



# Public Charge **SAFE TO USE** List

This is a list of public benefits programs that do NOT trigger public charge and are safe to use. To figure out whether public charge even applies to you, meet with a trusted immigration legal service provider.

For free or low-cost immigration help, go to: <https://www.bit.ly/ianimmhelp>.

**Whether or not public charge applies to you, the programs on this list are safe to use regardless of immigration status:**

- ✓ ALL Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California), including emergency and pregnancy-related services for adults and children (except Medicaid/Medi-Cal used to pay for long term institutionalized care like in a nursing home)
- ✓ IHSS
- ✓ Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- ✓ COVID-19 screening, treatment, & vaccine
- ✓ Other health coverage programs (county health services, free hospital care, etc.)
- ✓ AIDS Drug Assistance Program and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
- ✓ Indian Health Program
- ✓ Flu vaccine and other immunizations
- ✓ Disaster relief
- ✓ Stimulus checks
- ✓ Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)
- ✓ WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)
- ✓ Food assistance programs like food stamps/EBT/SNAP (CalFresh in California)
- ✓ Free and reduced-cost school meals
- ✓ P-EBT (Pandemic EBT)
- ✓ Public education
- ✓ Head Start
- ✓ Food pantries, soup kitchens
- ✓ CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program
- ✓ Homeless shelters
- ✓ Childcare services
- ✓ Non-cash TANF benefits like subsidized childcare or transit subsidies
- ✓ Foster care and adoption assistance
- ✓ Student loans
- ✓ Home mortgage loans
- ✓ Energy assistance
- ✓ Refugee Cash Assistance
- ✓ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- ✓ Weatherization Assistance Program
- ✓ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (CalEITC in California)
- ✓ Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC)
- ✓ Health insurance through the ACA, also known as "the marketplace" (Covered CA in California) including tax credits and subsidies
- ✓ Other state, local, or tribal tax credits
- ✓ SSDI
- ✓ Social Security retirement
- ✓ Veteran's benefits
- ✓ Medical treatment through the Veteran's Health Administration (including TRICARE)
- ✓ Government pension benefits and healthcare
- ✓ Unemployment benefits
- ✓ Public housing
- ✓ Section 8 housing and rental assistance
- ✓ Worker's compensation
- ✓ Medicare (including Low-Income Subsidy or "Extra Help")
- ✓ Federal and state disability insurance
- ✓ Medicaid services or benefits provided in connection with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- ✓ Crisis counseling/intervention
- ✓ Transportation vouchers
- ✓ **Many more!** If you have questions about whether a program or benefit that's not on this list counts for public charge, talk to a trusted legal provider