The Trump Administration’s Public Charge Proposal Could Impact 2.1 Million People in the Sunshine State

The Trump Administration is proposing radical changes to the “public charge” rule that would make it more difficult for immigrants to obtain a green card if they use any of a wide range of public benefits. If finalized, the proposed “public charge” rule would result in declines in immigrant families’ access to the basics we all need to survive. The proposal would make-and has already made-immigrant families afraid to seek programs that help them stay strong and productive and raise children who thrive.

By threatening immigration status when immigrants use programs to meet their family’s basic needs, the proposal would make immigrant families in Florida afraid to access programs—like health care and food assistance—that support essential needs. This fact sheet describes the potentially impacted population in the Sunshine State, including several counties facing the greatest impact.

**FLORIDA**
Approximately 2.1 million people, including 609,000 children, may be impacted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Potentially Impacted</th>
<th>Estimated Share of County Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>2,664,000</td>
<td>693,000</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>1,864,000</td>
<td>281,000</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>1,399,000</td>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>1,256,000</td>
<td>153,000</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>1,323,000</td>
<td>124,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NATIONWIDE**
Approximately 26 million people, including 9.2 million children, may be impacted.

The proposed public charge rule will increase hunger.

Decreased participation among Florida immigrant families in food assistance could lead to higher levels of poverty and food insecurity.

For farmers and local economies, reduced food assistance may reduce the well-documented positive economic impacts of programs that help households purchase produce from businesses of all types and sizes.

Florida is fighting back.

If we want our communities to thrive, every family must be able to stay together and receive the care, services, and support they need to remain healthy and productive. Federal law requires the Administration to consider public comments on the rule’s impact, and leading Florida advocates and human services providers in our state joined thousands more nationwide to speak out. The public comment period ended on December 10, 2018 with more than 250,000 public comments submitted - the vast majority in opposition.

After the Administration considers public comments received on the proposed rule, the Administration will likely issue a final public charge rule. Any changes cannot take effect until at least 60 days after the date the final rule is published. In the meantime, and until a final rule is in effect, USCIS will continue to apply the current public charge policy.

To fight back, visit ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org. For more information, contact Renato Rocha (rrocha@clasp.org) or David Kallick (ddkallick@fiscalpolicy.org).

Families’ fear to participate in Medicaid could result in coverage losses throughout Florida, decreased access to care, and worse health outcomes for the entire family, including U.S. citizen children.

For financially vulnerable health care providers, Medicaid is an indispensable funding source for hospitals and clinics. Losing Medicaid coverage would negatively impact the health outcomes of immigrant families. It would also harm the financial security of hospitals and local economies.