

2. What benefits are included and excluded in the proposed rule?

<i>Included</i>	<i>Excluded</i>
<p>Under the proposed rule, immigration agents could weigh current or past receipt of one or more of the following public benefits in a public charge determination (*indicates program is included under current policy as well):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash assistance (SSI, TANF, and state or local cash benefit programs that supplement income)* • Government-funded long- or short-term care* • Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Food Stamps) • Housing Assistance (public housing or Section 8 Housing Vouchers and Rental Assistance) 	<p>The proposed rule states that any non-cash benefits not listed in the rule are excluded. This means the following programs are NOT relevant in public charge determinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start • Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and other state or federal child care assistance programs • Public education services, including public pre-kindergarten • Home visiting • Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) • School breakfast and lunch • Energy assistance (LIHEAP)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-emergency Medicaid¹ • Low-income subsidy for prescription drug costs under Medicare Part D <p>DHS is also considering adding to the list of benefits. The proposed rule requests public comments on whether to include the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in the list of benefits to be considered in a public charge determination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-cash TANF benefits • Federal Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit • Student loans
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8. What would the change to public charge mean for early care and education providers? Changes to public charge do not change immigrants’ eligibility for public benefits or child care and early education programs. Early childhood programs should continue to follow existing rules and restrictions regarding asking questions and collecting data related to a child’s or parent’s immigration status. The rules governing public charge cannot change unless a final rule is issued. The public charge determination process happens on an individual basis at the time when immigrants or their family members are applying to enter the U.S. or adjust their status.

9. Why is it important for early childhood policymakers, advocates, and providers to understand public charge? Children in immigrant families are a large and growing share of the U.S. young child population. Many immigrant families rely on their early care and education providers for resources and support. Families are certain to have questions about the rule and whether it is safe for them to continue accessing public benefits. Early childhood policymakers, advocates, and providers must be prepared to communicate effectively about the proposed rule, both with other members of the field and with immigrant families and others in the community. In our research, CLASP learned that families are increasingly fearful about using programs such as nutrition assistance and public health insurance for their children, and some are even reluctant to bring their children to school or child care. The publication of the proposed rule is likely to exacerbate this fear. Early childhood providers must be prepared to tell parents that participating in the program is safe.