

# Public Charge Comment Card Script and Comment Submission Instructions

## **Background:**

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) published their proposed rule on “public charge” which threatens to increase hunger and hardship for low-income immigrant families (including their U.S. citizen children) both in California and across the country. The “public charge” test has been a part of immigration law since the 1800s and historically has only looked at two types of benefits—cash assistance and long-term care, to determine whether an individual is likely to become “primarily dependent” on the government.

## **What’s Changed:**

The proposed rule significantly expands the types of benefits that help low-income Californians put food on the table and stay healthy, including:

- SNAP (CalFresh in California)
- Medicaid
- Medicare Part D
- Housing Assistance

**How to Write a Comment:** Submitting a comment is an important way for the public to weigh in and lift up the stories of impacted individuals. Here are some tips to make your comments as effective as possible.

1. Write comments in your own words
2. Share own experience and viewpoint
  - a. If you’ve utilized public benefits, speak about role that access to benefits has played in your life
  - b. If you have family members that were immigrants, describe their experience and contributions to your community
  - c. Explain why this change will increase hunger and poverty in your community
  - d. Talk about why the proposed rule concerns you as a food bank volunteer/staff, client, board member, concerned community member etc.

**How to Submit an Online Comment: \*\* [To help us track the number of comments generated from California, please use the following link: bit.ly/CAcomments \(the link goes directly to regulations.gov and is only used tracking purposes\).](https://www.regulations.gov)**

1. Go to the federal comment portal on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and click the **Comment Now** button



2. Type or upload your comments into the comment box. **\*\*This is where you will enter the comments for each postcard.**

For related information, [Open Docket Folder](#)

1 Your Information 2 Your Preview 3 Your Receipt

Information entered will be viewable on Regulations.gov [View Commenter's Checklist \(PDF\)](#) | [Alternate Ways to Comment](#)

Comment (Required)

Type in your comment here.

4973 characters remaining

Upload file(s) (Optional) [Choose files](#) Drop files here

3. If the commenter is willing to share their name, type in their first and last name here

First Name (Required) Last Name (Required)

Mary Smith

I want to provide my contact information

I am submitting on behalf of a third party

Submitter's Representative Organization Name

Government Agency Type Government Agency

Select an Agency Type... - Select an Agency Type first -

Continue

4. If the individual does not want to share their name, check the box that reads **“I am submitting on behalf of a third party”**.

I am submitting on behalf of a third party

Submitter's Representative Organization Name

Ann Smith Food Bank

Government Agency Type Government Agency

Select an Agency Type... - Select an Agency Type first -

Continue

5. If you are a volunteer/staff member, type in your name under **“Submitter’s Representative”** and your food bank/organization under **“Organization Name”** and click Continue.

Submitter's Representative Ann Smith	Organization Name Food Bank	
Government Agency Type Select an Agency Type...	Government Agency - Select an Agency Type first -	

[Continue](#)

6. Preview your comments. This is how your comments will appear on Regulations.gov. If you need to make any changes, scroll down and click the **“Edit”** button

**2 Your Preview** 1 Your Information 2 Your Preview 3 Your Receipt

*This is how your comment will appear on Regulations.gov:*

**Comment:**  
Type in your comment here. 4973 characters remaining

**Uploaded File(s)** (Optional)  
No files uploaded

<i>This information will appear on Regulations.gov:</i>	<i>This information will not appear on Regulations.gov:</i>
<b>Submitter's Representative:</b> Ann Smith	<b>First Name:</b> Mary
	<b>Last Name:</b> Smith
	<b>Organization Name:</b> Food Bank

7. To submit your comments, click the **“Submit Comment”** button and your comments will be officially recorded in the regulations.gov comment portal.

**Comment:**  
Type in your comment here. 4973 characters remaining

**Uploaded File(s)** (Optional)  
No files uploaded

<i>This information will appear on Regulations.gov:</i>	<i>This information will not appear on Regulations.gov:</i>
<b>Submitter's Representative:</b> Ann Smith	<b>First Name:</b> Mary
	<b>Last Name:</b> Smith
	<b>Organization Name:</b> Food Bank

You are filing a document into an official docket. Any personal information included in your comment and/or uploaded attachment(s) may be publicly viewable on the web.

I read and understand the statement above.

[Edit](#) [Submit Comment](#)

**Mail:** To ensure proper handling, please reference DHS Docket No. USCIS-2010-0012 in your correspondence. Mail must be postmarked by the comment submission deadline of December 10th.

Samantha Deshommes, Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20529-2140.

