IMMIGRATION UPDATES

Sarang Sekhavat
Federal Policy Director
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Public Charge Blocked
Admissibility

“Removable”

“Inadmissible”
“Deportable”
What is “Public Charge”

• Refers to a person who is likely to become dependent on the government for financial or material support

• Can be the basis for denying “admission”
  – Non-immigrant visa
  – Green Card
Who is Subject?

• Anyone seeking LPR status through a family petition

• Certain individuals seeking LPR status through an employment petition

• Individuals seeking a non-immigrant visa
Who is NOT Subject?

- Refugees/aslyees
- VAWA self-petitioners
- U visa beneficiaries
- Individuals renewing TPS or DACA
- Special Immigrant Juveniles
- Applicants for naturalization
- Individuals renewing a green card
Current Policy

An individual who is likely to become *primarily* dependent on the government for subsistence, as demonstrated by either the receipt of:

1. Public cash assistance for income maintenance: TANF, SSI, or similar state and local programs

2. Institutionalization for long-term care at government expense
Factors to Consider

Not Subject to Public Charge Consideration

- Medicaid
- CHIP
- SNAP
- WIC
- Housing
- Child Care Services
- Energy Assistance
Factors They Consider

- Age
- Health
- Family Status
- Assets
- Resources
- Financial Status
- Education
- Skills

No single factor will be determinative
Current Policy

I-864, Affidavit of Support

• Filed by sponsor of intending immigrant showing household income ≥ 125% of the federal poverty limit

• Properly filed I-864 is usually sufficient to find that a person will not be a public charge
Court Injunctions

**Nationwide:**
- Washington
- New York
- Maryland

**State Specific:**
- California (CA, OR, ME, PA, DC)
- Illinois (IL only)
New Rule

Implementation Delayed Indefinitely

New Definition for “Public Charge”

An individual who is, “likely at any time in the future to receive one or more,” of the listed public benefits
Subject to Public Charge Consideration

Where any of the benefits are received for an aggregate 12 months during a 36 month period.

- Cash assistance programs (TANF, SSI)
- Any benefit for long term institutional care
- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Section 8 Housing
- Non-Emergency Medicaid
  (except children and pregnant women)
Factors to Consider

• Age – Not working age?
• Health – Chronic illness?
• Family Status
• Assets
• Resources
• Financial Status
• Education – LEP?
• Skills
New Factors to Consider

• Authorized to work but not employed or a full-time student
• Received or been approved to receive listed benefit
• Lacking private health insurance
Proposed Policy

Affidavit of Support

• I-864 loses weight

• Family support won’t be heavily weighted under 250% FPL
Resources

Protectingimmigrantfamilies.org

Miracoalition.org/pif
What Can We Do?

Education – make sure our communities know what the rule says and who it applies to.

Story Collection – we need stories to share with the media (can be anonymous, but names would be better). Email stories to pifma@miracoalition.org.
Public Charge: Deportability
Current Law

1) Received benefits for reasons that existed *prior* to admission;
2) Received such benefits within 5 years of admission;
3) You or sponsor owe a debt to the government to reimburse for benefits and received notice to reimburse within 5 years of admission; *and*
4) You or sponsor failed to repay and the government won a suit to demand repayment.
What do we know?

- Expected – placeholder language in draft USCIS Public Charge that leaked to the press
- Some things they can’t change
- Will come from DOJ (Immigration Courts), not USCIS
- No solid indications of timing, but could be soon
- Same process as Admissibility change
Proposed HUD Rule
HUD Proposed Rule

1. All residents under 62 years old must have status verified through SAVE
2. Head of household or spouse must have authorized, eligible status
HUD Proposed Rule

• 25,000 households
• 108,000 people
  – 70% (76,000) legally eligible
• 55,000 children legally eligible
• $8,400/year for mixed status families
Temporary Protected Status
Temporary Protected Status

• Granted to nationals of countries in crisis who are presently in the U.S.
  – On-going armed conflict
  – Natural disaster
  – Extraordinary temporary conditions

• May last for 6, 12 or 18 months

• Cannot apply for TPS from home country

www.miracoalition.org
## Temporary Protected Status

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<th>Country</th>
<th>National #s</th>
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<td>Yemen</td>
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DACA - Eligibility

• Entry before June 15, 2007
• Entry before turning 16 years old
• Born after June 15, 1981
• Undocumented on June 15, 2012
• Be in school or have graduated from high school
• Have no felony convictions, no more than 2 misdemeanor convictions, and no convictions for a “significant misdemeanor”
DACA – Where are we?

- September 5, 2017: announcement ending DACA

- Various courts issued injunctions keeping DACA open:
  - January 9, 2018: CA District Court.
    - November 8, 2018: 9th Circuit affirmed District Court opinion
  - February 13, 2018: NY District Court
  - March 5, 2018: MD District Court DENIED injunction
    - May 17, 2019: 4th Circuit reversed District Court opinion
  - April 24, 2018: DC District Court

- Supreme Court hearing November 12!
Other Issues
Census

- Supreme Court blocked inclusion of citizenship question
- Encourage everyone to fill out the census
- Law protects against use of census information for law enforcement purposes
Fee Waiver

• Mostly used for citizenship and green card renewals

• Eligibility:
  — Means-Tested Benefit
  — ≤ 150% FPL
  — Financial Hardship

• Can use old form until Dec 2, 2019.
Notice To Appear

• Charging document for immigration court

• Under Obama, USCIS would only issue if:
  – Serious criminal conduct
  – Fraud in the application

• New policy to issue NTA anytime an applicant is removable
Matter of A-B

• Particular Social Group

• Impacted
  – Domestic Violence
  – Gang Violence

• *Grace v Whitaker* – DC District Court enjoined policy in credible fear determinations
Questions?
SARANG SEKHAVAT
Federal Policy Director
ssekhavat@miracoalition.org

@MIRACoalition