



HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

Health Care For All (HCFA) promotes health justice in Massachusetts by working to reduce disparities and ensure coverage and access for all.

Important Update Regarding Immigrants' Use of Benefits

You may have heard about proposed policy changes that could affect immigrants' use of public benefits (government programs that may help you pay for food, housing, other living expenses, and health care such as MassHealth). Proposed new federal regulations could change the definition of who is a "public charge," someone who is likely to become dependent on the government for financial and material support. This change could affect the ability to adjust immigration status (applying for a green card or a visa) or petition for a family member.

Health Care For All wants to make sure that you have the most accurate information about these proposed changes, so that you can make the best decision for you and your family.

- ***There has been no change to the "public charge" rules at this point that will affect you if you are in the US and may be adjusting status or sponsoring someone who is already here. These are proposed regulations that still need to go through a formal federal review process before any changes are made.***
- ***For immigrants residing in the US, there is no advantage in disenrolling from programs at this time. If the regulations are approved (which will likely take several months), individuals will have 60 additional days to decide what to do. Benefits you are getting now will NOT be counted towards the "public charge" determination.***
- ***Right now, the only benefits considered under "public charge" are cash benefits or payment for long-term care institutionalization.***
- ***The proposed rule expands the definition of "public charge" to consider additional benefits including some health care, housing, and nutrition programs. It is important to understand that family income and ability to work will be important factors in the new "public charge" test, as well.***
 - ***Before making any decision regarding your benefits, please be aware that many immigrants are exempt from the "public charge" test, including US citizens, most green card holders, refugees and asylees.***
 - ***Also, take into account that many immigrants subject to the public charge test do not qualify for the benefits included in the proposed rule.***

HCFA, MIRA or HLA do not offer immigration counseling and are not responsible for the immigration advice provided by any of the groups listed.

- ***We recommend that you to discuss all of these issues with an immigration counselor or attorney if you think you may be affected.***
- ***If you are sponsoring a family member who is currently living outside the country, you should also check with an immigration counselor or attorney about whether receiving public benefits could affect your pending petition, as some of the policies for overseas visa applicants have already changed.***

Health Care For All, the Massachusetts Immigrant Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Health Law Advocates and many other organizations work to protect Massachusetts immigrants and ensure they have the right to access public benefits, including health care.

To learn more about changes regarding the “public charge” determination and how to be part of the campaign to oppose these changes, you can send an email to organizing@hcfama.org.

Attached is a list of organizations that are trusted in the community and provide free immigration services. Some of these organizations may have limited capacity and may not accept new cases, please call first to ensure that they can help you.



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Immigrant Resources in Greater Boston

Legal Services		
Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)/Fenway Neighborhood Service Center	714 Parker Street Roxbury, MA 02120	Ph: (617) 445-6000
Agencia ALPHA	62 Northampton Street, #203 Boston, MA 02118	Ph: (617) 541-4455 x16
Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigrant Services	275 West Broadway South Boston, MA 02127	Ph: (617) 464-8100
Centro Presente	12 Bennington Street, Suite 202 East Boston, MA 02145	Ph: (857) 256-2981
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center	1 West Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Ph: (617) 661-1010
East Boston Ecumenical Community Council	50 Meridian Street, Suite B1 East Boston, MA 02128	Ph: (617) 567-2750
Greater Boston Legal Services (Immigration Unit)	197 Friend Street Boston, MA 02114	Ph: (617) 371-1234 (800) 323-3205
Harbor Communities Overcoming Violence * for domestic abuse survivors	148 Shawmut Street Chelsea, MA 02150	Ph: (617) 884-9799
Irish International Immigrant Center	One State Street, Suite 800 Boston, MA 02109	Ph: (617) 542-7654
Justice Bridge Legal Center UMASS School of Law, Boston Office	67 Battery March Street, Lower Level Boston, MA 02110	Ph: (617) 860-3414
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) * *for unaccompanied minors	155 Seaport Boulevard, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02210	Ph: (617) 207-4138
Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project	98 North Washington Street, Suite 106 Boston, MA 02114	Ph: (617) 742- 9296
Project Citizenship	4 Faneuil S. Market Building Suite 4025 Boston, MA 02109	Ph: (617) 694-5949
Victim Rights Law Center ** for domestic abuse survivors	115 Broad Street, 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02110	Ph: (617) 399-6720, x19

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Immigrant Resources in MetroWest/Central Mass

Legal Services		
Ascentria Care Alliance	11 Shattuck Street Worcester, MA 01605	Ph: (774) 243-3100
Catholic Charities of Worcester (CCW)	10 Hammond St. Worcester, MA 01610	Ph: 508-860-2261
Central West Justice Center An Affiliate of Community Legal Aid	405 Main Street, Fourth Floor Worcester, MA 01608	Ph: (508) 755-3260/ 855-CLA-LEGAL
MetroWest Legal Services	63 Fountain Street, Suite 304 Framingham, MA 01702	Ph: (508) 620-1830/ 800-696-1501

Immigrant Resources in Western Massachusetts

Legal Services		
Ascentria Care Alliance	94 North Elm Street, Suite 401 Westfield, MA 01085	Ph: (413) 787-0725
Berkshire Immigrant Center	88 South Street Pittsfield, MA 01201	Ph: (413) 445-4881
Center for New Americans	42 Gothic Street Northampton, MA 01060	Ph: (413) 587-0084
Community Legal Aid	One Monarch Place, Suite 400 Springfield, MA 01144	Ph: (413) 781-7814

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Immigrant Resources in Northeastern MA/North Shore

Legal Services		
Northeast Legal Aid- Lawrence	50 Island Street, #203A Lawrence, MA 01840	Ph: (978) 458-1465
Northeast Legal Aid- Lowell	35 John Street, Suite 302 Lowell, MA 01852	Ph: (978) 458-1465
Northeast Legal Aid- Lynn	181 Union Street, 201A Lynn, MA 01901	Ph: (978) 458-1465
Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center-Lynn	20 Wheeler St. Suite. 401 Lynn, MA, 01902	Ph: (617) 238-2430
Freedom Hill Community Church	77 Kennedy Dr. Malden, MA 02148	Ph: (781) 480-4179
Agencia ALPHA	62 Northampton Street, #203 Boston, MA 02118	Ph: (617) 541-4455 x16
Centro Presente	12 Bennington Street, Suite 202 East Boston, MA 02145	Ph: (857) 256-2981
Community Legal Services and Counseling Center	1 West Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Ph: (617) 661-1010
East Boston Ecumenical Community Council	50 Meridian Street, Suite B1 East Boston, MA 02128	Ph: (617) 567-2750
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Legal Services (cont.)		
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) * **for unaccompanied minors	155 Seaport Boulevard, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02210	Ph: (617) 207-4138
Legal Justice Access, Inc.	60 Island Street Suite 105 Lawrence, MA 01840	Ph: (857) 264-2381
Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project	98 North Washington Street, Suite 106 Boston, MA 02114	Ph: (617) 742- 9296
Children's Law Center of Massachusetts ** for children and youth	298 Union Street, 2nd Floor Lynn, MA 01901	Ph: (781) 581-1977
Victim Rights Law Center ** for domestic abuse survivors	115 Broad Street, 3rd Floor Boston, MA 02110	Ph: (617) 399-6720, x19

Immigrant Resources in Southeastern Mass and Cape Islands

Legal Services		
Catholic Social Services of Fall River	1600 Bay Street/ PO Box M/So. Station Fall River, MA 02724	Ph: (508) 674-4681
	261 South St. Hyannis, MA 02601	Ph: (508) 771-6771
	238 Bonney St. New Bedford, MA 02744	Ph: (508) 997-7337
Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts, LLC	231 Main Street, #201 Brockton, MA 02301	Ph: (508) 586-2110
University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth – Immigration Law Project	33 Faunce Corner Road Dartmouth, MA 02747	Ph: (508) 985-1174

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