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CFPA Denounces Public Charge Changes—Vows to Continue Fighting to Protect Immigrant Families

Today, the Trump administration finalized its public charge rule—making the use of certain public nutrition, health, and housing benefits grounds for a green card denial. California Food Policy Advocates strongly denounces this policy and vows to continue advocating immigrants' right to food and opportunity. We embrace immigrant inclusion as key to realizing our vision of a California where everyone has what they need to thrive. Weaponizing programs designed to help struggling families make ends meet is antithetical to our nation's values and we will continue to fight for justice.

The rule adds SNAP/CalFresh, along with critical forms of health and housing assistance, to the list of programs considered in a public charge determination. Although SNAP/CalFresh eligibility for immigrants is already so limited that few SNAP participants would ever be subject to public charge, the fear and mistrust the rule creates poses a serious threat to immigrant health. Family separations at the border, ICE raids and mass deportations, racist anti-immigrant rhetoric from our nation's leaders—each attack further intensifies the climate of fear for immigrants in America. As a result, immigrant participation in public programs is declining. We even hear reports of [immigrants avoiding routine activities](#) for fear of deportation.

People are more than their immigration status and we cannot let hate and fear dictate the future of our communities. When everyone has access to food, housing, and health care—we are all better off. CFPA stands in [solidarity with advocates across the U.S.](#) as we unite to protect immigrant families. We will use every tool we have available to ensure that everyone in our communities has the support and opportunity they need to thrive.

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