

Preparing Your Health Center for Public Charge

Use the resources below to ready your health center staff and patients

On January 27, 2020, the Supreme Court decided that the Trump Administration can enforce the Public Charge rule while various courts weigh the rule's constitutionality.

The new public charge rule will be applied to applications and petitions submitted **on or after February 24, 2020**. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will NOT consider an immigrant's receipt of the newly listed benefits before February 24, 2020 in the public charge determination.

Receiving health care at community health centers is not a risk under the new public charge rule. Health centers welcome all patients, regardless of insurance, immigration status, or ability to pay.

- Train staff on the public charge final rule
 - Equip any staff that interact with patients, including enrollers, community health workers, registration and other frontline staff, and clinical service providers with the knowledge to successfully direct patients to public charge-related resources.
 - The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) and CHCANYS will be hosting a series of webinars. Dates TBA.
 - Visit CHCANYS' public charge webpage: chcanys.org/publiccharge
 - The NYIC periodically offers train-the-trainer events across New York State. Please contact training@nyic.org if you are interested in attending one of these events.

- Direct patients to the New Americans Hotline **1-800-566-7636**
 - The New Americans hotline is a toll-free multi-lingual hotline aiding in more than 200 languages. They provide general information and **legal referrals**, regardless of citizenship or documentation status. All calls are anonymous.
 - The hotline is open 9 am – 8 pm, Monday – Friday excluding federal Holidays
 - NYC** ▪ In NYC, individuals can receive free legal help by calling ActionNYC at 1-800-354-0365 and saying, "public charge."

- Determine a process to [inform patients](#) about the public charge rule
 - This rule only impacts some immigrants. Humanitarian immigrants such as refugees, asylees, and people who have status because they were the victims of certain crimes, are entirely exempt from public charge. The new rule does not penalize any people for enrolling in Emergency Medicaid, Medicaid for Pregnant Women, the Essential Plan, WIC, or the use of a health center's sliding fee scale.

- Do **not** provide legal advice
 - When discussing public charge with patients, ensure that you are **not** providing legal advice.
 - Health centers can provide patients with [facts](#).
 - For example, health centers can say that public charge does not apply to individuals applying for citizenship. However, **don't say**: "don't worry, you are not impacted by public charge since you are applying to become a citizen."

- Have resources on hand for patients
 - [Protecting Immigrant Families](#) has developed community-facing FAQs and other community education documents, including documents in multiple languages.
 - You can find additional public charge resources designed for community members in multiple languages at www.nyic.org/publiccharge

For more information or additional resources, visit chcanys.org/publiccharge and nyic.org/publiccharge