



December 23, 2022

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

***Legal Aid Statement on DHS' Public Charge Final Rule
Which Goes into Effect on Dec. 23***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society today released the following statement in response to the new “Public Charge” rule issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that will largely codify 1999 field guidance governing public charge determinations:

“The DHS rule that goes into effect today restores the historical understanding of a ‘public charge’ that had been in place for decades, and reflects a vastly superior approach than the racist and nativist 2019 Trump administration rule, which we successfully fought in court.

After years of advocacy on behalf of our clients and all immigrant communities, we are glad to turn the page on the deplorable anti-immigrant efforts of the previous administration. We will continue to focus on disseminating resources and information to immigrants seeking legal status, while pushing back on the fear that the previous rule proliferated.

Since the Biden administration stopped enforcing the Trump-era rule in March 2021, it has been safe for immigrants and their families to secure health care (including COVID-19, monkeypox, and polio vaccinations), food and housing assistance, and other vital forms of benefits for which they are eligible without the fear that they will lose the chance to obtain lawful permanent residence.”

For more resources, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3cedecta>.

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org