Public Charge 101:

- Public Charge is a term used by immigration officials to refer to people who rely on government assistance to primarily support their cost of day-to-day living. Currently, officials look at a variety of factors in deciding whether or not a person is likely to become a public charge; the only public benefits considered currently are cash assistance programs (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, long-term nursing home care paid for by the government, etc.)

- The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was posted on October 10th, 2018. The comment period is open until December 10th, 2018. The proposed regulation will weigh certain factors more heavily and will add additional benefits to the list such as: non-emergency Medi-Cal, Medicare Part D Low-income Subsidy, CalFresh, and Section 8 housing vouchers. Additional information on the proposed regulation can be found in the links below.

- It is important for people to know that as of now, NOTHING HAS CHANGED. IF anything does change, anyone affected by the rule change will have 60 days after the rules are finalized (after this initial comment period) to disenroll from any programs that would impact their immigration status. No one should drop their benefits or choose against enrolling in benefits because of the proposed rule change.

- Advocates should fight the proposed public charge rule because this is a cruel attack on immigrant communities. If implemented, the rule would dismantle family-based immigration and undo longstanding policies. The proposed rule threatens to deny immigrant families the opportunity to obtain a green card or enter the U.S. if they participate in benefit programs offered by the government, such as critical health care and food support. The proposed rule targets immigrant community members who are low-income, have limited English proficiency, or have disabilities. There will be a devastating impact on millions of our community members.

- Comments can be submitted until December 10th, 2018 via an online portal. Public comments are important because until all of the comments are reviewed, the proposed rule cannot be finalized. The resources below offer templates, fact sheets, webinar opportunities, and more information from our partners.

Talking Points and Communication Strategies:

- [Berkeley Media Studies Group](#)
- [Public Health Awakened](#)
- [Protecting Immigrant Families](#)

Additional Readings:

- [NHeLP](#): DHS’ Proposed Rule: What May Change with Public Charge
- [NHeLP](#): Trump Team Works to Wall-Off Immigrants from Medicaid
- [Commonwealth Fund](#): A New “Public Charge” Rule Affecting Immigrants Has Major Implications for Medicaid
- [Community Catalyst](#): For People Living with HIV/AIDS, the Revised Public Charge Rule Could Mean Life or Death
- [Representative Judy Chu](#) (CA, D-27) proposes [H.R. 7052](#) to block the usage of federal funds in implementing the proposed public charge rule.
PUBLIC CHARGE RESOURCE SHEET

Public Charge Resources and Fact Sheets:

- Protecting Immigrant Families webpage (PIF), FAQs, and resources page
- Protecting Immigrant Families Quick Analysis and FAQ
- Community Clinic Association of LA County: Advocacy for health centers
- Manatt Health’s interactive dashboard provides detailed information sizing and segments the potentially chilled population by state, county, and metropolitan area as well as by age and race/ethnicity.
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County’s CA-specific flyer
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center’s 1-pagers on current policy: English and Spanish
- National Immigration Law Center’s portal for sharing stories of those impacted by how this public charge rule can impact them.
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice fact sheets: Cambodian, Chinese, English CA, English National, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese
- Justice in Aging fact sheet
- Community Catalyst fact sheet

Comment Submissions and Comment Letter Templates:

Although template letters are available, please remember to customize at least 30% of the template letter. Otherwise, the letters will count as one. If you are referencing articles or research in your comment, attach them as PDFs at the end of your comment rather than just hyperlinking them. Comment letters are only accepted in English.

- Comment Guidelines
- Federal government submission portal
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice template and submission portal
- Public Health Awakened template and submission portal
- Protecting Immigrant Families template and submission portal
- Food Research and Action Center template and submission portal
- Young Invincibles template and submission portal
- Faith-focused template and submission portal
- Access to Health, Protecting Disability Rights and Supporting Seniors-focused template and submission portal
- Child Advocacy-focused template and submission portal
### Webinars and Trainings:

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| November 1, 2018 from 11am to 12pm | **Public Charge Training: How to Submit Comments and Why?**  
Eduardo Castro Ramirez from the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation lead the training. Eduardo has conducted trainings on public charge across the Central Valley working with promotoras, community members, healthcare enrolers, advocates, and allies. The training will cover: a) status of public charge policy b) strategies to talk about changes with community members, and c) how to fight back through public comments. | Registration |  |
| November 7, 2018 from 10am-11am | **How Proposed Changes to the “Public Charge” Rule Will Affect Health, Hunger and the Economy in California**  
*Ninez A. Ponce*, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research; *Laurel Lucia*, director of the health care program at the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education; and *Tia Shimada*, director of programs at California Food Policy Advocates, will preview a forthcoming report and share estimates of the health and economic impact the rule change will have on California and its regions.  
The research is supported by the California Health Care Foundation and The California Endowment. | Registration (Live stream link available in November) | UCLA Center for Health Policy Research: healthpolicy@ucla.edu |
| November 14, 2018 from 10am-11am | **Changes to the "Public Charge" Rule and the Impact on Older Adults**  
This webinar, *Changes to the "Public Charge" Rule and the Impact on Older Adults*, will provide an overview of the existing public charge rule and key proposed changes, including the addition of certain government benefits older adults rely on, and details on how immigration officials make the public charge determination. We will also discuss the possible impacts on the lives of older adult immigrants and their families. The webinar will include tips on how advocates should be counseling their older adult clients and conclude with a summary of the regulatory timeline and what advocates can do to fight back against this harmful proposal. | Registration | Justice in Aging: info@justiceinaging.org |