

What can you do about the proposed Public Charge rule change?

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Further Inhumane Treatment of Kids to Pressure Families

The stakes are unbearably high.

As a parent, if you apply for SNAP or Medicaid, you may fear losing the chance to stay in this country with your kids. Yet, not applying may mean seeing your family go hungry or not being able to see a doctor when you are sick.

Who Could Feel a Chilling Effect?

Our definition: People who are likely to be nervous or confused about whether they should apply for benefits they are qualified to get.

Our estimate: everyone who lives in a family with at least one non-citizen immigrant, and where someone in that family has received one of the public benefits named in the public charge rule.

That includes:

- 24 million people in the United States
- 2.1 million people in New York State

Potential Impact on New York

Not just inhumane and discriminatory

Simulated Impact of Trump Rule	Lower Estimate 15% disenrollment	Middle Estimate 25% disenrollment	Higher Estimate 35% disenrollment
Loss of Federal Funds to New Yorkers	\$1.1 billion	\$1.8 billion	\$2.6 billion
Potential Economic Ripple Effects (Loss to grocery stores, doctors' offices, hospitals, etc.)	\$2.2 billion	\$3.6 billion	\$5.0 billion
Potential Jobs Lost	15,000	25,000	34,000

Estimate of direct loss was calculated by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; economic ripple effects and jobs lost was estimated by the Economic Policy Institute.

What is the “Rulemaking” process



What you need to know about the notice and comment period

What is a notice and comment period?

- Gives anyone from the general public an opportunity to weigh in on a regulation that an agency is considering.
- Federal law requires that the government read and consider every unique comment before issuing a final rule
- This notice-and-comment process is also important because it can later provide an opportunity to challenge the regulations in court if a concern with the regulation was raised and not addressed.
- These comments can help slow the process down and shape the Administration's decisions.

Why do comments matter?

- Raise the profile of this issue to policymakers and the public and show that this issue is important to hundreds of thousands of people across different sectors
- Make the Trump Administration justify its actions
- Delay the rulemaking process which will give us more time to fight and for political winds to shift
- Provide an opportunity to challenge the regulation in court if a concern with the regulation is raised but not addressed
- It gives people who are affected by the rule a chance to raise their voice and tell their story to policymakers

Who should submit comments?

- Anyone can submit comments! Affected families, concerned community members, organizations, and even elected officials can submit comments!
- The public plays an extremely important role by commenting on proposed rules that solicit public input. We encourage you to not only submit comments yourself, but to ask your friend, family members and co-workers to do the same.
- Agencies need to count how many comments they receive. If five people or organizations sign onto one comment letter, that counts as one comment.
- fine to work off of a sample comment, but you should modify it to reflect your own thoughts and experiences so that it counts as a *unique* comment.
- You are welcome to use text from template comments, but we **strongly encourage** you to include at least a few sentences which are unique to you and your perspective.

Tips to make your comment effective!

- **Comments must be received within the open comment period. Don't delay -- make sure your comment is submitted on or before December 10, 2018.**
- Comments must be **relevant** to be considered. Your comments should explain how taking away the ability to use these public services would harm you, your family, or your community.
- **Express your views and concerns clearly.** For example:
Make statements, don't ask questions. *If something in the proposal is unclear or ambiguous, say so.*
- **Write comments in your own words.** Agency staff must code and organize all comments, and the process is very different if they have to pause and consider what's similar and what's different in each comment, as opposed to just counting the number of commenters saying the same thing. It's fine to work from a sample comment, but you should modify it to reflect your own thoughts and experiences so that it counts as a unique comment. Here are a few recommended approaches.

Tips to make your comment effective!

- ***If you are an expert on a program,*** please detail how that program improves people's lives. For example: I oppose the proposed public charge rule that would force millions of children and families to disenroll from cooling and heating assistance programs and expose them to unsafe and unhealthy conditions. (add data and examples)
- ***If you work directly with immigrants,*** please describe why they usually come to the country; how they use government benefits, what it means for the well-being of them and their children; and how they contribute to their families and community.
- ***If you are a concerned individual that thinks this is wrong,*** explain what you think our country's values should be and why this change goes against it.

Tips to make your comment effective!

Please talk about the role that access to benefits has played in your own life. If you have family members that were immigrants, describe their experience, especially if you can point to their contributions to America.

For example: I am a breast cancer survivor and the healthcare that I received allowed me to continue working, caring from my two small children, and participating in my community. I received essential screening, surgery and follow up treatment that saved my life. Without this treatment, I would not have lived to take my children to school, feed them, and watch them grow up. We must ensure that all residents have access to care, regardless of where they or their parents were born.

If you have credibility in an issue area, say so. If you are a subject matter expert and want to offer comments on your area of expertise, explain why you are uniquely qualified to offer this perspective. Feel free to explain your educational and professional background, or attach a copy of your CV to your comments.

Keep In mind

- *The existing 1999 public charge guidance is still in place until a new rule is finalized.*
- *The final regulation could look different from the proposed regulation.*
- *The proposed regulation may never be finalized.*
- *We must do what we can to fight its implementation.*
- *Your voice matters! This comment period is the best — and only — period for the public to weigh in and fight back.*

Reminder: What's this all about?

How Can You Make a Comment about
Public Charge rule change?

Watch [this.](#)