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

November 2, 2018
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](http://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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