



Final Rule on Public Charge

Dear Partners,

On August 14, 2019, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security published its final rule on [Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds](#). “Public charge” has been a longstanding designation given to certain categories of immigrants who are deemed to be primarily dependent upon cash assistance and/or long-term institutional care. Being designated a “public charge” could make a non-citizen ineligible to receive their legal permanent residence (also known as a “green card”) or be admitted to the United States from abroad. There are several categories of immigrants and other statuses which are **not subject to a public charge designation**. See chart below.

The 2019 final rule, if implemented, would change this longstanding policy, making it easier for someone to be labeled a public charge by adding CalFresh (food stamps), public housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance, and Medi-Cal to the list of benefits which can lead to a public charge designation.

LAHSA is deeply concerned about this rule spreading additional fear among our immigrant neighbors and leading more people to the brink of homelessness by causing them to disenroll from critical benefits.

Nearly 20 states, including California, have filed lawsuits to block the rule from taking effect and are seeking an injunction to delay implementation. **However, if a court does not issue an injunction, the effective date of the final rule will be October 15, 2019.**

If you or your organization provide case management to clients that may be affected by this rule, we encourage you to review the following resources:

- Fact sheets and additional information on public charge can be found on the [Protecting Immigrant Families website](#)
 - Including this comprehensive [analysis and FAQ sheet](#)
- California Department of Social Services’ Public Charge Contact List of organizations that can provide legal consultation and/or education and outreach on public charge can be found [here](#)
- A list of Immigration Legal Services in Los Angeles County can be found [here](#)
- Los Angeles County’s Office of Immigrant Affairs website can be found [here](#)

