



Sonoma
Immigrant
Services

PUBLIC CHARGE

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC CHARGE?

People applying for a green card (legal permanent residence) or visa to enter the United States must pass a public charge test. The public charge test evaluates the probability that certain government services will be used in the future. Immigration analyzes all the circumstances of the person, including age, income, education, among other factors.

Each individual case is different. For details specific to your situation, we recommend consulting with an immigration attorney. To schedule a free consultation with an immigration attorney, call (707)996-6669.

PUBLIC CHARGE DOES NOT AFFECT:

- U.S. citizens
- U.S. residents (Green Card holders)
 - This will not affect the renewal process or when applying for citizenship
- Those with TPS
- U-Visa or T-Visa holders
- VAWA recipients
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Refugees
- Asylees



FOR UNDOCUMENTED PARENTS:

- You may receive government benefits like Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and EBT for your U.S. citizen children **without** being affected by the public charge rule.



PUBLIC CHARGE CAN AFFECT:

- Individuals *planning to apply for a Green Card* through a relative or employment, either within the United States or at a foreign consulate / embassy.



PUBLIC CHARGE CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

****Please note that most people who are subject to the public charge are not eligible for the following benefits. Use of these programs will be considered by the public charge rule****

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, EBT, or Food Stamps)
- Federal Public Housing and Section 8 assistance
- Medicaid (does not include emergency services, children under 21 years, pregnant women, and new mothers)
- Cash assistance programs (like SSI, TANF, General Assistance)



SONOMA IMMIGRANT SERVICES
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