

# Attorneys General Offices Public Charge Toolkit

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Thank you for your interest in collaborating with the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign by taking steps to diminish the harm caused by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) and the U.S. Department of State's (DOS's) "public charge" regulations. Attorneys general occupy a unique position as trusted officials and play a widely influential public information role. Attorneys general also may provide guidance to state agencies seeking counsel to interpret the new public charge regulation and may help reduce mixed messages across state administrations.

This toolkit recommends actions for attorneys general offices (AGOs) seeking to minimize harms caused by the DHS and DOS public charge regulations and provides examples, templates, and tools. Materials in this toolkit can be modified to fit your needs.

The Protecting Immigrant Families, Advancing Our Future Campaign is a collaboration between the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), and thousands of advocates across the country working to fight back against policies that harm immigrant families. For more information about the campaign, visit <https://ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org/>.

## Recommendations for AGO public information approaches

Focus groups have shown that immigrant families are more likely to trust public charge information when it comes from a credible state government source. Educational materials branded with the state seal or from the state attorney general will boost awareness, understanding, and acceptance of critical information on public charge.

We recommend that AGOs take a lead role in disseminating public information about the new regulation through different media:

### Press statements, press conferences, and op-eds

- Commentary on litigation that signals support for the immigrant community. Here are examples from [California](#) and [Washington](#).
- Statements directed to the community. The PIF Campaign can provide model language based on our research and experience.
- Outreach through ethnic media outlets. The PIF Campaign stands ready to support the development of these messages.

### Dissemination of a frequently asked questions (FAQ) resource on public charge translated into multiple languages

#### Development of webpages on the AGO website

- Best practice example: [District of Columbia OAG](#) website
- Strong public charge webpages that include the following resources:
  - A clear FAQ (see above)
  - Listings of organizations serving immigrant communities and the languages in which services are offered (see this example from [California Department of Social Services](#))



- Where to talk to free or low-cost immigration legal services providers (see these examples of **resource directories** from [California](#), [Oregon](#), [Washington](#); also consider providing a link to [an immigration legal services directory](#))
- [Examples of flyers](#) in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese to educate immigrants about what to watch out for when seeking immigration help, and what to do if they have been victimized by immigration fraud
- Links to state-specific one-pagers on public charge that have already been created locally (see this example from [Illinois](#))
- [Links to community-facing documents, particularly those translated into languages other than English](#) (templates that can be rebranded/modified with your logo, etc., [here](#))

### Development of immigrants' rights/know-your-rights guides (examples below)

- In the school setting (example: [District of Columbia OAG](#))
- In the health care provider setting (example: [Washington AG Office](#))
- Language access requirements under state and federal law
- Protect yourself from immigration fraud (examples: [Maryland AG Office](#), [Nevada AG Office](#))
- Immigration guidance (example: [Washington AG Office](#))
- Contact with law enforcement (example: [Nevada AG Office](#))
- The [Massachusetts Attorney General's Office](#) has published fact sheets on a wide range of COVID-19 emergency materials

## Resources for administrative counsel

In some states, state agencies may reach out to AGOs for guidance on interpreting and implementing the new public charge regulations. When requested, AGOs can serve as an excellent resource for advice, legal interpretation, and cross-governmental coordination in a state's public charge response.

### Resources to provide guidance to public benefits administrative agencies

- [Privacy Protections in Selected Federal Benefits Programs](#) (National Immigration Law Center)
- [Draft letter to public benefits state agencies](#) about the Form I-944
  - [Benefits usage form](#) (may be linked to in state agency response document)
  - [Education/workforce program form](#) (may be linked to in state agency response document)
- A complete [state benefits agency toolkit](#)
- [Template letter](#) from state agencies to immigrant clients
- A sample, comprehensive [state agency response planning guide](#)

### Resources for background information

- [Policy guidance from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#)
- [The Public Charge Dictionary](#) (Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign)

If you have questions about the toolkit or ideas you would like to explore, please contact **Alicia Wilson, NILC consultant, at 301-395-0774**. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Created by the State Policy Subcommittee  
of the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign