The new changes will only apply to applications that are postmarked or submitted electronically on or after February 24, 2020.

If you submit your green card application in the U.S. before Feb, 24, none of the new public charge criteria, including use of the benefits listed above (except cash assistance and long-term care), will be counted.

**MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR FAMILY**

Public charge does not apply to all immigrants. Every person's immigration case is different, and the programs that help your family might not even be counted in the new public charge test. **There are lots of people and organizations that can help you.** An immigration attorney familiar with this issue can give you advice based on your specific situation. Local non-profits may also be able to provide help and legal advice. To find free or low cost immigration legal services near you, visit [bit.ly/immigrationhelp](http://bit.ly/immigrationhelp).

**WHEN DOES THE NEW RULE TAKE EFFECT?**

The new changes will only apply to applications that are postmarked or submitted electronically on or after February 24, 2020. If you submit your green card application in the U.S. before Feb, 24, none of the new public charge criteria, including use of the benefits listed above (except cash assistance and long-term care), will be counted.

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**CHANGES TO PUBLIC CHARGE**

USCIS is changing its public charge test beginning Feb. 24, 2020. Immigration officials will look more closely at factors such as health, age, income, and skills (including English proficiency). They will also consider use of the following benefits programs:

- CalFresh (SNAP, “EBT,” or “Food Stamps”)
- Federal Public Housing and Section 8 assistance (Voucher and Project-Based aid)
- Federally funded Medicaid (Medi-Cal) for non-pregnant adults ages 21 years and older (exceptions include services for emergencies and 60 days post-partum) *This does not include state-funded Medi-Cal populations such as DACA recipients, undocumented children and young adults up to age 25, and many other categories of immigrants.*
- Cash assistance programs (like SSI, TANF/CalWORKs, and General Assistance)
- Long-term care

**Note:** most people who are subject to the new rule are not eligible for the above listed benefits.

Any programs not listed above will not be counted. This includes WIC, CHIP, school lunch, food banks, shelters, state and local health care and nutrition programs, and many more. Programs used by others in your family or household, including your children, will not be counted against you.