



Briefing on Public Charge

The Department of Homeland Security has proposed a regulatory change that would foster fear in immigrant communities and deny health care access to millions of people who need it. All New Yorkers deserve access to health care regardless of their immigration status. Amida Care submitted comments on December 7, 2018, urging withdrawal of the rule. The rule will harm the health and well-being of all Americans by creating insurmountable barriers for immigrants and citizens to access and use Medicaid and other public benefit programs for which they are lawfully eligible. It will also lead to the loss of Medicaid – and possibly CHIP – coverage for tens of millions of individuals, many of whom are likely to become uninsured.

Over 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the United States, and 40% of them count on Medicaid to cover their treatment. The loss of Medicaid would cause many to forgo lifesaving care and services, which could in turn lead to a public health disaster and make ending the HIV epidemic impossible.

Ending the HIV epidemic will only be possible if every person living with HIV is in care and receiving treatment to become virally suppressed, and if those at risk for contracting HIV can access pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—which is more than 90 percent effective at preventing HIV—and other means to prevent acquiring the virus. A person living with HIV who has an undetectable viral load cannot transmit the virus to others: “Undetectable equals Untransmittable” (U=U).

More information:

1. To learn more about the Public Charge rule [AIDS United](#)
2. ACAPs statement on Public Charge <https://www.communityplans.net/statement-of-acap-ceo-margaret-a-murray-on-proposed-public-charge-rule/>
3. ACAP letter response to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed rule [Inadmissibility on Public Charge](#). Find response [here](#).
4. Link to our Public Comment and AIDS United Page on Public Charge
5. To see all comments that were submitted and read more about the rule visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/10/2018-21106/inadmissibility-on-public-charge-grounds>