will go into effect.

Not retroactive - Use of any programs (other than cash or long-term care) used before February 24, 2020 will not be considered.

Benefits used by **family members** don't count - Programs used by your U.S. citizen **children** will not be used against you.

Public Charge Definition Changes

Current definition: Someone who is likely to become primarily dependent on the government to support themselves.



New Rule: An immigrant “who receives one or more public benefits . . . for more than 12 months in the aggregate within any 36-month period.”

Public Benefits Considered

Before

- Cash assistance (SSI, TANF, other)
- Institutional Long-Term Care (Medicaid funded nursing home care)

After

- Cash Assistance (SSI, TANF, other)
- Institutional Long-Term Care (Medicaid funded nursing home care)
- Food assistance (SNAP, Basic Food, Food Stamps, EBT Card)
- Housing Assistance (Federal Public Housing, Section 8)
- Some Medicaid health coverage (see exceptions!)

What's not included? – many Medicaid benefits are NOT part of Public Charge test

Children and Teens

Apple Health / Medicaid benefits received by children and adolescents under age 21 will not count.

Pregnancy Medical

Medicaid benefits received by women during pregnancy and in the 60-day postpartum

Emergency Medicaid

Alien Emergency Medicine (AEM), hospital services for an acute medical emergency, will not count.

More benefits that are NOT considered

CHIP - Children's Health Insurance Program	WIC – Supplemental Nutrition	MSP – Medicare Savings Program / Medicare Part D Subsidies
School nutrition services such as free lunch and breakfast before the bell.	Tax Credits such as ACA premium tax credit, earned income tax credit	Public health services such as immunizations, TB and STD clinics
Earned benefits such as unemployment, social security retirement, workers compensation	Military benefits used by members of the military, Ready Reserve, and their spouses and children	BCCHP – Breast Cervical and Colon Cancer Health Program.

What can we say to clients?

- ▶ Most immigrants (approx. 92%) will not be affected
- ▶ Not retroactive
- ▶ Many programs are not included in the public charge test
- ▶ Our goal is to help you and your family be healthy
- ▶ Every person's situation is different – we can't give you legal advice