

## **PUBLIC CHARGE AND the COVID-19 Emergency**

(updated 4-22-20)

### **Medical Care and Public Charge:**

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the federal Department of Homeland Security and USCIS clearly stated that testing, treatment, and preventive care related to COVID 19 will **not** be considered as part of the public charge determination, no matter how that that testing or treatment is paid for.

The Oregon Health Plan, including Cover all Kids and CAWEM-Plus Pregnancy coverage fully cover COVID-19 testing and treatment. Emergency Medicaid in Oregon (CAWEM, available to low income, non-pregnant adults in Oregon who don't qualify for OHP for immigration reasons) fully covers COVID-19 testing in the emergency room, and then covers COVID-19 treatment. Treatment paid for by any of these programs will **not** count in a public charge test.

### **Unemployment Insurance, Economic Stimulus Payments, and Public Charge:**

Unemployment insurance is **not** considered a public benefit and is never factored in to a Public Charge test.

The new Corona Virus stimulus payments **do not** count in a Public Charge test. The Stimulus payment is considered a tax credit, and tax credits never count in a Public Charge test.

### **Other Resources on Public Charge:**

Remember that many immigrants are exempt from the Public Charge test, many benefits don't count in a Public Charge test, and benefits received by an immigrant's children don't count against the parent in his or her public charge test inside the US. For more information see the Public Charge Fact Sheet from Causa, Oregon Latino Health Coalition, and Oregon Law Center [here](#) in English, [here](#) in Spanish, and [here](#) in other languages.

For information on many types of public benefits that immigrants can get, see the Immigrants and Public Benefits guide [here](#), and the Safety Net Resources guide [here](#).

**Call the Oregon Law Center/Legal Aid Services of Oregon Public Benefits Hotline for questions about public benefits and public charge. 1-800-520-5292.**