



## State Anti-Hunger Leaders Oppose Public Charge Rule That Will Worsen Hunger and Poverty in California

This weekend, the Trump administration announced that they will release a [proposed rule](#) requiring health and nutrition benefits to be considered in immigration public charge determination. This announcement represents a significant break with nearly 20 years of bipartisan precedent that protected food and health benefits from being considered. California's anti-hunger leaders strongly denounce this attempt by the Trump administration because it will increase hunger and hardship for our state's low-income immigrant families. The Administration's extremist immigration policies and practices have already had a [chilling effect](#) for immigrant communities, forcing many to forego or [disenroll from vital health and nutrition benefits they need](#), for fear of losing their legal pathway to stay in this country or being separated from their families.

The rule dramatically expands the list of programs to be considered for a public charge determination, including public benefits like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, CalFresh in California) healthcare, housing assistance, and other core programs that our state's low-income families rely on to afford the basics and make ends meet. [With nearly 40 million Americans still living in poverty](#), proposals to further restrict access to public benefits will only worsen hunger and plunge our state's low-income immigrant communities [deeper into poverty](#). In fact, page 370 of the proposed rule cites the very same implications noting "[w]orse health outcomes, including increased prevalence of obesity and malnutrition, especially for pregnant or breastfeeding women, infants, or children, and reduced prescription adherence; ...and increased rates of poverty."

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, CalFresh in California) is our nation's most important anti-hunger program and California's first line of defense against hunger. Federal threats to SNAP and other safety net programs threaten the nutrition, health and shared prosperity of our communities and we strongly condemn the Trump administration's latest actions to force people to choose between keeping their families together and putting food on the table.

**For more information about California's Federal Anti-Hunger Priorities, go to [www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org); [www.cafoodbanks.org](http://www.cafoodbanks.org); or [www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net) or contact:**

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