

Important News for New Jersey Immigrants!

Some immigrant families worry that applying for benefits such as food, housing, and healthcare assistance could impact their ability to get a green card. Certain people who apply for a green card or visa must pass “public charge” test in which immigration officials assess an individual’s likelihood of depending on public benefits. Public charge does not apply to everyone.

GOOD NEWS: Under the current public charge rule, which went into effect in 2022, many public benefits are NOT considered in public charge determinations. Immigrants can now access health care, food and housing support, and many more public benefits without fear of immigration consequences.

What does this mean for you and your family?

Below is a list of programs available to you and your family. You can apply for these critical benefits you and your family may be eligible for without concerns regarding the public charge benefit test. In New Jersey, we want you to have access to services like food, housing, and healthcare assistance.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Food Assistance

NJ Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (NJ SNAP)

NJ SNAP is a food assistance program helping families with low-incomes afford food.

www.NJSNAP.gov
(800) 687-9512



NJ Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

NJ WIC program provides food and support for women who are pregnant and post-partum, infants, and children up to 5 years old.

www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/wic
(800) 328-3838



Summer EBT

Summer EBT is a new-to-NJ program intended to reduce food insecurity for children who lose access to free school meals during the summer when school is not in session. If your child is receiving free or reduced-price school meals and attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, they will be automatically enrolled in Summer EBT.

www.nj.gov/summerebt/
(800) 997-3333

Other food programs you are eligible for:

Food pantries, soup kitchens, and free and reduced school lunch at your child’s school. NJ 2-1-1 provides information on local food resources.

www.nj211.org/

Healthcare

Medicaid

NJ FamilyCare is New Jersey's publicly funded health care coverage for U.S. citizens, qualified non-citizens, and children. All income-eligible children under the age of 19, regardless of immigration status, are eligible for NJ FamilyCare. These services include doctor visits, dental, vision, mental health, behavioral health and much more.

www.njfamilycare.org
(800) 701-0710

NJ FAMILY CARE

Medicare

Health insurance for adults over 65 years of age.
www.medicare.gov/
(800) 633-4227

Health Insurance Marketplace (Affordable Care Act)

New Jersey's official health insurance marketplace.
www.nj.gov/getcoverednj/
(833) 677-1010

Charity Care

Emergency hospital funding for uninsured patients regardless of immigration status.
www.nj.gov/health/charitycare/
(866) 588-5696

Housing

NJ Housing Programs

Programs that help with rent/heating costs, prevention of eviction, and reduction of utility bills.

<http://www.njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/en-US/>
(609) 292-4080

- **Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) Section 8**
Helps low-income families pay rent through a Housing Choice Voucher.
- **State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP)**
Helps low-income families pay rent through a State-funded voucher.
- **Homeless Prevention Program (HPP)**
Offers help to people facing eviction through payment of back rent.
- **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)**
Offers relocation and temporary rental assistance to low income families.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)/Universal Service Fund (USF)**
Helps residents with their heating/cooling bills, heating repair and emergency fuel assistance.

Child Care and Education

Childcare Assistance

The New Jersey Child Care subsidy program provides assistance to families with low-incomes and working families needing child care. A Child Care Resource and Referral Agency is available at each county for application assistance. These agencies can also help you connect to Early Head Start and Head Start programs.

www.childcarenj.gov/
(800)332-9227

Tuition assistance and student loans

Help applying and paying for college.

www.hesaa.org/Pages/NJGrantsHome.aspx
(609) 584-4480

Other services available to you: English and ESL classes, employment services, and disability related services.

Concerned about accepting benefits and the “Public Charge”?

If you are applying for a green card (lawful permanent resident status), visa/visa extension, or a change of status you must pass a “public charge” test to assess if the person will be dependent on government benefits.

The only benefits that are considered in the public charge test are: 1) cash assistance programs that provide ongoing support including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), TANF, and General Assistance; and 2) long-term institutional care, such as a nursing home, paid for by the government.

Immigration officials can only consider benefits used by the green card applicant in a public charge test. They cannot consider benefits used by other family members.

If you are unsure if this applies to you or a family member, please consult with an immigration attorney.

