

THE PUBLIC CHARGE RULE GOES INTO EFFECT FOR IMMIGRATION APPLICATIONS ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 24, 2020. CHA IS A RESOURCE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION SO YOU CAN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS.

WHAT IS PUBLIC CHARGE? Initial green card and visa applicants to enter the U.S. must pass the “public charge” test – which looks at whether an applicant is likely to use certain government services in the future. Officials review all factors such as age, income, health, education/skills, affidavit of support, and can take into account the use of the certain listed benefits.

NEW BENEFITS CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC CHARGE TEST EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24, 2020 WITHIN U.S.

- On February 24, 2020, public charge tests within the U.S. will consider the use of:
 - **Medicaid (except for emergency services called MassHealth Limited (*see list below*), children under age 21, and pregnant women including 60 days after pregnancy),***
 - **Food stamps (SNAP),* and**
 - **Federal Public Housing and Section 8 assistance.***
 - **Cash assistance (SSI, TAFDC, EAEDC) and government funded long-term care.**
- Receipt of newly listed public benefits* before February 24, 2020 are NOT considered.
- Most people subject to the public charge test do NOT qualify for the above listed benefits.
- Does NOT consider public benefits used by family members (including children) who are NOT applying for an immigration status.

APPLICATIONS PROCESSED OUTSIDE U.S.

- Different rules may apply to immigrants seeking visas from outside the U.S. or green card applicants who must leave the U.S. for consular processing abroad.
- An immigration lawyer can serve as a resource.

PUBLIC CHARGE TEST DOES NOT APPLY TO EVERYONE.

Does NOT apply to: Current green card holders applying for citizenship or green card renewal; U.S. citizens; Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and humanitarian immigrants such as refugees, asylees, domestic violence self-petitioners, U or T visa, or Special Immigrant Juveniles.

MANY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS ARE NOT COUNTED IN NEW PUBLIC CHARGE TEST.

Does NOT apply to: Health Safety Net, MassHealth Limited (emergency Medicaid), MassHealth coverage for pregnant women and children under age 21, coverage via the Health Connector/ ConnectorCare, Children’s Medical Security Plan (CMSP), certain state-only MassHealth Family Assistance, school-based Medicaid, Medicare, veterans health coverage and Tricare, WIC and more.

IMMIGRANT HEALTH IS IMPORTANT TO US. CHA IS HERE AS A RESOURCE.

Please see CHA’s website challiance.org/immigration, or contact immigration-assistance@challiance.org.

Cambridge Health Alliance does not offer immigration legal counseling.

We encourage you to seek immigration or public benefits legal advice if you will be going through the application process.

Below is a list of organizations that are trusted in the community and provide free or low-cost immigration services. Some of these organizations may have limited capacity and may not accept new cases. Please call first to ensure that they can help you. *Please note that you may need to bring your own interpreter with you to these legal clinics.*

FREE IMMIGRATION LEGAL CLINICS

City of Cambridge/DeNovo [Monthly Immigration Clinic Flyer](#) - free immigration legal consultations

Third Wednesday of the month from 5:15 pm - 7:15 pm

DeNovo, 90 Third St, Cambridge, MA 02141

Please call 617-349-4396.

Boston City Hall [City of Boston Immigrant Resources](#) - free immigration legal clinics

First and Third Wednesday of the month, noon to 2pm

Boston City Hall, Room 806

Please call (617) 635-2980.

Irish International Immigrant Center has [Free Legal Clinics in Boston locations](#). **Please call (617) 542-7654.**

OTHER AREA IMMIGRATION LEGAL RESOURCES

Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR): (617) 742-9296

Irish International Immigrant Center: (617) 542-7654

Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigrant Services: (617) 464-8100

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) (children and families): (617) 207-4138

Greater Boston Legal Services (Immigration Unit): (617) 371-1234

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL'S HELPLINE at 800-272-4232 is available to answer questions about whether your health care coverage is considered under the rule. Health Care for All does not offer immigration counseling.

FOR MORE RESOURCES GO TO <http://miracoalition.org/legal-services> or challiance.org/immigration

Cambridge Health Alliance does not offer immigration counseling and is not responsible for the immigration advice provided by any of the groups listed.