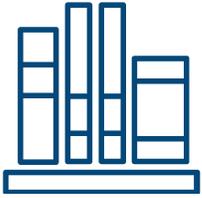


PUBLIC CHARGE

March 10, 2021



WHAT IS PUBLIC CHARGE?

“Public charge” or the “public charge test” is used by immigration officials to decide whether a person can enter the U.S. or get a green card (lawful permanent resident or “LPR” status).

WHAT IS THE LATEST?

VICTORY! On March 9, 2021, the public charge rule created by the Trump Administration was halted nationwide. Now, applicants for green cards inside and outside the U.S. can utilize benefits for which they qualify and apply for status without fear.

- Since 2017, Make the Road New York and allies have fought against this racist public charge rule and won in federal court. But the Trump administration had appealed our victory. When the new Biden administration dropped its appeal of our court victory, the new public charge rule was finally halted. Now, applicants are subject only to the previous 1999 policy.
- Under the 1999 policy, green card applicants can be found to be a public charge only in very limited situations: (1) if they have relied upon cash benefits (for which very few people qualify) or (2) have been institutionalized in a long-term care facility. Applicants will still be required to meet the financial sponsor requirements during their green card process..
- Benefits such as SNAP (food stamps), Federal Public Housing and Section 8 Assistance, and Federally Funded Medicaid are **NO LONGER** considered part of the public charge test. Additionally services such as WIC, hospitals/clinics, and food pantries are **NOT** considered for public charge.
- Factors such as health, age, income, household size, skills (such as English language) are **NO LONGER** factors in the public charge determination.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- You can and should access any benefits you or your family qualify for without fear (SNAP, housing, health insurance, healthcare etc)
- If you have a question about your eligibility for a green card, talk to an immigration attorney or accredited representative (For NYC residents, you can call 311 for an Action NYC appointment, outside NY, call ONA at 1-800-566-7636)
- If you want to enroll or renew benefits, contact the Make the Road health team at 866-365-2724



VISIT: MAKETHEROADNY.ORG OR CALL 866-365-2724 EXT 123

Thank you!