

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 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:

- **Public Charge Fact Sheet (FS_0022)** for ESIT families (including translated versions): <https://go.usa.gov/x7Fje>.
- ESIT Web Information on Public Charge: www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit/community-resources.

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. Recently, the Department of Homeland Security made changes to the longstanding “public charge” policy.
- While more programs are now impacted by the policy changes, these changes do not impact any of the services families receive from ESIT.
- The new public charge test considers use of Medicaid benefits, except for emergency services, children under 21 years old, pregnant women, and new mothers. Because the Medicaid consideration exempts services for children under age 21, this change does not impact access to ESIT services billed to Medicaid. Even if a family decides to decline access to Medicaid for their child out of fear of negative impacts on immigration status or U.S. residency, 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 Public Charge.

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).

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