

*Contra Costa County is committed to being a welcoming county for refugees, immigrants, and for all members of our community.*

# Understanding PUBLIC CHARGE

Last updated  
February 24, 2020

## WE WANT TO EMPOWER YOU WITH THE FACTS

The Federal Government's final rule on Inadmissibility on Public Charge Group takes effect on **February 24, 2020**. We want to share the following information with you so you can Get the Facts and Make a Plan:

#1

### The Final Rule only affects a LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

The following will **NOT** be directly impacted:

- U.S. Citizens and Citizenship applicants (you can still become a citizen if you use public benefits for which you are eligible)
- Current Legal Permanent Residents or LPRs, with the following exceptions:
  - LPRs who travel outside the U.S. for more than 180 days and try to re-enter
  - LPRs who commit certain criminal offenses, travel outside the US, and try to re-enter
- DACA renewal applicants
- Asylum, U or T Visa, TPS, or SIJS applicants

#2

### The Final Rule DOES NOT AFFECT EVERY BENEFIT PROGRAM.

The following programs will **NOT** be considered in a public charge test:

- WIC and national school lunch and breakfast programs
- Any Medi-Cal benefits received by children under 21, emergency and pregnancy Medi-Cal benefits (including up to 60 days post-partum), CHIP, and any benefits received under Contra Costa Cares
- Head Start, Child Care, and Public Education
- Any public benefits received by your children or other family members will not be taken into account in your immigration application (unless those family members are also applying for a green card)

#3

### You and your family's health and well-being are VERY IMPORTANT

- Immigration officials must look **at all your circumstances** in determining whether you are likely to become a public charge in the future. This includes your age, health income, assets, resources, education/skills, family you must support, and family who will support you
- We highly encourage you to seek qualified legal advice before making a very important decision regarding your family's health insurance and benefits!

**For the latest  
information on  
Public Charge  
please text  
(925) 510-3054  
or visit  
[www.ehsd.org/charge](http://www.ehsd.org/charge)**