

Should I worry about Public Charge?

Most immigrants can get health care without hurting their immigration status

The INS now says it is OK to get

- Medi-Cal
- Healthy Families or
- other health care.

Getting health care alone should not keep you from getting a green card. If you have a green card, it should also not stop you from returning to the U.S. after a trip lasting less than six months.

It should also be OK to get most other government help that is not cash. Services that you can get include:

- food stamps
- WIC and
- school breakfast and lunch.



However, you can have an immigration problem if the government pays for a nursing home or mental hospital for you. And cash welfare can keep you from getting your green card, depending on your situation. If you lie to get help from the government, you could have a problem.

Contact a lawyer or your Health Consumer Center if you need cash aid, nursing home care or mental hospital care.

**Be sure to read Immigrants Health Fact Sheet #1,
“Will it hurt my sponsor if I get health care?”**

Materials developed by:



The Health Consumer
ALLIANCE

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