

Protecting Immigrant Families

Advancing Our Future

Through several public statements and leaked policy proposals, the Trump Administration has made clear its intent to make life more difficult for low-income immigrant families, including their U.S. citizen children, by restricting their ability to access basic programs that safeguard their health care, nutrition, housing, and economic security. Federal law already restricts most immigrants' receipt of federally-funded welfare, Medicaid, and other benefits for at least five years and restricts entry to immigrants deemed likely to depend on government assistance. Any additional restrictions will drive up poverty among families with children and have lasting consequences on the well-being of immigrant families and the communities in which they live.

Emerging threats

Several legislative proposals in 2017 included provisions seeking to bar immigrant families from accessing basic health care and nutrition assistance. For example, Affordable Care Act "repeal and replace" legislation included provisions to bar additional classes of immigrants from purchasing insurance in the marketplace. Later in the year, the RAISE Act attempted to bar immigrant families from basic health care and nutrition assistance and created new barriers to naturalization simply for needing this help. The enacted tax bill included restrictions on children without Social Security numbers receiving the child tax credit.

Moving forward, one of the most urgent threats is the Administration's intent to redefine "public charge," so that only those with substantial incomes or resources would qualify for entry or adjustment of status. Current law authorizes a bar to entry or permanent legal status if an immigrant is likely to become dependent on cash "welfare" or long-term care at government expense. But current policy does not consider an immigrant's likely eligibility for non-cash supports that help so many working families climb the economic ladder. A draft executive order leaked in January 2017 was the first signal of this threat to low-income families. While the draft order was never released, it led to many immigrants choosing not to enroll themselves or their citizen children in critical programs despite their being eligible.

In January 2018, the State Department revised its instructions to consular officials on public charge, adding the use of any public benefit by the person seeking a visa to enter the country, their family members, or their sponsor to the public charge consideration. It's too early yet to tell what effect these changes will have, but it will be felt primarily by immigrants seeking to reunite with their immediate family members in the U.S. At the end of March 2018, news outlets reported on a leaked draft of a "public charge" notice of proposed rulemaking. A few days later, the rule went to the Office of Management and Budget for review. The proposal would broadly expand the types of benefits to be considered under the public charge determination, explicitly including Medicaid, ACA subsidies, nutrition assistance, housing assistance, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and many other programs. The leaked rule also

indicates the Administration's intent to consider the use of public benefits by the applicant's family, including U.S. citizen children. If finalized, this proposal could force immigrant families to forego needed health care or go hungry in order to obtain secure immigration status for themselves or their families.

Protecting Immigrant Families, Advancing Our Future Campaign

The Protecting Immigrant Families, Advancing Our Future campaign, co-chaired by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) brings together leading advocates for immigrants, children, education, health, anti-hunger and anti-poverty groups, and faith leaders, not only to defend against these threats, but also to lay the foundation for a more productive national dialogue about our immigrant tradition and our country's future.

- **Vision:** A nation where all are truly equal, immigration is recognized as a strength, and no one in America is denied the essentials of life because of where they were born.
- **Purpose:** Unite to protect and defend access to health care, nutrition programs, public services, and economic supports for immigrants and their families at the local, state, and federal level.

Work of the campaign

- Building a network of state, local, and national organizations that brings together the various sectors potentially impacted by these threats and working together to align, coordinate, strategize, and take action
- Offering united public opposition to policy changes that would limit immigration only to immigrants with substantial resources, use poverty as a weapon against immigrants and use immigration status as a weapon against the poor
- Advocating for public policy that includes immigrants in the United States' fundamental promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- Researching the impact of public policy threats and the best way to explain those threats to policymakers and the broader public
- Communicating with the public about a future built together by those whose families have been in the United States for generations and those who come today

Protecting Immigrant Families Advancing Our Future

Campaign Active Member Organizations

- 1,000 Days
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Nurses and Health Professionals (NHP)
- American Public Health Association
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)
- Asian Health Services
- Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Orgs (AAPCHO)
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
- CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
- CASA
- Center for American Progress (CAP)
- Center for Community Change
- Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP)
- Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP)
- Children Now
- Children's Defense Fund - Texas
- Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
- Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
- Columbia Legal Services
- Community Catalyst
- D.C. Immigration Hub
- Dignity Health
- El Centro De Servicios Sociales INC.
- Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
- Families USA
- First Focus
- Fiscal Policy Institute
- Florida Health Justice Project
- Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
- Health Care For All
- Healthy Illinois Campaign
- Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
- Human Rights Watch
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
- Indivisible
- Justice in Aging
- Katcher Consulting
- Latino Policy Forum
- Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCR)
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
- Legal Council for Health Justice
- Make the Road New York
- Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
- Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)
- MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
- MomsRising
- National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)
- National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
- National Center For Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ)
- National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
- National Education Association (NEA)
- National Health Law Program
- National Housing Law Project
- National Immigrant Justice Center
- National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- National LGBTQ Task Force
- National WIC Association
- National Women's Law Center
- NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
- New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- North Carolina Justice Center
- Northwest Health Law Advocates
- OneAmerica
- Ounce of Prevention Fund
- ParentsTogether
- Partnership For America's Children
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America & Planned Parenthood Action Fund
- Positive Women's Network - USA
- Prevention Institute
- Religious Action Center
- Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
- The Children's Partnership
- The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
- The Legal Aid Society
- Treatment Action Group
- UndocuBlack Network
- UnidosUS
- United We Dream
- Violence Intervention Program
- We Belong Together Campaign
- ZERO TO THREE