



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

GOOD NEWS! INS 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: Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, 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 use **CASH WELFARE**, such as: CalWORKs, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), General Assistance (GA), Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)
- ✦ OR your family's only source of support is cash welfare received by your CHILDREN or other FAMILY MEMBERS
- ✦ OR you are in a nursing home or other **LONG-TERM CARE** paid for by Medi-Cal or other government funds


Call one of the phone numbers listed on the back for more information.

If you are a REFUGEE or ASYLEE


 You can use **ANY** benefits, including cash welfare, health care, food programs, and non-cash programs, without hurting your chances of getting a green card.



If you already HAVE a green card

 You **CANNOT** lose your green card if YOU, your CHILDREN, or other FAMILY MEMBERS use:

- ✦ HEALTH CARE, 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.

Call one of the phone numbers below for more information.

If you are applying for U.S. citizenship

 You **CANNOT** be denied U.S. citizenship for lawfully receiving benefits, including cash welfare, health care, food programs, and non-cash programs.

If you want to sponsor your relative

 Using benefits, including cash welfare, health care, 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

1-888-624-4752.

OR CALL:

IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Northern California Coalition for
Immigrant Rights

Immigrant Assistance Line:

415/543 - 6767 Spanish/English

415/543 - 6769 Chinese/English

415/543 - 6797 Vietnamese/English

IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Coalition for Humana Immigrant Rights
of Los Angeles

888/624 - 4752 Spanish/English

888/624 - 4752 Russian/English

Asian Pacific American Legal Center

213/748 - 2022 English

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