



SNAP and Immigrants: Get the Facts About Public Charge

- **Changes to “public charge” rule go into effect on February 24, 2020**
- **Office for New Americans' statewide hotline is available to help**
- **Updated outreach materials in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) now available**

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on January 30, 2020 that the agency will begin to apply the final public charge rule to applications and petitions submitted on or after February 24, 2020.

This change to the public charge rule impacts those immigrants who are applying for green cards or visas and who use certain programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, and subsidized housing assistance on or after February 24th.

It's important to note that not all immigrants are affected by the rule, which excludes legal permanent residents and many other immigrants. Most immigrants who fall under this new rule are not eligible for SNAP benefits. However, this rule is causing fear and uncertainty, and immigrant families are withdrawing from SNAP and other public benefit programs without understanding the facts.

Please visit our [SNAP and Immigrants page](#) where you can find information and resources including: an FAQ on the Public Charge rule, NYS impact information, and a client flyer in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) for you to download and use with your immigrant clients to ensure they have the facts before they make any decisions about using public benefits. The Office for New Americans runs a statewide hotline (**800-566-7636**) that can provide information and referrals to legal services for immigrants.

Please share this widely with your networks. It is important for community organizations to empower immigrant families with the facts about the new public charge rule.

Visit our website to learn more



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