



Comment on the 2025 Proposed Public Charge Rule (DHS Docket No. USCIS-2025-0304)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2025 proposed public charge rule. My name is _____, and I am a WIC _____ with the _____ WIC Program in Wisconsin. In my role, I work directly with pregnant women, infants, and young children—many from immigrant families—providing nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, and access to healthy foods.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed rule and its harmful consequences for the families I serve.

The families in my community already experience fear, confusion, and misinformation surrounding immigration policy. Even when a service like WIC is **not** included in public charge determinations, families consistently express uncertainty about whether participation could place their immigration status at risk. We see this fear manifest in very real ways:

- Parents choosing **not to enroll** in WIC even when eligible
- Families becoming **afraid to use Medicaid or SNAP**
- **Missed appointments** and reduced follow-up care
- Direct increases in **food insecurity**, insufficient infant feeding support, and difficulty affording nutritious foods
- Caregivers experiencing profound stress that affects family well-being

These trends intensified during previous changes to the public charge rule, and our data and daily interactions show that the “chilling effect” persists long after policy shifts. Reintroducing uncertainty through this proposed rule would again discourage families from accessing essential services that protect maternal and child health.

As a WIC nutrition professional, I see firsthand how participation in WIC helps children thrive—supporting healthy pregnancies, improving birth outcomes, increasing breastfeeding duration, and strengthening child development. Discouraging families from using programs that improve health will have lasting, generational impacts.

I urge DHS to maintain strong, clear public charge rules that protect families and do not create additional barriers to health and nutrition support. The proposed rule would undermine the trust we work hard to build and would harm the well-being of families who are simply trying to provide a healthy start for their children.

Thank you for considering these comments and for recognizing the importance of clarity, stability, and family-centered policy.

Sincerely,

Wisconsin WIC Program

The mission of the Wisconsin WIC Association is to inspire and empower the Wisconsin WIC community to advocate for and promote quality nutrition services and assure effectiveness through collaboration, cooperation and education.