

## USCIS Response to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)



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# USCIS Launches Sponsor Deeming and Agency Reimbursement Information Collection Initiative

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**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced the launch of a new Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) initiative that will enable agencies that administer federal means-tested benefits to ensure more effective compliance with federal laws, regulations, and policies related to financial support of aliens by their sponsors and agency reimbursement.

“The Trump administration has made it clear that existing immigration laws must be enforced, and sponsors of aliens should be held legally accountable for the financial responsibilities they willingly accept,” said USCIS Deputy Director for Policy Joseph Edlow. “This enhanced feature will support participating public-benefit granting agencies as they manage their programs and determine an alien’s eligibility for public assistance by ensuring consistency with current law, established sponsorship requirements and proper accountability.”

Sponsors are individuals who agree to use their income and resources to support sponsored aliens.

SAVE provides information about sponsors to agencies that administer federal means-tested public benefits. With this new SAVE initiative, USCIS is asking these agencies to now share how they use the SAVE sponsorship information in their sponsor assessment and agency reimbursement processes. The collected information will help participating agencies learn and improve how they use sponsor information to make eligibility determinations and hold sponsors accountable. This initiative will also allow USCIS to improve how it administers

the SAVE program and help agencies that administer benefits programs better meet obligations under agency reimbursement laws and regulations.

This new SAVE initiative stems from the May 2019 [Presidential Memorandum on Enforcing the Legal Responsibilities of Sponsors of Aliens](#), which directed increased oversight and data collection to ensure more effective compliance in determining eligibility for federal means-tested benefits and reimbursement requirements.

Sponsored aliens sometimes apply for and receive means-tested public benefits from federal, state, local, or tribal agencies. However, they may be ineligible for certain means-tested public benefits because the granting agency will consider their sponsor's income and resources when determining the immigrant's eligibility for the benefits.

If a sponsored alien receives a means-tested public benefit, the sponsor is responsible, upon request, for reimbursing the agency providing the benefit. An agency can seek a court order for repayment if a sponsor does not issue reimbursement. USCIS encourages all agencies that administer federal means-tested benefits to use the new sponsorship feature.

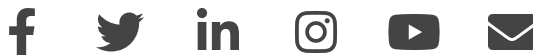
For more information, please visit the SAVE webpage at [uscis.gov/save](https://uscis.gov/save).

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov) or follow us on Twitter ([@uscis](https://twitter.com/uscis)), Instagram ([/uscis](https://www.instagram.com/uscis)), YouTube ([/uscis](https://www.youtube.com/uscis)), Facebook ([/uscis](https://www.facebook.com/uscis)) and LinkedIn ([/uscis](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uscis)).

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