

What is “Public Charge”?

Immigration officials use the term Public Charge to mean people who rely on the government for support. If the government decides someone is a “public charge”, they can be denied permission to come to the US or denied permission to become a permanent resident.



What is happening?

On **October 15, 2019**, changes for Public Charge will go into effect.

These changes:

- do not apply to many types of immigrants
- do not apply before October 15, 2019
- do not apply to all programs
- do not apply to people who apply for benefits or get benefits for someone else



Public Charge changes do not apply to many types of immigrants

These groups are **not** affected by the changes:

- Refugees and asylees
- Survivors of trafficking and other serious crimes
- People who apply for protection under the Violence Against Women Act
- Young people with “special immigrant juvenile” status

Public Charge changes do not affect many programs

These programs are **not** affected:

- Medicaid for children under 21 and pregnant women (including 60 days after giving birth)
- CAWEM Emergency Medicaid, a special kind of insurance for pregnant women
- The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program
- Special education services that are covered by Medicaid and funded by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)
- Discounts on private health insurance that came from Oregon’s Health Insurance Marketplace
- Health care services based in schools
- Oregon’s Cover All Kids Program
- Most services offered by Oregon’s Reproductive Health Program



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At Multnomah County, All Are Welcome Here.

Continue getting the services you and your family need!

We encourage you to continue getting services to support you and your family. State law prohibits Multnomah County from enforcing federal immigration laws. We will continue to respect your privacy by following HIPAA guidelines.

If you think this rule change might affect you, learn more and contact an immigration attorney.

Multnomah County employees cannot give legal advice, but the resources below may help.

For legal resources, visit oregonimmigrationresource.org or protectingimmigrantfamilies.org

For questions about benefits and enrollment, call the Public Benefits Hotline of the Oregon Law Center and Legal Aid Services at **1-800-520-5292**.



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