



Immigration and Privacy Concerns

Information is accurate as of May 2017

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

about Eligibility for and Participation in Public Benefits and Services in Light of Media Reports and Actual or Potential Changes in Public Policies

ELIGIBILITY

- **Are there eligibility changes to the benefit programs that affect me?**

Public benefit assistance programs have not changed. If you were eligible to receive Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, cash assistance, subsidized childcare or In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) before, you are still eligible.

PARTICIPATION

- **Does my immigrant status affect my ability to apply for or participate in public benefit programs and services?**

The recent presidential executive orders do not change immigrants' and legal residents' ability to participate in public benefits such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and CalWORKs. There are no changes to California's public assistance eligibility requirements, your health care coverage or how your personal information is used. All applications, renewals, and provision of benefits will continue to be processed as before. New immigration policies do not affect you or your family's involvement in child welfare services; they will continue.

PUBLIC CHARGE

- **Are there changes to the "public charge" rules?**

The federal government has not changed how "public charge" rules apply to anyone. Public charge is a term used in immigration law to describe someone who is likely to rely on government benefits in order to get by. Currently, use of CalFresh or Medi-Cal does not impact immigration status and will not cause immigration officials to consider those receiving these benefits to be a public charge. However, under current policy, receiving cash assistance through CalWORKs and institutional long-term care that Medi-Cal pays for may cause you to be considered a public charge.

PRIVACY

- **I am concerned about the privacy of my information. How does EHSD use the information I provide about me or my family members?**

The information you provide is for our use only so we may determine eligibility. We do not share any information about household members who are not applying for benefits.

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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

• What happens to my information if I discontinue benefits?

Your information remains in our confidential systems, even if you discontinue benefits. However, discontinuing your benefits means you and your family members will lose services and assistance.

FUTURE CHANGES

• What kind of changes might happen that would affect my benefits?

Much of the information in recent news reports is about changes that may happen in the future. However, big changes to public programs like Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKs will not take effect immediately and must undergo many steps before they're implemented. Actions at the federal level are closely monitored, and you can trust that you will be informed if there are any changes that affect you or your family's eligibility to receive benefits.

LEGAL GUIDANCE

• Will participating in public benefit programs impact my immigration status or citizenship?

Can I receive assistance through EHSD?

While we are not able to offer legal guidance specific to you and your family, we do encourage you to seek advice from a reputable nonprofit immigration service provider. Below is a list of organizations that may be able to help you.

GENERAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211.org – Accessible 24/7. Assistance available in all languages. Confidential.

LEGAL RESOURCES*

RESOURCE	*WHAT'S OFFERED	WEB ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum Applications • Naturalization/ Citizenship • T&U Visa Petitions • Special Immigrant Juvenile Status 	www.apilegaloutreach.org	Oakland (510) 251-2846
Bay Area Legal Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAWA Self-Petitions • U Visa Petitions • Temporary Restraining Orders • Child or Spousal Support • Custody and Visitation Orders 	www.baylegal.org	Oakland (510) 6634755 Richmond (510) 233-9544 (800) 551-5554
Catholic Charities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration Legal Services 	www.cceb.org	Concord (925) 825-3099 Richmond (510) 234-5110 Oakland (510) 768-3100
Immigrant Legal Resource Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Assistance • Policy and Advocacy 	www.ilrc.org	San Francisco (415) 255-9499 ext. 427
LawHelpCA.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration Resources 	www.lawhelpca.org/issues/immigration	See resource listings

*Partial listing. Inclusion of an organization does not imply endorsement of its services, nor does exclusion reflect on any agency's contribution to the community.

