



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 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.

What can I do?

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/rent assistance and public housing*
- *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 seeking relief through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*
- *Individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS)*
- *Individuals who have or are applying for U or T visas*

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.



PUBLIC CHARGE RESOURCES WASHINGTON STATE

Free/low-cost Immigration Attorneys

Colectiva Legal del Pueblo

201 SW 153rd Street, Burien, WA 98166
<http://www.colectivalegal.org>
(206) 931-1514
info@colectivalegal.org

Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC)

3627 Wheaton Way, Bremerton, WA 98310
<http://kitsapiac.org>
(360) 616-0479, Spanish line (360) 616-2722
kiacl@kitsapiac.org

Lutheran Community Services Northwest

<https://lcsnw.org/program/immigration-counseling-and-advocacy-program/>
Seattle Office
911 Stewart Street, Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 694-5742

Vancouver Office
3600 Main Street, Suite 200
Vancouver, WA 98663
(360) 694-5624

Tacoma Office – Coming Soon

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

<http://www.nwirp.org>
Seattle Office, serves King County and North
615 2nd Ave, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 587-4009 or (800) 445-5771

Tacoma Office, serves Pierce County and
Southwest Washington
402 Tacoma Ave S., Suite 300
Tacoma, WA 98402
(206) 816-3893 or (888) 493-4273

Wenatchee
620 N. Emerson Avenue, Suite 201
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 570-0054 or (866) 271-2084

Granger
121 Sunnyside Ave, Suite 146
Granger, WA 98932
(509) 854-2100 or (888) 756-3641

Free/low-cost Civil Legal Assistance (for issues including public benefits)

Call Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral or "CLEAR" -- Washington's toll-free, centralized intake, advice and referral service for low-income people seeking free legal assistance with civil legal problems.

King County

Call 211, (206) 461-3200, or (877) 211-WASH (9274)
www.resourcehouse.com/win211/

Outside King County

(888) 201-1014 weekdays from 9:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

Persons 60 and over

Call CLEAR*Sr at (888) 387-7111

Self-help materials

<https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/>

Please note, this is not an exhaustive list. If you are able to pay for legal services, you can search for an immigration attorney in your area through the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) at <https://www.aialawyer.com/>. Please see the Protecting Immigrant Families – WA coalition page for additional resources at <http://childrensalliance.org/protecting-washingtons-immigrant-families>.

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Protecting Immigrant Families- Washington State (PIF-WA) is a broad coalition of 30+ 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).