

WHAT CHANGED WITH PUBLIC CHARGE?

July 2026

The Trump Administration has ended protections against bias and discrimination in green card applications, starting on September 18, 2026. Learn how public charge is changing.

	2022 Rule	Policy Starting September 18, 2026
Who in the U.S. does public charge apply to?	People applying for family-based green cards, or people with green cards who leave the country for more than 6 months.	<u>No change</u> . People applying for family-based green cards, or people with green cards who leave the country for more than 6 months.
What programs are considered?	Federal or State <u>cash assistance</u> for income maintenance and <u>long-term institutionalization</u> at government expense	On or after September 18, 2026, immigration officers will not be restricted and can look at <u>many types of benefits</u>
Is past use of safety net programs considered?	Yes. Only the above two benefits listed	<u>Yes</u> . The new policy allows DHS to consider the two types of benefits used before September 18, 2026, and the use of other safety-net programs after that date.
Is a family member's use of programs considered?	No.	<u>Yes</u> . The new policy allows officials to consider a dependant's use of benefits as evidence of the applicant's income and financial status.
Is an affidavit of support considered?	Yes. It is required for sponsored immigrants. Applicants with a sponsor are more likely to "pass" the public charge test.	<u>Yes</u> . It is required for sponsored immigrants, but immigration officers are not required to treat it as a positive factor.
What other factors are considered?	Age, Income, Education, Skills, Employment, Health , Affidavit of Support, and Certain Benefits Programs	<u>Any</u> - Age, Income, Education, Skills, Employment, Health, Affidavit of Support, and Benefits Programs, and immigration officers can use their own discretion to consider other factors as well.