# DHS Request for Public Comment: Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds

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PolicyLab responded to a notice of proposed rulemaking from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that would make changes to the standards for determining whether a person who is a legal immigrant or seeking to legally immigrate to the U.S. should be considered a “public charge.” Individuals who are deemed to be a “public charge” can be denied entry to the U.S. or prevented from becoming a permanent resident. The proposed rule change would expand the criteria that can be considered in a public charge determination from the current standards, which include only the need for cash assistance or long-term institutionalized care, to virtually all services that support the health and well-being of families, including Medicaid and food and housing assistance. These are services for which legally residing immigrants are eligible, and on which millions of families, immigrants and citizens alike, rely on to provide the best possible care for their children.

PolicyLab’s response cites research evidence highlighting the potential harms that this proposed rule would have on millions of children and families in the U.S., and respectfully requests that the Department reconsider its position.

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