



The Latino Policy Forum Applauds the Federal Dismissal of Public Charge Rule

The Latino Policy Forum and its *acuerdo* partners commend the Biden administration for seeking the courts' dismissal of the previous administration's legal defense of the public charge rule, which has caused the exclusion and disenrollment of immigrants from essential public programs. This is a critical step towards fulfilling their promises of federal policies that will maintain dignity and respect for all.

The courts' dismissal **permanently** bars the federal administration from enforcing the 2019 public charge rule nationwide and restores the 1999 public charge guidance. Under the 1999 guidance, SNAP, public housing, Section 8 housing assistance, and Medicaid are not included in the public charge. **This means that many immigrants who are adjusting their status to Legal Permanent Resident can feel safe again participating in these programs.**

"The recent decision to dismiss the government's appeal to uphold the public charge rule, which has instilled fear, confusion, and distrust, is the right step towards providing basic needs in Latino communities and building meaningful trust with the immigrant community," says Sylvia Puente, President & CEO of the Latino Policy Forum.

"Throughout the past few years, the fear of the public charge rule has hung over our immigrant communities non-stop and has pushed many families away from utilizing services they have the right to use," says Maria Velazquez, Executive Director of Telpochcalli Community Education Project (TCEP). "I am pleased the government and courts have decided to pull away from these hurtful changes. Now the real work begins."

"At the Spanish Community Center, we've done our best to ensure the immigrant community has access to basic needs and assistance, and that they are updated regarding the public charge rule," says Veronica Gloria, Executive Director of the Spanish Community Center. "This regulation has put immigrant and mixed-status families at risk, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. We applaud the Biden administration for taking action to reverse this harmful rule."

In 2018, the Latino Policy Forum joined partner organizations Shriver Center on Poverty Law, Legal Council for Health Justice, and Illinois Coalition of Immigrants and Refugee Rights to create the Protect Immigrant Families Illinois (PIF-IL) coalition in response to the previous administration's agenda and changes to the public charge rule. The Forum will continue providing issue education and sharing resources via the [Forum website](#) and the [PIF-IL website](#).