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The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling allows the Administration to implement the new Public Charge rule while the litigation against the rule continues. The Department of Homeland Security has now announced the following:

- **The new standards will go into effect on February 24, 2020.**
- **Please note that the rule is not retroactive so** nutrition (SNAP), housing, and health insurance benefits used before February 24 will **not** be considered in a public charge determination, but any use February 24 or forward will be.
- The DHS final rule applies to immigrants who are applying for lawful permanent residency (a green card) **within the United States, but not** to refugees, asylees, and other “vulnerable” populations. It is **not** relevant when immigrants apply for U.S. citizenship.

This is a matter of grave concern to many of the communities we work in and families we work with. Below is the link to the most recent fact sheet from CLASP with important information for families and links to additional resources and information. CLASP will be continuing to update the fact sheet and the links as this situation develops. We will continue to collect information on state and national resources, and all will be posted in a resource folder on the back end of the website and shared with site staff via Slack and eblasts. Please forward questions, ideas, etc. that you are receiving from sites so we can keep collecting relevant information and resources. As you find additional resources and information in your communities, please share with the National Center and with all sites through Slack or email.

This ruling raises many challenges for families – food insecurity, health care issues, etc. and so much more stress and trauma. We need to worry about families not having sufficient food and parents not getting medical care they need. There are going to be many questions about whether to continue accessing benefits even those that are not on the public charge list but could be added in the future (we have had lots of questions about WIC). And it will raise questions about accessing other services including ours – the first thing we can assure families is that our services are not funded by federal dollars so the federal government has no record of the families receiving them and cannot track them or the services! Our only tangential federal dollars are education funds that are directed to school districts that they then use to implement programming, those are not reported to the government as a benefit to particular families, they are a benefit to the district.

Given all the details and nuances involved, all families should be consulting with immigration law experts in their state/community before making any decisions about benefits.

CLASP will continue to update their fact sheet with the most recent information. Please [click here](#) to be directed to the current sheet.

Here are additional resources for information to share with staff and families on the public charge rule:

- [Protecting Immigrant Families](#)
- [A page of resources directed at families](#)
- [A link to a directory of immigrant legal services by state](#) – we suggest that coordinators contact the ones in their area and ask if they have materials they are distributing and how best to refer families who have questions.