

PUBLIC CHARGE & COVID-19

WHAT IMMIGRANTS NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT PUBLIC CHARGE AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



WHAT IS PUBLIC CHARGE?

PUBLIC CHARGE IS A TERM USED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS REFERRING TO PEOPLE WHO PRIMARILY RELY ON GOVERNMENT CASH ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY PUBLIC CHARGE?



US CITIZEN
NOT AFFECTED

SPECIAL VISA APPLICANT/HOLDER
NOT AFFECTED



GREEN CARD OR VISA APPLICANTS INSIDE THE U.S.
WILL BE AFFECTED



GREEN CARD OR VISA APPLICANTS OUTSIDE THE U.S.
MAY BE AFFECTED



GREEN CARD HOLDER
NOT AFFECTED

*refugee
*asylee
*vawa petitioner
*TPS
*u&t visa
*special immigrant juvenile
*other non citizen groups (i.e. DACA)

if you plan to apply for a green card or visa from inside the US & do not belong to to an exempt immigrant status (special visa), you will be affected.

if you plan to apply for a green card or visa from outside the US, you may be affected. talk to an expert before making decisions.

WILL THIS BE A PUBLIC CHARGE?

Will receiving government support for a COVID-19 testing and prevention be considered under the Public Charge rule?

NO

USCIS does not consider TESTING, TREATMENT, or PREVENTIVE SERVICES (i.e. if vaccine will become available) under the Public Charge rule.

Will applying and receiving for unemployment benefits be considered under the Public Charge rule?

NO

USCIS does not consider state unemployment benefits under the Public Charge rule as unemployment benefits are considered earned benefits.

Will receiving my stimulus check under the CARES Act impact my immigration application under the Public Charge rule?

NO

USCIS does not consider tax credits under the Public Charge rule. The \$1,200 (individual) or \$2,400 (married) and the +\$500/child you receive from the CARES Act will not be considered by USCIS as public charge.

WHAT WILL STILL BE A PUBLIC CHARGE?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Medicaid (Non-emergency)

Federal/State/Local Cash Assistance Programs

Housing Assistance (Federal Section 8 & public housing)

Government-funded institutionalized long-term care

This is not intended as legal advice. Consult a legal services provider for answers to your specific immigration questions.



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