

Florida immigration and poverty advocates: **Could these be your clients?**

Under a proposed regulation now under consideration, 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. Below are some common client scenarios that might result:

- Angela, living in Lauderdale Lakes, is a 32-year old single mother with three U.S. citizen children whose sister sponsored her to come to the US from Mexico in 2011. She wants to become a lawful permanent resident (green card holder). Angela recently completed her nursing degree and is working as a home health aide while she looks for a job in a hospital or doctor's office. While she was in school, her U.S. citizen children **received Medicaid and SNAP (Food Stamps)**.
- Pierre and Nadine, a married couple living in North Miami, were born in Haiti. Nadine was granted asylum in 2007 after fleeing political violence and became a lawful permanent resident a few years later. She thereafter filed a family-based petition under the Haitian Family Reunification Program for Pierre to join her with their two children; the three were paroled into the United States 2016. Pierre has since been working as a dishwasher and seeks LPR status. Since their arrival, the couple's children have received **SNAP (Food Stamps) and reduced cost publicly-funded medical care under Miami-Dade County's Jackson Health Care system**.
- Clara, a 23-year old native of Nicaragua, was a three-year-old girl visiting her father in Sweetwater in 1998 when Hurricane Mitch ravaged her country. Her father decided to keep her in Miami, and in 2001 she was granted Temporary Protected Status ("TPS"), which was renewed periodically every 18 months thereafter. She now works as a maid at a Miami Beach hotel. In November 2017, after the Trump Administration announced it would end TPS for Nicaraguans, Clara decided to marry her U.S. Citizen boyfriend, with whom she has two children, an infant and a 5-year old. The family has been **receiving WIC and reduced-cost school lunch**. Since Clara believes she needs to get her green card before her TPS expires, the family is considering taking the children off of these benefits.

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, including those with young children, and have lasting consequences on the well-being of immigrant families and Florida communities.

A national campaign has been mounted to oppose this cruel new rule. If you have clients with similar stories we need to hear from you. Please contact Miriam Harmatz or Blanca Mesa, Harmatz@floridahealthjustice.org, mesa@floridahealthjustice.org. 4/2/18