



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

January 27, 2020

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission Statement on SCOTUS Public Charge Ruling

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled today that it will allow the administration's "public charge" rule to move forward, lifting a nationwide injunction on the rule while the case is decided in court. Although legal challenges continue, today's ruling will no doubt bring harm to our immigrant communities.

The Immigrant Rights Commission condemns the administration's "public charge" rule as a cruel attack on those who are most vulnerable. News of the "public charge" rule has already made people afraid to seek services they need and are eligible for, endangering the health, safety, and financial security of all Americans.

While today's ruling is disappointing, it is important to know that:

- The "public charge" rule does not change eligibility for public benefits.
- Many immigrants will not be affected at all. The "public charge" rule does NOT affect humanitarian immigrants like refugees and asylees, immigrants applying for naturalization, or naturalized citizens.
- Public charge determinations will only consider use of benefits by the individual and will not take into account benefits used by other family members, including children, of the person for whom officials are making the determination.
- Not all benefits are considered. For example, Medicaid received by children under age 21 won't be considered. Nor will Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), school lunch programs, food pantries or disaster relief.
- San Franciscans can go to <https://immigrants.sfgov.org/help/screening> to find a trusted free or low-cost legal services provider to find out if and how these changes may affect them. San Franciscans can also contact the San Francisco Human Services Agency for questions about public charge and use of [public benefits](#).

We stand firm in our commitment to defend the rights of all immigrants and support their wellbeing. Together with partners across the nation, we will continue to fight for what is right to ensure that every family has the opportunity to stay together, thrive and contribute.