

Joint Statement from California Health and Human Services Leaders on New Federal Public Charge Rule

The California Health and Human Services Agency and its Departments are reviewing the federal government's final [Public Charge Rule](#) and assessing the potential impacts on California families and communities. As indicated in the federal government's notice, the final Public Charge Rule will take effect 60 days after formal publication on the Federal Register. In other words, the final rule will take effect in mid-September. The federal notice also states that means-tested public benefits received before the rule's effective date will not be considered under the new rule. Previously, cash-assistance for income maintenance and long-term institutionalization assistance were considered for public charge purposes and will continue to be considered. In addition, the federal notice explains that federal agencies will issue interim guidance soon. As we continue our review of the federal guidance and final rule, we will post information for Californians about what this rule means for them at chhs.ca.gov.

We are concerned that this federal rule will create confusion and discourage eligible families from seeking critical services.

While we analyze the details, our message to communities across California is simple: seek information from trusted sources. This may not apply to you, and be careful of scams. Consult qualified immigration legal service providers if you have questions, and know that California has routinely fought back against harmful federal policies, including prior public charge rules and remains committed to building healthy, inclusive communities where all people can thrive.

Over the last year, the state has expanded information, resources and coordination among key community partners to help Californians navigate these changes, so immigrant families can make the best decisions for themselves and their loved ones. Across the state, regional hubs are connecting trusted messengers with families to help them understand changing federal rules, assess their immigration and health risks and connect with services that support their well-being. Helping Californians in this way supports not only families but also helps reduce the consequences for local communities when eligible individuals avoid accessing public programs out of fear. This work relies on the state's important investments in regional coordination that connects legal services, community health workers, community service providers, schools and others to better support immigrant families.

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A list of nonprofit organizations qualified to assist individuals is available on the [California Department of Social Services website](#).

The state is also developing a dedicated Public Charge webpage that will serve as a central source for updates, resources, and guidance as additional information becomes available. Californians are encouraged to check the CalHHS website for the latest guidance.