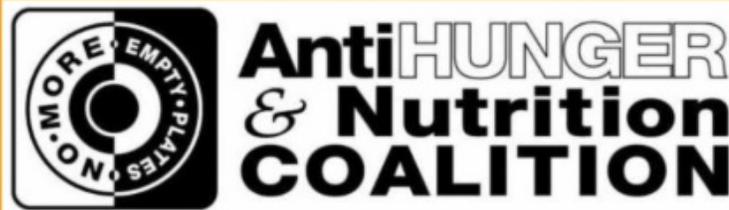


[National Letter: 1,500+ Organizations Oppose New Rule](#)



## Administration's proposed rule on immigration & 'public charge' is official - public comment period starts NOW

### **Sweeping new immigration rule published on the Federal Register - this starts the 60-day public comment period:**

Yesterday (October 10) the Trump Administration published proposed changes to Dept. of Homeland Security's immigration rules about "public charge"; the changes would greatly undercut efforts to fight hunger and poverty by making it harder for immigrant families to access a range of nutrition, health, and housing benefits that are essential to our nation's health and well-being.

The proposed sweeping new rule redefines long-standing policy that determines "public charge" for immigrants, fundamentally changing who would be able to enter and stay in the U.S. In short, the rule says that a lawfully-residing immigrant who receives assistance from SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare Part D, or Section 8 housing could be deemed a "public charge" and denied permanent resident status and denied the ability to stay in the U.S.

This rule would endanger the lives of immigrant families who live here legally, including immigrant families with American-citizen family members. When nearly 1 in 4 children in our country have at least one immigrant parent, this issue touches *tensofmillions of people*. Under the proposed rule, immigrant families would be forced to make impossible choices between accessing vital programs that safeguard their health, nutrition, housing, and economic security *and* keeping their family together in the U.S.

This issue is critical for people now and for our country's future: growing up without access to food or health care or housing creates long-term problems. But there would also be heart-breaking long-term consequences for those separated from family members who could be forced to leave the country, simply because they once needed help from SNAP to put food on the table, or because the only option to see a doctor was through Medicaid.

If adopted, this rule would make - and has already made - immigrant families afraid to seek programs that safeguard their health, nutrition, housing, and economic security. The federal government even acknowledges the "public charge" regulation would worsen hunger, poverty, and unmet health and housing needs. The proposed rule itself highlights some of the likely consequences (p. 370): *"There are a number of consequences that could occur...Worse health outcomes, including increased prevalence of obesity and malnutrition, especially for pregnant or breastfeeding women, infants, or children, and reduced prescription adherence; ...and increased rates of poverty."*

The rule discounts the contribution of working families: immigrants work hard and pay taxes, which support programs like SNAP, Medicaid and affordable housing. We all pay our share so that if we fall on tough times, there is a safety net that catches us and helps us meet our most basic needs, even in a crisis. This 'public charge' rule would chill access to critical programs that improve people's health, well-being, school success, and economic security. These programs benefit individuals, but also the communities, schools and workplaces those individuals are part of.

As anti-hunger advocates, we know that low-income people who are eligible for anti-hunger programs should not be deterred, stigmatized, or penalized with draconian immigration consequences for their legal use of public benefits.

**We urge everyone to join us in opposing this misguided rule that will undermine decades of progress in reducing hunger in our communities.**

Keep reading for more information, and jump to the next section to see **How We Protect Immigrant Families:**

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**STEP 1: GET UP TO SPEED - Educate Yourself & Your Partners on Public Charge**

## **Webinar on Friday, Oct. 12 at 11am (Pacific):**

Have questions about the public comment process? The national Protect Immigrant Families Campaign will offer a public charge comment webinar to explain why, how, when and where to comment. They will also provide advice on how to make your comments effective. If you or your organization plans to submit comments, please participate! [Click here to register](#).

## **READING, RESOURCES, FAQs and MORE:**

Protect Immigrant Families: [Public Charge FAQ](#)

CLASP: [Public Comment Period FAQ](#)

## **FRAC's Public Charge [Resources](#):**

Brief: [Hunger impact of proposed public charge rule](#)

Statement: [Proposed public charge rule would undercut efforts to address food insecurity and poverty](#)

Protect Immigrant Families: ["Quick analysis" of public charge rule](#) (as published)

National Health Law Program (NHeLP) brief: [DHS' Proposed Rule: What may change with public charge](#)

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health; National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum & National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda: [Public Charge Expansion - A Threat to Women of Color](#) (and in [Spanish](#))

Kaiser Family Foundation: [Proposed Changes to Public Charge: Policies for Immigrants: Implications for Health Coverage](#)

## **STEP 2: SUBMIT A PUBLIC COMMENT**

Now that the rule was published yesterday, advocacy organizations are scrambling to finalize materials, templates, sample comments, easy-to-use portals, and more to help nearly 100,000 people submit thoughtful, targeted, *unique* comments to the federal government.

The administration is required by law to review public comments on the proposed regulation. We have 60 days to make our voices heard!

Please read this great [overview and FAQ on the public comment process](#) before you do anything else -

In Washington, our partners at Children's Alliance and OneAmerica are creating a shared Washington public comment portal [here](#) to make it easy to submit comments. [Here](#) are some tips for anti-hunger advocates'

comments.

We *strongly* encourage Washingtonians to use our [state-based portal site](#) so it's easier for us to communicate about what's happening in our state and organize for maximum impact. Keep checking in the next few days for more sample comments and resources to help you be more effective in your comments.

FRAC also set up a [portal for anti-hunger organizations](#) to submit comments. The [Protect Immigrant Families campaign](#) has tons of resources and information, and also has set up a [portal](#).

The rule was published on October 10, so **comments must be submitted no later than December 10** (a 60-day comment period).

### **STEP 3: ENGAGE YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Contact your local elected officials! City and county council members, mayor, school board members, school superintendent & principals, sheriff & police chief, public health board members ---- they *all* have a stake in this issue, and they should know that you want them to speak up and submit comments voicing their concerns, too.

Show them [this letter signed by over 1,500 organizations](#) across the country - including national organizations that many local officials may belong to - opposed to this new rule. Governors, mayors, attorneys general have all been weighing in - local government should also be speaking up!

### **STEP 4: SHARE YOUR STORY:**

We need to make it known that basic needs programs help families and communities thrive. If you - or someone you know - will be affected by the regulation, [share a story here](#).

### **STEP 5: EDUCATE YOUR COMMUNITY**

We know that the recent news has caused a lot of fear and panic for immigrant families. Fight the chilling effect by making sure people have access to accurate information. Share this [Public Charge FAQ](#) for concerned community members developed by Moms Rising - and this updated guide, [How to Talk About Public Charge with Immigrants and their Families](#).

### **STEP 6: SHARE & SPEAK UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media can spread the word about the threat posed by the public charge rule. More importantly, active engagement on social media shows policymakers that people are fighting back against attacks on immigrant

communities.

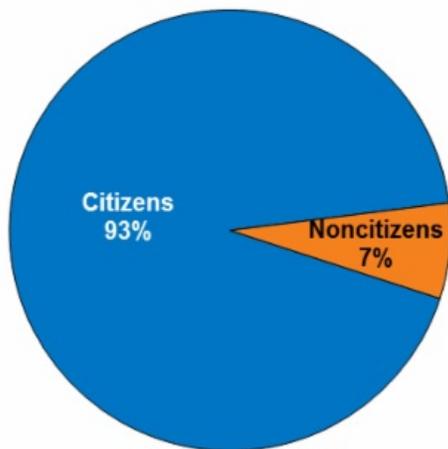
On Facebook and Twitter, use the hashtags:

**#ProtectFamilies**

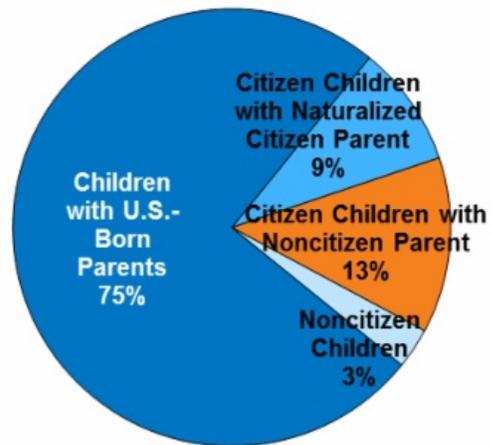
**#OurAmericanStory**

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Figure 1  
Total Population and Children by Citizenship and Parents' Citizenship Status, 2016



Total U.S. Population: 320.4 Million



Total Children (Ages 0-18): 78.2 million

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of March 2017 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement



SAVE THE DATE:  
HUNGER ACTION DAY 2019:  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**DON'T FORGET TO  
VOTE:  
TUESDAY, NOV. 6**

**Join our mailing list**



Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition  
Claire.Lane2@gmail.com  
<http://www.wsahnc.org/>

[Washington's Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition](#) brings together voices speaking up about hunger from across our state to Washington's policy makers to insure public policy leads our response to hunger.

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