

Public Charge Bonds for Immigrant Visa Applicants

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Immigrating to the United States is a privilege, not a right. Those who wish to obtain a U.S. immigrant visa must be capable of demonstrating that they will be a benefit – rather than a burden – to our nation.

In accordance with existing laws and regulations, the Department of State has implemented a procedure that permits consular officers to require certain immigrant visa applicants to apply for a Public Charge Bond with USCIS. This procedure is currently being utilized under a pilot program.

Immigrant visa applicants can seek to overcome a public charge denial through the submission of sufficient evidence to demonstrate they are not likely to become a public charge after admission to the United States. The Department's use of its authority to require certain immigrant visa applicants to apply for a Public Charge Bond represents an additional method to do so. If approved, consular officers may issue an immigrant visa previously denied pursuant to INA Section 212(a)(4), provided the applicant is otherwise eligible for the immigrant visa.

Information about Public Charge Bonds and the application process can be found at the USCIS website [Public Charge Bond | USCIS](#).

FAQs – Public Charge Bonds

Can I apply for a Public Charge Bond now?

At this time, we are implementing this process for select applications. Applicants who are required to post a public charge bond will be notified by a consular officer.

How much is a Public Charge Bond?

Pursuant to 8 CFR 213.1(b), a consular officer sets the amount of the bond. Consular officers will set bond amounts based on an assessment of the totality of the circumstances of each case.

Does this affect my current valid visa?

No. This does not affect any currently valid visas.

Can the individual who pays my Public Charge Bond ever get their money back?

Yes. For more information, see [Chapter 12 - Public Charge Bonds: Maintaining, Substituting, and Canceling Bonds | USCIS](#)[↗].

Under what circumstances would the bond be forfeited?

Refer to [Chapter 12 - Public Charge Bonds: Maintaining, Substituting, and Canceling Bonds | USCIS](#)[↗] for more information.