Understanding PUBLIC CHARGE

Contra Costa County is committed to being a welcoming county for refugees, immigrants, and for all members of our community.

Last updated February 24, 2020

WE WANT TO EMPOWER YOU WITH THE FACTS

The Federal Government’s final rule on Inadmissibility on Public Charge Group takes effect on February 24, 2020. We want to share the following information with you so you can Get the Facts and Make a Plan:

The Final Rule only affects a LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

The following will NOT be directly impacted:

- U.S. Citizens and Citizenship applicants (you can still become a citizen if you use public benefits for which you are eligible)
- Current Legal Permanent Residents or LPRs, with the following exceptions:
  - LPRs who travel outside the U.S. for more than 180 days and try to re-enter
  - LPRs who commit certain criminal offenses, travel outside the US, and try to re-enter
- DACA renewal applicants
- Asylum, U or T Visa, TPS, or SIJS applicants

The Final Rule DOES NOT AFFECT EVERY BENEFIT PROGRAM.

The following programs will NOT be considered in a public charge test:

- WIC and national school lunch and breakfast programs
- Any Medi-Cal benefits received by children under 21, emergency and pregnancy Medi-Cal benefits (including up to 60 days post-partum), CHIP, and any benefits received under Contra Costa Cares
- Head Start, Child Care, and Public Education
- Any public benefits received by your children or other family members will not be taken into account in your immigration application (unless those family members are also applying for a green card)

You and your family’s health and well-being are VERY IMPORTANT

- Immigration officials must look at all your circumstances in determining whether you are likely to become a public charge in the future. This includes your age, health income, assets, resources, education/skills, family you must support, and family who will support you
- We highly encourage you to seek qualified legal advice before making a very important decision regarding your family’s health insurance and benefits!

For the latest information on Public Charge please text (925) 510-3054 or visit www.ehsd.org/charge

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