

# Information on Public Charge

Important  
Announcement  
October 11, 2019

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### Visas: Ineligibility Based on Public Charge Grounds

On October 11, 2019, the Department published [an interim final rule](#) that amends 22 CFR 40.41, Ineligibility Based on Public Charge Grounds, to add certain definitions, including definitions of public charge, public benefit, alien's household, and receipt of public benefit.

Visa applicants are not requested to take any additional steps at this time and should attend their visa interviews as scheduled. The Department is seeking approval for use of a new form before it implements any changes to our processes. We will inform applicants of any changes to current visa application procedures.

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### Visas: Ineligibility Based on Public Charge Grounds

In August 2019, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a final rule amending its public charge regulations, which goes into effect at midnight EDT on October 15, 2019. On October 11, 2019, the Department published [an interim final rule](#) that amends 22 CFR 40.41, Ineligibility Based on Public Charge Grounds, to add certain definitions, including definitions of public charge, public benefit, alien's household, and receipt of public benefit. This interim final rule reflects the Department's interpretation of the pertinent section of INA 212(a)(4) as it applies to visa applicants. This rulemaking is also intended to align the Department's standards with those of the Department of Homeland Security, to avoid situations where a consular officer will evaluate an alien's circumstances and conclude that the alien is not likely at any time to become a public charge, only for the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate the same alien when he seeks admission to the United States on the visa issued by the Department of State and finds the alien inadmissible on public charge grounds under the same facts. These regulations will go into effect on October 15, 2019.

Visa applicants are not requested to take any additional steps at this time and should attend their visa interviews as scheduled. We will inform applicants of any changes to current visa application procedures.