

The Protecting Immigrant Families, Advancing our Future Campaign

The Trump Administration has made clear its intent to make life more difficult for low-income immigrant families by restricting their ability to access basic programs that safeguard their health care, nutrition, housing, and economic security. The Protecting Immigrant Families, Advancing Our Future (“PIF”) campaign, co-chaired by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) brings together leading advocates for immigrants, children, education, health, anti-hunger and anti-poverty groups, and faith leaders, not only to defend against these threats, but also to lay the foundation for a more productive national dialogue about our immigrant tradition and our country’s future.

Vision: A nation where all are truly equal, immigration is recognized as a strength, and no one in America is denied the essentials of life because of where they were born.

Purpose: Unite to protect and defend access to health care, nutrition programs, public services, and economic supports for immigrants and their families at the local, state, and federal level.

The Campaign began in May 2017 with a meeting of two dozen national, state, and local organizations committed to protecting immigrants and their families’ access to health care, nutrition programs, public services and economic supports. Now more than a year since that formal launch, the PIF Campaign has grown to more than 300 “active member” partner groups across the immigrant rights, civil rights, health, nutrition, anti-poverty, early childhood, education, faith-based, and other worlds. We’ve fought back against multiple threats —such as the tax bill, budget debate, the proposed Flores regulations, and the harmful impact of the administration’s rhetoric and policy priorities—and organized a massive effort to delay and derail the proposed public charge regulation.

A pattern of attack on low-income immigrant families

Several legislative proposals in 2017 included provisions seeking to bar immigrant families from accessing basic health care and nutrition assistance. For example, Affordable Care Act “repeal and replace” legislation included provisions to bar additional classes of immigrants from purchasing insurance in the marketplace. Later in the year, the RAISE Act attempted to bar immigrant families from basic health care and nutrition assistance and created new barriers to naturalization simply for needing this help. The enacted tax bill included restrictions on children without Social Security numbers receiving the child tax credit.

Fighting an expanded “public charge” test

In 2018, a major goal of the campaign was to generate opposition to the proposed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulation regarding “public charge.” Current law authorizes a bar to entry or permanent legal status if an immigrant is likely to become dependent on cash “welfare” or long-term institutional care at government expense. But current policy does not consider an immigrant’s use of non-cash supports that help so

many working families climb the economic ladder. The campaign was effective in our advocacy efforts to delay DHS from publishing a proposed rule, but in October 2018, the Administration issued a proposed rule to formally redefine public charge so that even modest receipt of programs including non-emergency Medicaid, SNAP, help paying for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D, and several housing programs can be counted against immigrants seeking a green card. It weighs a range of factors in deciding whether a person is likely to use certain public benefits in the future, and would make it much more difficult for low and moderate-income immigrants to get a green card, or extend or change their temporary status in the US.

The proposal would make—and has already made—immigrant families afraid to seek programs that support basic needs. This fear would extend far beyond people who may be subject to the “public charge” test. It would harm entire communities as well as the infrastructure that serves all of us. The proposed regulation would also mark a fundamental change from our nation's historic commitment to welcoming immigrants. It would radically reshape our legal immigration system, putting the wealthy at the front of the line, ahead of hardworking families who have waited years to reunite.

The public comment period ended on December 10, 2018 with more than 216,000 public comments submitted - the vast majority in opposition. Thousands of organizations from more than 40 different sectors--immigrant rights, civil rights, health, nutrition, anti-poverty, early childhood, education, faith-based, elected officials, and many more - submitted deep, thoughtful comments that illustrate the harm the rule would cause. These comments are valuable both for delaying publication of the final rule and for creating an administrative record for future litigation. After DHS considers public comments received on the proposed rule, the agency 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.

WHAT'S NEXT

With the ending of the public comment period on the public charge proposed rule, the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign is shifting into a new stage. In 2019, our priorities are:

- Combat the chilling effect of Trump’s anti-immigrant agenda through community education, partnerships with government agencies, and shared messaging with immigration attorneys.
- Block and/or delay public charge proposed changes and other related policies from taking effect through continued advocacy, Congressional oversight and litigation.
- Build support for an affirmative vision of a nation where all are truly equal, immigration is recognized as a strength, and no one in America is denied the essentials of life because of where they were born.



THE PIF CAMPAIGN STATE and LOCAL Active Members

Arizona

Mountain Park Health Center

California

ACLU of Northern California
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Asian Health Services
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
California Association of Food Banks
California Food Policy Advocates
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
California LULAC
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Primary Care Association
California WIC Association
CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
Casa San Jose
Child Care Law Center
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund - California
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County
Community Action Marin
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
Community Clinic Consortium
Community Health Initiative Napa County
Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Dignity Health
First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission
Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
March and Rally LA
Marin Community Foundation
Northern California Grantmakers
Redwood Community Health Coalition
San Francisco Poster Syndicate
SEIU State Council Californus
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network
The California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
The Children's Partnership
TODEC Legal Center

Colorado

Center for Health Progress
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Colorado People's Alliance
Mountain Family Health Centers

Connecticut

CT Shoreline Indivisible

District of Columbia

D.C. Action for Children
D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute
D.C. Immigration Hub

Florida

Community Justice Project, Inc.
Florida Health Justice Project
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Florida Legal Services, Inc.
Florida Policy Institute
Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center
WeCount!

Hawaii

Hawaii Appleseed

Idaho

Centro de Comunidad y Justicia (CCJ)
Idaho Voices for Children (Voices)
The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho

Illinois

Alianza Americas
Community Organizing and Family Issues
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Healthy Illinois Campaign
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Lake County Immigrant Advocacy
Latino Policy Forum
Legal Council for Health Justice
PODER Northwestern Law Student Group
United African Organization

Kansas

Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation
Kansas Action for Children (KAC)
Kansas Appleseed
Kansas Center for Economic Growth
Tonantzint Society

Kentucky

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Louisiana

Louisiana Budget Project

Maine

Maine Equal Justice
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)

Maryland

CASA
Women's Equity Center and Action Network
Violence Intervention Program

Massachusetts

Children's HealthWatch
Health Care For All
Health Law Advocates, Inc.
Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
MetroWest Legal Services

Michigan

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC)
Michigan League for Public Policy (the League)
Southwest Solutions

Minnesota

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Mid Minnesota Legal Aid
Minnesota Budget Project

Missouri

KC Metro Immigration Alliance
Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates

Mississippi

Mississippi Center for Justice

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed
Voices for Children in Nebraska

New Mexico

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Voices for Children

New York

African Services Committee
Atlas: DIY
Cabrin Immigrant Services of NYC
Care for the Homeless

Children's Defense Fund – New York
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education
Community Healthcare Network
Emerald Isle Immigration Center
Empire Justice Center
Fiscal Policy Institute
Make the Road New York
Mobilization For Justice, Inc.
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
Queens Library
The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
The Legal Aid Society

North Carolina

Carolina Jews for Justice
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy
North Carolina Justice Center
ParentsTogether
Pisgah Legal Services

Ohio

Asian Services In Action, Inc. (ASIA, Inc.)
Community Peace Builders
El Centro De Servicios Sociales INC.

Oregon

Causa Oregon
Innovation Law Lab
Oregon Food Bank

Pennsylvania

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Philadelphia Women's Center

Rhode Island

The Economic Progress Institute

South Carolina

PASOs
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Tennessee

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas

Center for Public Policy Priorities
Children at Risk
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Workers Defense Project

Utah

Utahns Against Hunger
Voices for Utah Children

Virginia

Legal Aid Justice Center
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Virginia Poverty Law Center

Washington

Asian Counseling and Referral Service
Children's Alliance (WA)
Columbia Legal Services
Entre Hermanos
Latinos Promoting Good Health
Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA)
Odyssey World International Education Services
OneAmerica
Refugee Connections Spokane

Wisconsin

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
Kids Forward
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

To join the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign as an Active Member, please go to bit.ly/PIFActivemember



THE PIF CAMPAIGN NATIONAL Active Members

1,000 Days
Advancing Justice
America's Voice
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Public Health Association
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Berkeley Media Studies Group
Beyond the Bomb
Big Cities Health Coalition
Caring Across Generations
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
Center for American Progress
Center for Community Change
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Public Representation
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Rights, Inc.
Chinese American Planning Council
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Catalyst
Community Health Systems, Inc.
Don't Separate Families
Fair Immigration Reform Movement
Families Belong Together / Familias Unidas, No Divididas
Families USA
First Focus
Food Research and Action Center
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network
Health Care for America Now Education Fund
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Hispanic Federation
Human Impact Partners
Human Rights Watch
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Equality
Jobs with Justice
Justice in Aging
Kingdom Mission Society
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Migrant Clinicians Network
MomsRising
Muslim Public Affairs Council
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
National Council on Aging
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Law Program
National Housing Law Project
National Human Services Assembly
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National LGBTQ Task Force
National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Nextgen America
Niskanen Center
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Partnership for America's Children
Planned Parenthood Federation of America & Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Positive Women's Network - USA
Prevention Institute
Religious Action Center
RESULTS
Rooted in Rights
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Employees International Union
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southern Poverty Law Center
The Arc
The Black Alliance for Just Immigration
The Children's Partnership
The Indivisible Project
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Praxis Project
Treatment Action Group
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
UndocuBlack Network
UnidosUS
United Church of Christ
United Parent Leaders Action Network
United We Dream
We Belong Together Campaign
Womankid
World Relief
ZERO TO THREE

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