

Public Charge Talking Points for ESIT Providers

System of Payment and Fees

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) providers may get questions from families about how their ESIT services may be impacted by the proposed changes to the federal public charge policy. This document is intended to provide guidance around questions that pertain to the System of Payment and Fees (SOPAF).

Please follow the links below for additional resources specific to the public charge policy:

- [Fact Sheet for ESIT Providers](#)
- [Infographic for ESIT Providers](#)
- [Fact Sheet for ESIT Families \(Including Translated Versions\)](#)

Talking Points

- The “public charge” test has been part of federal immigration law for more than 100 years. It was created to identify people who may depend on government benefits as their main source of income. If the U.S. government determines someone is likely to become a “public charge,” they can deny admission to the U.S. or refuse an application for lawful permanent residency. The Department of Homeland Security has proposed changes to the longstanding “public charge” policy.
- This proposal is still just a proposal; the law has not changed. Even if it does change, families will have time to make decisions about any benefits they may receive before the new law goes into effect.
- Neither the current policy nor proposed changes to public charge policy will impact any of the services families receive from ESIT.
- Medicaid may be considered under the proposed changes to public charge. Even if a family decides to decline access to Medicaid for their child because of the potential impact of the changes to public charge policy, there are other ways to cover the cost of early intervention services. These options should not create a financial burden for any family.
- If a family has any questions or would like more information, there is a link on the family fact sheet that will connect them with someone who can provide additional resources and information about the public charge.

