

Messages in bold, talking points bulleted below the messages

This new public charge policy removes important protections for green card applicants.

- The new policy starts on September 18, 2026.
- It takes away the clear rules that the Biden administration established for deciding whether someone could become a “public charge,” and allows DHS officials to deny green cards based on the use of any government-funded, “means-tested” or income-based program.
- It also allows them to deny green cards based on personal traits they don’t like, like being overweight, or having diabetes.
- It even allows them to consider whether a dependent family member has used government-funded health or social services because the family has a low-income.
- This new policy will bring bias and discrimination into applications for permanent residency.

This change doesn’t matter for many people in immigrant families.

- The “Public Charge Test” only applies to people applying for a family-based green card, a visa to enter the US, or to green card holders who leave the country for more than 180 days.
- Public charge does not apply to you if: you’re a U.S. citizen; you already have your green card / permanent residency; you’re applying for or already have received TPS, U or T Visa, Asylum or Refugee status, or Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; you currently have no pathway to obtain a green card, such as DACA or TPS or you’re undocumented; or you do not plan to apply for a green card in the future.
- Because these rules are complicated, it is a good idea to talk to a lawyer before you leave the country or apply for a green card.

These changes are part of so many attacks on immigrant families and communities right now

- This new policy adds to the fear and harm immigrant families are experiencing because of other policies, and it threatens the nation’s health and economic security.
- It’s overwhelming - on purpose, and it’s confusing - on purpose. Staying informed and sharing accurate information with your neighbors are two really important ways you can respond to these attacks.
- Because these rules are complicated, it is a good idea to talk to a lawyer before you leave the country or apply for a green card.

Fight fear with facts! Share information with your community, and stay informed about public charge and other policy changes at <https://pifcoalition.org/>