

[Today's date]

For immediate release

[Agency Name] Opposes DHS Proposal to Expand Public Charge

[Director]: ‘WIC is not included in the rule, and our clinics remain open to all immigrant families.’

For more information, contact:

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[CITY] – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published on September 22 a proposed regulation that seeks to expand the definition of public charge to punish immigrants and their families for accessing nutrition assistance and public health programs, such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is *not* included in the proposed regulation.

[Name], [title] of [local agency], issued the following statement in response:

“**[Local agency]** joins the National WIC Association and other national, state, and local organizations in opposing the Trump Administration’s proposed rule to punish immigrant families for seeking nutrition assistance and health care services – including Medicaid and SNAP. This misguided policy is contrary to our mission of promoting a healthier community through targeted public assistance. No family should have to choose between staying with their family and feeding their children.

“We want to make very clear to our concerned participants: WIC is not included in the rule and our clinics remain open to all immigrant families. WIC’s nutrition assistance and public health services are proven to lead to healthier birth outcomes and positive child development, and our staff believes strongly that all eligible families should feel safe seeking WIC assistance.

“Our agency has already seen a significant chilling effect as pregnant women and new moms were afraid to access WIC services while this proposed regulation was being drafted. Now that WIC is not included in the proposed rule, we hope that families can return to WIC. We are also disheartened that the proposed rule targets other programs – including Medicaid, SNAP, and housing assistance – that help address the health and hunger needs of WIC families. This rule will lead families to struggle to pay for food, housing, and medical bills. Unfortunately, children will likely suffer the consequences of this radical proposal.

“The proposed regulation is inconsistent with the values of the WIC community. We intend to share our strong opposition and full views with DHS in our public comments.”

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[Insert agency boilerplate information here].