


IMPORTANT NEWS!


WILL USING BENEFITS HURT MY CHANCES OF GETTING A GREEN CARD OR BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN?

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Says:

If You Do Not Have A Green Card Yet


 **It will not hurt your chances of getting a green card if you, your children, or other family members use:**

- **Health care**, such as: Medicaid, NJ FamilyCare, WIC, prenatal care, other free or low cost medical care
- **Food programs**, such as: food stamps, WIC, school meals, and other food assistance
- **Other programs that do not give cash**, such as: public housing, disaster relief, child care services, job training, transportation vouchers


 **You might have a problem getting your green card later only if:**

- **You, your children, or family members use cash welfare**, such as: Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), General Assistance (GA)
- **You are in a nursing home or other long-term care** paid for by Medicaid or other government funds

If You Already Have A Green Card


 **You cannot lose your green card if you, your children, or other family members use:**

- Health care such as Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare, food programs, and other non-cash programs
- Cash welfare
- Long-term care

 **But you might have a problem:**


- If you leave the U.S. for more than 6 months continuously and you have used cash welfare or long-term care
- OR in extremely rare cases, if you use cash welfare or long-term care during your first 5 years in the U.S., for reasons (such as an illness or disability) that existed before you entered the country

If You Are A Refugee Or Asylee

 **You can use any benefits, including cash welfare, health care such as Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare, food programs, and non-cash programs, without hurting your chances of getting a green card.**

 **You cannot be denied U.S. citizenship for lawfully receiving benefits, including cash welfare, health care such as Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare, food programs, and non-cash programs.**

If You Want To Sponsor Your Relative

 **Using benefits, including cash welfare, health care such as Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare, food programs, and non-cash programs, should not prevent you from sponsoring your relative.**

But you will need to show that you or your co-sponsor earn enough income to support your relative.

Family members do not have to provide their own Social Security numbers when applying for health coverage for their children.

Information given on the application is confidential and will not be shared.

NJ FAMILYCARE

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