



CALL TO ACTION:

Submit a Comment in Opposition to the “Public Charge” Rule

What is the Public Charge Rule?

On October 10, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security officially proposed to dramatically redefine the Public Charge rule. The changes would expand the grounds for denying legal immigrants visas or green cards by using their eligibility for benefits against them should they apply for extended residency. Although nothing has changed yet related to Public Charge, the proposed rule is now open for public comment.

Why should I Submit a Comment?

As a network that annually serves over 765,000 New Yorkers of all citizenship statuses, settlement houses must collectively speak out against the new Public Charge rule. Many immigrant families use settlement houses to access the very services that would be impacted, such as Public Housing, Section 8 Vouchers, SNAP, and Medicaid. With so much at stake, a unified message that amplifies the detrimental impact this change would have on immigrant communities is critical to our fight against the new Public Charge rule.

How can I Join the Conversation?

1. Write a statement of opposition to the Public Charge rule using the template below.
2. Strengthen your voice by explaining the impact this would have on your own community.
3. Visit bit.ly/PublicChargeNY to submit your statement online to the Federal Register.

Draft Template:

“On behalf of [*your settlement house/community*], I write to oppose the proposed changes to the Public Charge rule. The proposed policy will make immigrant families afraid to access essential health, nutrition and shelter programs. By forcing choices no family should have to make, it puts our whole country at risk.

→ *Emphasize the direct impact this rule would have on your community.*

→ *Explain how public benefits such as housing, food, and health programs strengthen your community.*

→ *Connect your message to the widespread threat facing immigrant communities across the country.*

In coalition with other settlement houses across New York City, we join in calling upon the Administration to withdraw this proposal to prevent the long-term negative repercussions on the health, development, and economic outcomes of generations to come.”

For additional information, please contact Lena Cohen at lcohen@unhny.org.