



PUBLIC CHARGE: A NEW THREAT TO IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

ON OCTOBER 10, 2018 The Trump Administration published a new draft regulation in the Federal Register impacting people who are seeking to immigrate legally into the United States.

Under the new proposed rule, the “public charge” definition is dramatically broadened to make it harder for immigrants following all legal requirements to enter the country and advance through the immigration process.

If the rule is finalized in its proposed form, this would mark a significant and harmful departure from the current policy. For over a hundred years, the government has recognized that **work supports like health care and nutrition help families thrive and remain productive.**

Entire households will be harmed, as there is no way to target individual immigrants without hurting children, families, and communities. We need to remember- *this is only a proposal*. The public comment period is 60 days and ends on December 10, 2018.

Your voice matters! The Department of Homeland Security must review all of the comments received before they can publish a final rule.

Leave a comment at <https://p2a.co/A519tRc>
or www.regulations.gov
Learn more at www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org

Join us and all advocates for families across the nation in fighting back !

What is Public Charge?

The “public charge” test has been a part of federal immigration law for over a century, and is designed to identify people who may depend on the government as their main source of support

How is it applied today?

Under current policy, the only benefits considered in the public charge test are:

- *Cash assistance, such as SSI and TANF*
- *Government funded long-term care*

What could change?

If the rule is finalized in its proposed form, it would expand the benefits considered in the public charge test. These are:

- *Non-emergency Medicaid*
- *Medicare Part D (prescription subsidies)*
- *Section 8 housing vouchers*
- *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*

Who is/isn't affected?

The public charge test applied to those in the U.S. is limited to people who are applying for a green card (lawful permanent resident status).

A separate public charge test is applied to those who are outside of the U.S. Each situation is different, people with questions should consult an immigration attorney. It's important to note that the following immigrant groups are not subject to public charge:

- *Refugees and asylees*
- *Survivors of domestic violence and other groups with humanitarian visas*
- *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), individuals who have or are applying for U visas or T visas*

What can I do?

The Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition of Washington is part of a national effort aimed at opposing this harmful rule.

Join us in submitting over 4,000 unique and individual comments and let the government know that this rule would harm you, your family, community and the country.

PROTECTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES COALITION

WASHINGTON STATE



Protecting Immigrant Families- Washington State (PIF-WA) is a broad coalition of 50+ nonprofit, public, and private sector organizations working to address the impact of the proposed changes to the public charge rules. This includes Children's Alliance, OneAmerica, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Northwest Health Law Advocates, Northwest Harvest, the Washington State Hospital Association, and many others.

We work as a state-level partner of the Protecting Immigrant Families, Advancing Our Future campaign (PIF for short), spearheaded by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and the National Immigration Law Center (NILC).

What is our strategy to push back?

Our coalition has been and will continue to oppose this rule, educate service providers, community members and advocates alike, and create opportunities to uplift voices of those affected. Some of these activities include:

- Educating and organizing elected officials at all levels
- Informational events for community partners
- Creating state-specific materials and resources
- Develop a response network for service providers and advocates
- Identify and gather community resources for affected communities
- Use story advocacy to amplify voices of those impacted by the rule change

How can you join us?

- Join the PIF-WA listserv and ask others to join and share our work
- Educate your family and friends on the upcoming changes.
- Write an op-ed on Public Charge
- Host an informational session.
- Serve as a sector lead (educating your sector and coordinating sector comment submission)
- Commit a number of comments to submit
- Share your story

For more information, visit www.childrensalliance.org/protecting-washingtons-immigrant-families or contact sarah.domondon@childrensalliance.org

How is PIF-WA organized?

Our campaign is organized into three main working groups that carry out our coalition's advocacy actions.

Elected Officials Advocacy

Explores state policy and advocacy opportunities to protect immigrants in legislative and budget battles; Cultivates legislators as champions and spokespeople; Develops legislative and administrative strategies. Encourages elected officials to use their platform in disseminating information.

Advocacy and Opposition

Prepares campaign communications strategy and materials; Prepares statements, messaging, talking points, template op-eds and letters to the editor, PSAs and fact sheets. Addresses translation of materials.

Outreach and Education

Develops and disseminates educational materials needed for advocates, allies and immigrant communities and identifies needs for materials. Strategizes with other work groups to engage affected communities, connects service providers and advocates to resources around the issue.

We also have two specialized groups that organize across working groups:

Storytelling Advocacy

Organizes sector leads in identifying and uplifting stories of affected individuals; Identifies/develops spokespeople for campaign. Creates mechanisms for advocates and storytellers to access avenues of advocacy (media outlets, national organizations, elected officials).

Public Comment Mobilization

Leads statewide strategy towards stated goal of 4,000 comments to contribute to national goal of 100,000 comments for submission when NPRM is published. Identifies and mobilizes sector leads, provides advocacy support.