

# Will Using Public Benefits Affect My Immigration Status?

## What is happening?

Some people are concerned that the federal government will change the “public charge” rule, which could make it harder for certain immigrants to the United States to get a green card if they are found to have used some kinds of public benefits programs. Note: As of 2024, the public charge rule has **not changed**.

## Could this change affect me?

If the public charge rule does change, go to [nyc.gov/publiccharge](https://nyc.gov/publiccharge) for the latest information. Even if the rule does change, it cannot be applied to all immigrants. For example, the public charge rule cannot be changed by the president of the United States to apply to people who:

- Are applying for asylum
- Are refugees
- Are seeking or have received Special Immigrant Juvenile classification
- Are seeking or have received a U visa or T visa
- Have a green card and are seeking to naturalize to become a United States citizen
- Belong to another exempted category

## What should I do now?

You do not have to stop using the public benefits programs or City services you or your family members need. You have the right to get care and support without fear. At this time, the public charge rules have not changed. In addition, the rules about who is eligible for public benefits and services have not changed.

Remember, NYC provides many no- and low-cost health care and social services to all NYC residents. These services may include emergency and nonemergency health care, health insurance for children and some adults, food assistance, tenant protection, worker protection, and legal help. You can access these City services regardless of your immigration status, ability to pay, employment status, or ability to speak English.

Before you make a decision about stopping your use of public benefits programs or City services, or if you have questions or concerns, please call the City’s hotline for more information. You can call the NYC Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs’ Immigration Legal Support Hotline at 800-354-0365 from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., or call **311** and say “public charge” to get free and safe legal help. Interpretation services are available for both the hotline and **311**.