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 266,000 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
Advancing Justice
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Asian Health Services
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII)
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
California Association of Food Banks
California Food Policy Advocates
California Immigration Policy Center (CIPC)
California LULAC
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Primary Care Association
California WIC Association
CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
Canal Alliance
Casa San Jose
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa
Child Care Law Center
Children Now
Children’s Defense Fund - California
Coalition for Humane Immigrants 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
Healthy House Within A MATCH Coalition
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
Maternal and Child Health Access
Northern California Grantmakers
Redwood Community Health Coalition
San Francisco Poster Syndicate
SEIU State Council California
Services, Immigrants, Rights, and Education Network
The California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
The Children’s Partnership
The Program for Torture Victims
TODEC Legal Center
United Cambodian Community
Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP)

Colorado
Center for Health Progress
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Colorado People’s Alliance
Hunger Free Colorado
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
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

Florida
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Community Justice Project, Inc.
Florida Health Justice Project
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Florida Legal Services, Inc.
Florida Policy Institute
Saint La Haitian Neighborhood Center

Georgia
The Latin American Association

Hawaii
Hawaii Appleseed

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

Illinois
Alianza Americas
Asian Human Services
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
Sargent Shriver Center on National Poverty Law
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

Maine
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Maine Equal Justice
Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition (MIRC)

Louisiana
Louisiana Budget Project

Maryland
CASA
Women’s Equity Center and Action Network
Violence Intervention Program

Massachusetts
Children’s HealthWatch
Greater Boston Legal Services
Health Care For All
Health Law Advocates, Inc.
Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts
Massachusetts Immigration 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 Advocacy Program
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
Navigate MN/Unidos MN
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
Volunteer Lawyers Network

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
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
Care for the Homeless
Children’s Defense Fund – New York
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Columbia Population Research Center
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families

New York continued
Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education
Community Healthcare Network
Emerald Isle Immigration Center
Empire Justice Center
Fiscal Policy Institute
Grace Immigrant Outreach (GIIO)
Make the Road New York
Mobilization For Justice, Inc.
National Association of Social Workers (NYC)
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
Queens Library
The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
The Legal Aid Society

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

Oklahoma
YWCA Tulsa

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

Utah
Comunidades Unidas
Utahns Against Hunger
Voices for Utah Children

Virginia
Legal Aid Justice Center
Safe Passage Project
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
Innovation Law Lab
Latinos Promoting Good Health
Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA)
Oasis Legal Services
Odeyssey 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