



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC SECURITY
Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

SPREAD THE WORD!

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Clarifies Definition of Public Charge!

***Receiving most public benefits (like AHCCCS and KidsCare benefits) WILL NOT affect your Immigration Status!**

BENEFITS NOT AFFECTING PUBLIC CHARGE DETERMINATION

- KidsCare/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- AHCCCS/Medicaid (except when residing in an institution for long-term care)
- Prenatal care
- Federal emergency medical assistance (FES)
- Immunizations
- Child Care services
- Non-cash benefits funded under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
- Testing and treatment of communicable disease
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Nutrition Assistance (NA))
- Job training programs
- Housing assistance
- The Special Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Foster care and adoption assistance
- Transportation vouchers
- Educational assistance
- Nutrition programs
- Emergency Disaster Relief
- Energy Assistance, such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- In-kind, community-based programs, services, or assistance (such as soup kitchens, crisis counseling and intervention, and short-term shelter)
- Title II Social Security Benefits, Government Pensions, and Veterans Benefits

BENEFITS THAT MAY AFFECT PUBLIC CHARGE DETERMINATION

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash benefits
- Cash assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
- State or local cash assistance programs for income maintenance
- Medicaid for long-term nursing home or health institution care (this includes benefits received from the Arizona Long-Term Care System (ALTCS))

ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS

- There is NO public charge test for naturalization.
- Using Cash Assistance (CA) or other non-cash benefits WILL NOT affect an individual's ability to sponsor an immigrant into the United States, if that sponsor can meet the Income Test.
- Cash benefits received by U.S. citizen children or other family members of the non-citizen applicant do not make the non-citizen applicant a public charge, unless the non-citizen applicant relies on the cash benefits as their sole means of support. For example, if a child gets SSI, that would not stop a (working) parent from becoming a naturalized citizen, unless the family relies on the SSI as its sole means of support.

Non-citizens may receive MOST public benefits without becoming a "public charge" for purposes of admission into the United States, adjustment of status to legal permanent resident, becoming a naturalized citizen and deportation. These guidelines are published in the Federal Register: 8 CFR Parts 212 through 237.

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