PUBLIC CHARGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION SHEET

**Dealing with Public Charge:**

Public charge is a system used by governments to determine eligibility for certain benefits programs. When someone is found to have public charge status, they may be denied certain benefits. This includes

- Food stamps (SNAP)
- Non-emergency Medicaid
- Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Section 8 housing vouchers
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Long-term nursing home care

**Eligible or Ineligible?**

To determine if someone is eligible or ineligible for public charge status, the government looks at factors such as

- Legal status (citizenship, lawful permanent resident)
- Income
- Assets

**Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR):**

- Eligible
- Ineligible

**Green Card holders:**

- Eligible
- Ineligible

**Nonimmigrant visa holders:**

- Eligible
- Ineligible

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):**

- Eligible
- Ineligible

**Long-term nursing home care:**

- Eligible
- Ineligible

For more information, contact Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

This resource was developed by Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles, 10/17/18.
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is proposing to amend the definition of the term 'public charge' in the United States Code (U.S.C.) to add a new section for public charge. This new section would include the following conditions:

1. The person is subject to deportation or is in removal proceedings.
2. The person has a criminal history.
3. The person has a serious medical condition.
4. The person has a mental disorder.
5. The person has a history of domestic violence.

The proposed changes to the definition of public charge would take effect on January 30, 2019. Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments on the proposed rule by January 29, 2019. Comments can be submitted electronically through the Federal Register website or by mail to the Department of Homeland Security.

The Federal Register publication with the proposed rule can be found [here](https://www.federalregister.gov/a/AAAJ-public-charge).

For more information, contact your congressional representative or call the Department of Homeland Security's public charge hotline: 1-855-300-2552 or 1-800-867-3126.