Public charge is a rule that immigration can use to deny an application for permanent residence (green card) or certain other visas if the applicant is likely to depend on certain government programs in the future. The public charge test only looks at certain benefits that the applicant receives (see other side). It also considers his/her current situation, health, age, employment, skills, education, family/sponsor income.

Public charge DOES NOT AFFECT APPLICANTS for:

- U.S. citizenship
- Green card renewals
- Asylum/refugee status
- Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status
- TPS
- VAWA, U or T visas
- Green cards based on U/T/SIJ, VAWA or Asylum
- DACA renewals

FOR HELP APPLYING FOR BENEFITS:
- Coastside Hope: 650-726-9071
- Fair Oaks Community Center: 650-780-7500
- JobTrain: 650-330-6571

FOR IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS:
- Coastside Hope: 650-726-9071
- Immigration Institute of the Bay Area: 650-780-7530
- Catholic Charities: 650-295-2160
- Community Legal Services in EPA: 650-326-6440
- Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach: 415-567-6255
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County: 650-517-8936

FOR LEGAL ADVICE ABOUT PUBLIC BENEFITS OR PUBLIC CHARGE:
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County: 650-558-0915
  Toll-Free: 800-381-8898 | Fax: 650-517-8973

UPDATED: MARCH 9, 2021
CURRENTLY, PUBLIC CHARGE DOESN’T APPLY. But, if you use the listed benefits and plan to leave the U.S. for more than 6 months, get immigration legal advice.

Visit www.keepyourbenefits.org and click "Use the Guide" to see if public benefits could affect different immigration options.

THIS IS NOT MEANT TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE. PLEASE TALK TO A QUALIFIED LAWYER FOR YOUR SPECIFIC SITUATION.