

The Biden administration has finalized new regulations that reform the “public charge” immigration policy and add critical protections for immigrant families. It confirms that eligible immigrant families can use nutrition, housing and health care programs without public charge concerns, and it makes it harder for future presidents to radically change public charge policy. Because immigrant communities still have concerns as to whether there are negative immigration consequences if they access programs for which they or their family members are eligible, it is essential that policymakers lead the charge to ensure all immigrant families have the information they need to help their families thrive.

PUBLIC CHARGE BASICS:

Ensure you know the background and topline framework of the public charge regulation.

- [Fact sheet](#)
- [1,2,3s of Public Charge](#)

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CONSTITUENTS

Help reduce confusion and fear by sharing accurate and accessible information, particularly targeting immigrant families. As a public official, you have a great megaphone to get the word out through the media and the official communications channels of your office. This communication responsibility will need to be consistent over time to combat misinformation, and it will need to be linguistically accessible to immigrant families. In many ways, the tools and methods officials used for COVID-19 vaccine outreach are similar to those you can employ for public charge.

- Media tools
 - [Media advisory for state-specific press calls](#)
 - [PSA script](#)
 - [Statement](#)
 - Social media – [Social samples](#)
 - [Op-ed](#)
- Community engagement tools and resources
 - [Community education materials](#)

ENSURE STATE/LOCAL AGENCIES ARE DOING THEIR PART

Benefits-granting agencies must prepare for concerns and questions from eligible families. While the new public charge rule **should not change long-standing practice at the state level**, policymakers should monitor and address any drops in enrollment levels due to confusion and fear as well as take steps now to notify immigrant families about the upcoming end to the Public Health Emergency, when many immigrant families may be at risk of losing their benefits.

- Proactive Outreach to State/Local Agencies
 - [Sample memo to agencies](#)
 - Push for Inter-agency coordination
 - Use routine hearings or agency public facing meetings, such as Medicaid Advisory Committee meetings, to monitor enrollment data