

Talking Points: DHS Public Charge Rule

- **The Public Charge Rule is Antithetical to the Mission of Public Housing.**

As a general matter, the Public Charge Rule directly conflicts with the mission of PHAs across the country of providing safe and affordable housing to those in most need in our communities. The Public Charge Rule penalizes non-citizens for their use of housing assistance by including the receipt of Section 8 Housing Assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance, and Public Housing in the “public charge” evaluation.

- **The Public Charge Rule Imposes Significant Administrative Burdens on Public Housing Authorities**

While the Public Charge Rule does not change HUD program requirements or directly impact eligibility for such programs, PHAs will be faced with increased administrative costs given the anticipated disenrollment/new enrollment turnover. Any disenrollment or return of housing assistance under the Public Charge Rule will not result in any savings to PHAs or the federal programs because the demand for such assistance far outstrips the available assistance. PHAs will have to proceed with processing the next individual on the waiting list, as well as closing out the family that is exiting the program. Additionally, significant PHA staff time and resources have already been spent educating residents about the potential impact of the rule.

- **The Public Charge Rule Destabilizes Families.**

Access to housing assistance provides low-income families the flexibility to cover other basic needs like healthcare, which are fundamental to achieving—and maintaining—self-sufficiency. The Public Charge Rule seems to demand that eligible families decide between accessing essential housing assistance or maintaining their ability to enter or remain in the United States. Either choice will have detrimental results.

- **The Public Charge Rule Makes Communities Less Healthy.**

Those families who are in most need of housing, health, and nutrition services will opt out of those programs, severely impacting the health of not only those families but the communities at large. Healthy families will reject assistance (e.g. healthcare) so the overall health of the community will suffer. Less healthy populations amongst the most vulnerable communities will perpetuate health risks, lead to less self-sufficiency, and weaken our nation’s health infrastructure.

- **We support the various efforts in court and in Congress challenging the Public Charge Rule.**