

# Immigrant Families in America Today: How Fear and Toxic Stress Are Affecting Daily Life, Well-Being, and Health

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# Immigration Executive Orders & Actions - 2017

- **“Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the U.S.”**
  - Restricts entry of nationals from selected Muslim-majority countries
  - SCOTUS recently allowed 3<sup>rd</sup> version to go into effect while lawsuits continue
  - Refugee entry in FY 18 slashed to 45,000 from 110,000
- **“Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the US”**
  - Increased interior immigration enforcement
  - Disqualifies “Sanctuary Cities” from receiving federal grants
  - “Sanctuary cities” provision blocked by court; cities still challenging
- **“Buy American Hire American”**
- Memo to **Rescind Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** Program
- **Termination of Temporary Protected status** for Sudan (11/2/18), Nicaragua (1/5/19) and Haiti (7/22/19) and **Central American Minors refugee program** 11/9/17)

# Leaked but NOT Finalized Executive Order on Public Benefits: Public Charge and Sponsor Liability

## Public charge

- A person who is, or is likely to become, dependent on the government for basic subsistence may be denied admission to the U.S. or adjustment to lawful permanent resident (green card) status
- Only cash assistance and long-term care covered at government expense considered in public charge determinations
- Leaked order would expand the benefits considered

## Sponsor Liability

- Sponsors must sign affidavit promising to support the immigrant and potentially repay benefits used
- Leaked order would expand benefits that could give rise to sponsor liability and could pressure agencies to pursue sponsors for repayment
- Changes would require notice and opportunity for public comment



# Existing Policies that Remain in Effect

- **“Sensitive locations:”** U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s memos discouraging immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations,” including health care facilities, schools, places of worship, public religious assemblies (e.g. weddings, funerals), demonstrations
- **Patient Privacy and Information Protection:** Federal and State laws protecting patient privacy and personal information of applicants’/enrollees’ for health and other programs
  - Limit inquiries about immigration status and SSNs
  - Limit the use and disclosure of information for purposes not related to determining eligibility or administering the program
  - HIPAA
- **Eligibility for Health Coverage and Other Programs:** Immigrants’ eligibility for health, nutrition and other public benefit programs have not changed
- **Limited Consideration of Benefits for Public Charge:** “Public charge” determinations remain limited to cash assistance and long-term care at government expense