
The Facts: USCIS Sponsor Obligations Memo Sept 25, 2025

On September 25, 2025, USCIS released a [memo](#) reminding sponsors¹ and household members of their obligations under the affidavit of support.² Three key takeaways from the memo are:

- 1. It does not change current law about affidavits of support or who can sponsor an immigrant.**
- 2. It is designed to make people afraid to sponsor family members or others and to make eligible immigrants and their family members afraid to seek benefits.**
- 3. It is part of the administration’s strategy to build a public narrative that immigrants are “takers.”**

The memo “reminds” sponsors who file affidavits of support of their obligations under the law. It simply restates current law in a more menacing tone.

For example, it reminds sponsors who sign Affidavits of Support that under current law:

- Sponsors accept legal responsibility (known as “sponsor liability”³) for financially supporting the immigrant they sponsor and for reimbursing the government, upon request, for certain “means-tested public benefits” the sponsored immigrant may receive while the support obligation is in effect.
- Sponsors must include as part of their household size the total number of immigrants they have an existing obligation to support and if they fail to do so,

¹ A sponsor is a person who helps an immigrant become a lawful permanent resident by signing an “affidavit of support.”

² An affidavit of support is a contract signed by the sponsor to show that the person applying for a green card is not likely to become a “public charge,” i.e., primarily dependent on certain government benefits.

³ Sponsor liability is the legal and financial obligations a sponsor takes on when they sign an affidavit of support promising to assist a sponsored immigrant.

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the immigrant they are sponsoring will be found inadmissible and their application for adjustment of status will be denied.

It also reminds sponsors that:

- They must notify USCIS within 30 calendar days of any change of address after becoming a sponsor by completing a [change of address form](#).
- The sponsor's obligation under the Affidavit of Support lasts until the sponsored immigrant becomes a U.S. citizen, secures credit for 40 quarters of work history in the U.S., or the sponsor or sponsored immigrant dies, among other exceptions.

It is important to note that states are not obligated to pursue sponsors for reimbursement, and that the administration has not created new mechanisms for the government to pursue sponsors.