

Prepare your Health Center for Implementation of the Public Charge Rule Check List

All Resources mentioned below are located on CPCA's Immigration Resource Page (cpca.org/immigration)

On August 14, the Trump Administration released the final Public Charge rule, which is scheduled to become effective on October 15. The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) has joined La Clinica and others in a lawsuit challenging the rule, and we are awaiting the court's decision on a motion for a preliminary injunction of the rule.

We are pleased to inform you that Southern District of New York just granted a nationwide injunction stopping the implementation of the public charge rule. **This means that the rule will NOT be implemented on October 15 as previously scheduled.**

Although the rule will not be implemented as scheduled, we recommend that health center staff be prepared to respond to patient questions. Below are items that can be accomplished in advance of the rule's implementation to ensure staff are prepared.

Train Staff on the Public Charge Final Rule

- In an effort to help frontline staff, enrollers, CHWs / Promotoras, service providers, county staff, and others respond to concerns presented by immigrant communities, the Protecting Access to Public Benefits Workgroup, led by CPCA, has created Public Charge Training Modules for Advocates & Service Providers. This is a package of train-the-trainer style presentations to help service providers and CBOs discuss public charge with patients and the community. Each module includes a script to help guide presenters. All together the modules comprise a full-day workshop, but organizations are encouraged to build a unique agenda that best suits their audience from the menu of modules.
- Check out CPCA's Immigration Resource Page (cpca.org/immigration) for more information

Have a List of Trained Public Charge Attorneys Available for Patients

- The California Department of Social Services has created a [list](#) of organizations in California that are funded by the state to provide Public Charge legal advice on immigration. Click [HERE](#)

Determine a Processes to Inform Patients about the Public Charge Rule

- Although the public charge rule impacts a small subset of the population, health centers should develop a method to ensure patients are aware of the public charge rule before enrolling them into services. We do NOT want to negatively impact a patient's ability to adjust their status.
- CPCA recommends training your enrollers to provide all patients with information about the public charge rule prior to enrolling them into services. This could be done by providing patients a factsheet or helping them access screening tools to determine if they are impacted.

Do Not Provide Legal Advice

- When helping patients understand the rule, ensure that you're NOT providing legal advice. We do not know the full circumstances of each person's case, so we cannot make any specific recommendations or assessments.
- Health centers can, however, provide patients with facts
 - o For example, it's ok to say that the rule does not impact individuals applying for citizenship, but it's NOT ok to say 'Don't worry you're not impacted by the rule since you are applying to become a citizen.'

Have Resources Available for Patients

- Given how confusing this rule is, patients truly benefit from acquiring resources that help explain what the rule does and how it may impact them. We recommend CHCs to use a factsheet developed by the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign titled, "PUBLIC CHARGE: GETTING THE HELP YOU NEED," to help explain the rule.

For more information, please visit CPCA.Org/Immigration & ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org

