

What is a “public charge?”

An immigrant who uses certain kinds of benefits from the government might be considered a “public charge” by the government. This can affect your immigration status. Just using government programs does not make you a public charge.

Which programs might put someone at risk of being considered a “public charge”?

The only programs that the government can currently ask about are:

- Cash assistance (like TANF or SSI)
- SNAP (food stamps)
- Federal Medicaid (NOT New York State Medicaid, the Essential Plan, Emergency Medicaid, H+H Options, NYC Care, Child Health Plus, or Medicaid for pregnant women and children)
- Section 8 and public housing

Being enrolled in these programs does **NOT** necessarily mean you will be considered a public charge, but they are some of the things the government looks at.

MOST government benefits are not included on this list. If your children are US Citizens you can apply for them to use these programs without putting yourself at risk.

Immigrants with some statuses can apply for a green card or visa **WITHOUT** being considered a “public charge.” These include:

- Refugees and asylees
- Victims of serious crimes (like U visa holders)
- VAWA self-petitioners (for people who are victims of violence committed by family members)
- Special immigrant juveniles (SIJS)
- Some other immigrants

Call the **New Americans Hotline** at **1-800-566-7636** for suggestions about where to get legal advice. Remember, public charge still doesn’t apply to many people, and most government programs aren’t included in the rules.

When does the government decide if someone is a “public charge”?

It happens when you are applying for a green card. When you apply for citizenship the government does **NOT** check if you are a “public charge.”

What should I do?

You don’t need to cancel your benefits if you are not at risk of being considered a “public charge.” Even if you are, it is important to think about your and your family’s needs as well as immigration concerns. If you have questions about “public charge” related to an existing or future immigration application, you should consult an immigration legal expert. Call the **New Americans Hotline** at **1-800-566-7636** for suggestions about where to get legal advice. The hotline is free and anonymous, and help is available in many languages.



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什麼是“公共負擔”

使用政府提供某些公共福利的移民可能被政府視為“公共負擔”。這可能會影響您的移民身份。您不會因為使用了政府福利而自動被視為公共負擔。

那些公共福利可能會使某人面臨被視為“公共負擔”的風險？

可以考查的政府計劃只是以下的計劃：

- 現金補助 (例如 TANF 或 SSI)
- SNAP (糧食券)
- 非緊急Medicaid醫療補助 (不是醫療保健服務，基本計劃或緊急醫療補助，或孕婦和兒童的Medicaid醫療補助)
- 第8類房屋補助及公共房屋

即使參加這些政府計劃，您**不**必然被視為“公共負擔”，但這是政府一般查看的事情。

大部分的政府福利不包括在此。如果您孩子是美國公民，您可以申請他們使用這些計劃而不會讓自己冒風險。

具有某些身份的移民可以申請綠卡，而**不會**被視為“公共負擔”。這些包括：

- 難民和持庇護身份者
- 人口販賣受害人 (T 簽證)
- 家暴或其他重大犯罪受害人 (U 簽證)
- VAWA 自呈申請人(對於遭受家庭成員暴力侵害的人)
- 特殊少年移民 (SIJS)
- 及某些其他移民身份

請洽New Americans 熱線 1-800-566-7636 索取法律諮詢的相關訊息。請記住，公共負擔仍然不適用於很多人，而且大部分的政府計劃不包含在規則中。

政府是何時裁定某人是否“公共負擔”？

這種情況發生在您申請綠卡時。當您申請公民身份時，政府**不會**檢查您是否是“公共負擔”。

我該怎麼辦？

若您不被視為“公共負擔”，您不需要停止您的公共福利。

即使您是，您必需要慎重地考慮您和您家人的需要以及移民情況。

如果您有對公共負擔，現在或未來的移民申請案件的疑問，請諮詢移民律師。請洽New Americans 熱線 1-800-566-7636 索取法律諮詢的相關訊息。該熱線是免費和匿名的，並有多種語言協助。

