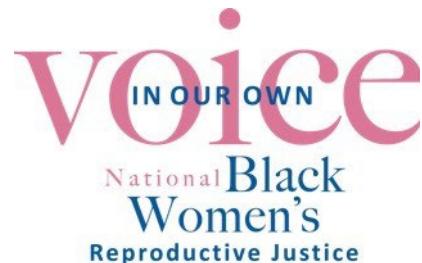


How the “Public Charge” Proposal Would Harm Women & Families and What You Can Do To Stop It

November 2, 2018



**NATIONAL LATINA
INSTITUTE** FOR
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
Salud | Dignidad | Justicia



Agenda

- Public charge overview
- What the proposed rule would change
- Harm to women and families
- Messaging
- How to take action
- Questions from the audience
- Next steps

What is “public charge”?

- Inadmissibility determination
- Current Definition:
 - A person who is likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence
- Totality of circumstances
- Only 2 categories of benefits currently considered in public charge test:
 - Cash assistance (e.g. SSI and TANF)
 - Government-funded long-term institutional care

When does the "public charge" test apply?

- Applies to those seeking:
 - Admission to the US
 - Extension/change of non-immigrant visa status
 - Adjustment to Lawful Permanent Resident status (LPR/green card)
- Does NOT apply to refugees, asylees, survivors of domestic violence, other protected groups, or during naturalization process

Timeline: proposed rule to change "public charge" test

- NPRM published in federal register on October 10th
- 60 day comment period has begun
- Deadline to comment is **December 10**
- DHS will review and consider all comments
- Final rule published in Federal Register
- Rule becomes effective at least 60 days after publication
- This is a ***proposed*** rule, not yet final!

How would this proposed rule change current policy?

- Dramatically expands the types of assistance considered
 - SNAP
 - Non-emergency Medicaid
 - Housing assistance
 - Medicare Part D
- Introduces an unprecedented income test (125% of FPL/250% of FPL)
- Adds characteristics that would be considered negatively
 - Age (under 18 or above 60)
 - Disability
 - English proficiency
 - Household size

Specific harms to women, children, and families

- Who is being targeted
- Why this is particularly harmful for women's health
- How this rule would undermine employment
- How this would impact children, families, and communities

Why this matters

- Chilling effect has already harmed access
- Millions live in household w/family member on public benefits
 - 3.8 million AAPI immigrants
 - 10.1 Hispanic immigrants
- Clear attack on immigrant women's autonomy

Messaging: A Destructive Regulation

- **Building on the traumatic separation of families at the border, the Trump administration wants to:**
 - Block immigrant families from having a permanent, secure future in the United States; and
 - Scare them away from seeking access to health care, nutrition, and housing programs.

Messaging: Favors the Wealthy

- Our lives should be defined by how we contribute to our communities, not by what we look like or how much money we have.
 - If this regulation moves forward, only the wealthiest immigrants could build a future in the United States.
 - This regulation is part of the Trump administration's ongoing effort to divide the country and vilify immigrants.

Messaging: Puts Millions at Risk

- The proposed regulation would make—and has already made—immigrant families afraid to seek programs that support their basic needs.
 - The proposal could prevent immigrants from using the programs their tax dollars help support, preventing access to healthy, nutritious food and secure housing.
 - Because one in four American children have at least one immigrant parent, this could impact millions.
 - It would make us a sicker, poorer, and hungrier nation.

Make your voice heard

- Get the information you need at <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/>.
- Speak out publicly against the proposed rule on social media using #ProtectFamilies;
- Submit comments before the December 10th deadline; and
- Contact your representatives and senators to tell them to publicly oppose this rule.

Who should comment?

- **Everyone!** If you have a perspective, experience, or expertise, your voice is important!
 - Individuals
 - Organizations
 - Community providers like nurses and teachers
 - Local, state or national elected officials
 - Local, state or federal officials who run programs (like Medicaid, or SNAP)

How to submit comments

- On federal comment portal at www.Regulations.gov
- Through a comment microsite
 - www.Protectingimmigrantfamilies.org
 - www.nwlc.org
- By mail/in person
 - Address to: Samantha Deshommes, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20529-2140

Comment best practices

- **DO's**

- Write comments in your own words.
- Submit your own comments.
- If you have expertise, experience, or credibility in an issue area or with a community, say so.
- Provide translations of non-English comments.

- **DON'Ts**

- Don't suggest corrective language.
- Don't sign onto comments from someone else.

Engagement & digital strategies

- Social media
 - #ProtectFamilies
- Engaging your elected representatives
- Theme weeks:
 - Children & education: Oct. 22
 - Health, mental health, seniors and disabilities: Oct. 29
 - Open: Nov. 5
 - Faith, Race, Business: Nov. 12
 - Poverty, Hunger, Housing: Nov. 19
 - Women, LGBTQ, Progressives, and Labor: Nov. 26
 - Comment last call! Dec 3

Questions?

Next steps

- **Remember:** The deadline to submit comments is December 10
 - *Individuals:* use microsite
 - *Organizations:* Email a presenter for more information
- Join the Spanish-language FB live on Nov. 9 at 2 pm
- Join the **Protecting Immigrant Families** campaign to get updates and ways to engage:
www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org
- **Women, LGBTQ, Progressives, and Labor theme week:**
Nov. 26

For More Information

Resources:

- <http://nwlc.org>
- <https://www.napawf.org/publiccharge.html>
- <http://latinainstitute.org/en/campaigns>
- <http://blackrj.org/>

Contact us!

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