



# Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs  
MassHire Workforce Board Directors  
Title I Administrators  
MassHire Career Center Directors  
Title I Fiscal Officers  
MDCS Operations Managers

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
MassHire Department of Career Services

**Date:** February 28, 2020

**Subject:** **Public Charge Rule Information Changes**

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**Purpose:** To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other workforce development partners of information about the [Public Charge Rule](#) and its potential impact on individuals applying for a green card or entry into the US.

**Background:** Following a Supreme Court decision on January 27, 2020, the federal government will be changing how applications for a green card or entry into the United States may cause an individual to become a public charge. The federal government will begin applying the rule on February 24, 2020. The public charge rules are complicated and may impact immigration status. Applying for benefits – even if denied – could also impact immigration status, so it is recommended that individuals direct questions to an immigration expert.

The recent changes allow more types of Federally funded public benefits to be considered when making public charge determinations. Benefits considered will now include:

- Certain MassHealth benefits;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); and
- Rental assistance under Section 8 housing vouchers & Federal public housing.

For more information about what benefits may or may not be taken into account in a public charge determination, you may want to consult fact sheets available at the following links:

[PIF Fact Sheet: Know Your Rights](#)  
[Health Care for All Fact Sheet](#)  
[What is the Public Charge Rule?](#)

**Action**

**Requested:** Please share this information as appropriate.

**Effective:** Immediately