



Reducing Eligibility to Life Saving Services

The current administration has continuously targeted federal benefit programs important to low-income Americans for drastic cuts. A new effort follows suit by proposing a change to how the 'poverty threshold' is to be calculated, which will decrease the number of people eligible for important federal benefit programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. This would affect millions of extremely low-income individuals and families.

The current measurement called the "consumer price index (CPI)" has been used for a long time to set the the annualized increases in the official poverty threshold. The administration is considering using what is known as "the chained CPI", a different inflation measure that would result in a slower annual increase of inflation over

time. "Chained CPI" assumes that as the prices of goods go up, individuals substitute less expensive items, thereby reducing their overall expenses. Why is this important? The proposed change would mean that millions of people would eventually see their benefits either reduced or eliminated because their income would not qualify at the same level as the current measure. Its impact lies in determining who qualifies for such benefits as Medicaid, SNAP and other critical assistance programs in future years.

There are several issues with this proposal. To start, the current measurement of poverty is already flawed because it is based on a 58-year-old analysis of 64-year-old data on food consumption, with no changes other than adjusting the poverty line for inflation. Slowing down the rate at which inflation is measured only puts low income Americans at greater risk. Instead of taking benefits away from individuals and families already struggling to meet their basic needs, there needs to be a real conversation about the actual costs associated with paying for necessities that go beyond food, housing and health care. Low income families face high rates of food insecurity, difficulty paying rent and utilities, and much lower rates of health insurance coverage. Cutting low income individuals and families from life saving and life sustaining services, when they are already struggling to survive, would further increase hardship without addressing the real needs of millions of low-income Americans.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, some of the consequences of the proposed measurement change to health care eligibility over ten years would be the following:

- More than 300,000 children would lose comprehensive coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), as would some pregnant women. In addition, more than 250,000 adults who gained Medicaid coverage from the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) expansion would lose it.
- More than 150,000 consumers who buy coverage through the ACA marketplaces would lose eligibility for or qualify for reduced cost-sharing assistance, increasing their deductibles by hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

The actions of the current administration have rightly been deemed "...an attack on the poor." The proposals are counterproductive and empty of any true value. Pushing extremely low-income individuals out of desperately needed benefit programs must be halted and this ill-conceived action should be stopped before it begins.

This is how **YOU** can help. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is soliciting comments on these potential changes **RIGHT NOW**. Shrinking the poverty line of support simply denies people the assistance they need. It is critical that concerned individuals raise their voices in support of rejecting changes to regulations that can only hurt millions of our fellow Americans. The deadline to submit is June 21, 2019. You can submit your comments [here](#).

The Government Says You're Not Poor

The way we measure poverty means fewer people qualify for assistance.

The poverty line is based on 1950s data:

In 1950, it was at 50% of median income for a family of four.	In 2019: 28%
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Trump wants to count even fewer as officially poor:

After 10 years:

- 300,000** children would lose Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program eligibility.
- 250,000** seniors and people with disabilities would lose help paying for Medicare.
- 150,000** would lose help paying for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2019. 2019 infographic: Tracy Marcie Loeffelholz



Join Us in Celebration

Care For the Homeless, in partnership with Broadway Community Inc., will hold its sixth annual Summer Solstice Celebration recognizing the success stories of New Yorkers who have overcome incredible obstacles while experiencing homelessness. The celebration will be held on Thursday, June 20th, at Broadway Presbyterian, 601 West 114th Street in Manhattan, beginning with a meal at 4:30 p.m., followed by the program at 5:30 p.m.

Join us as we recognize the success of our friends and neighbors in their achievements in obtaining and maintaining stable housing, overcoming health obstacles and reaching outstanding advocacy achievements in the campaign for better policies and programs to fight, prevent and end homelessness. We will also recognize our incredible CFH clinicians who work with our clients to achieve health successes all year around. We will also be announcing the winner of CFH's annual Short Story of Success Essay Contest.

The celebration is free and open to all. It will feature a meal, musical entertainment, a "Wall of Success" exhibition inviting anyone in attendance to contribute their own story of success, advocacy information and great times to be had by all. You can register [here](#).



Care For the Homeless logo in the top left corner. In the top right corner, it says "Sponsored by Care For the Homeless, Broadway Community and our Client Leaders". The main title is "SUMMER SOLSTICE SUCCESS CELEBRATION" in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline, set against a background of a bright sun with rays. Below the title is "Thursday, June 20, 2019" in a blue, cursive font. A yellow and orange wavy banner separates the title from the event details. The details include: "Meal will be served at 4:30 p.m. Program will begin at 5:30 p.m." Below this is a blue circle containing the text: "Celebrating the health care, housing and advocacy successes of currently and formerly homeless New Yorkers". To the left of the circle, it says "Join us for live musical entertainment, celebration, story-telling, and a meal". Below that is the address: "Broadway Presbyterian 601 West 114th Street (corner of 114th and Broadway)". An orange arrow points to the right. Below the arrow are the directions: "Directions: 1 Train to 116th St., M4, M60 or M104 Bus to Broadway Ave/116th Street, and M11 Bus to Amsterdam Ave/W 114th St." At the bottom right, it says "*Free and Open to All*" and "Please note: this location is not handicap accessible RSVP at <https://sscelebration2019.eventbrite.com>".

Targeting Immigrants, Producing Terrible Outcomes

Care For the Homeless is opposing a proposed rule published by the Trump administration and urging all advocates to consider filing an official comment in opposition to the rule that would evict 25,000 immigrant families from public housing, including over 55,000 children. On May 10, 2019, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published a draft rule that would significantly change HUD's regulations by restricting eligibility for federal housing assistance based on immigration status. It would also impose new documentation requirements for U.S. citizens and individuals 62 years of age or older who will be at risk of eviction and homelessness if they cannot prove their citizenship.



The proposed rule prohibits "mixed status" families from living in federally subsidized units. "Mixed status" families are households made up of members that are eligible and not eligible to receive housing subsidies through HUD based on their immigration status. "Mixed status" families can currently live together because the assistance is prorated so that the subsidy is based on the portion of eligible household members in the unit. Its important to note that an "ineligible" immigrant doesn't mean that they are undocumented. Immigrants can have legal status and still not be eligible for public housing and Section 8 programs.

HUD claims that the agency proposed the rule out of concern for long wait lists for public housing. A claim that is contradicted by HUD's own analysis acknowledging the terrible consequences of the proposed rule that include:

- A deficit in the HUD budget ranging from \$193 million to \$227 million to provide housing subsidies to the replacement households (made up of all eligible members)
- HUD would have to reduce the quantity and quality of assisted housing in response to higher costs

For more information please contact at: policy@cfhnyc.org or at www.careforthehomeless.org

Targeting Immigrations, Producing Terrible Outcomes Cont'd ...

- HUD expects that the fear of the family being separated would lead to prompt evacuation by most mixed family households
- Homelessness for those families unable to find alternate housing

Despite the rationale, the proposed rule is not about keeping undocumented immigrants from benefitting from federal housing assistance, because the law already prohibits them from accessing these subsidies. Rather it's another attempt on a long list of attacks against immigrant families that are struggling to pay for basic necessities. It instills fear in immigrant communities and creates a dangerous dialogue of victim blaming without offering any real solutions to desperate problems. The real issue is the lack of funding to ensure that every family that applies for housing assistance can receive a safe, accessible and affordable place to call home. Evicting people during the height of a housing crisis is a misguided and cruel policy.

Another policy that affects immigrant communities is the "public charge" rule that was proposed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and is expected to go into effect this summer. This rule expands the types of benefits that could be considered in a "public charge" determination which include essential programs such as Medicaid, SNAP and public housing making it more difficult for low and moderate-income immigrants to get a green card, extend, or change their temporary status in the US.

To further the impact of the new definition of "public charge", Reuters reported on May 3rd that the Department of Justice (DOJ) plans to issue a proposed rule related to deportation on "public charge" grounds. Under current law DHS cannot deport/remove someone for using public benefits. However, the DOJ can deport, in very narrow circumstances, on the grounds of "public charge". It is expected that the grounds of deportability will continue to be narrow. But, the real consequences of these types of changes is the chilling effect that it will have on undocumented and documented immigrants that will no longer access important lifesaving and life sustaining services such as Medicaid, SNAP and public housing when they need them the most. This will result in terrible outcomes and will end up costing more in public resources.



Join us in voicing your opposition to the change proposed by HUD that would affect "mixed status" families. **YOUR COMMENTS MATTER!** You can submit comments to HUD explaining why this rule would have a negative impact on your, your family, and your community. The deadline to submit comments is July 9, 2019. You can submit them [here](#). You can also go to <http://www.keep-families-together.org/> for any additional resources.

The Busy Advocate's June Calendar

Thur., Jun 6th, 10:00 a.m., Oversight meeting on Safety and Security in NYCHA by the Public Housing Committee, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

Thurs., Jun 13th, 1:30 p.m., NY City Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

Wed, June 19th, 10:00 a.m., Oversight meeting on Mental Health Services for LGBTQ+ Youths by the Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addiction Committee, City Hall Committee Room, New York, NY, 10007.

Thur., June 20th, 4:30 p.m., CFH 6th Annual Summer Solstice Success Celebration, celebrating the healthcare, housing, and advocacy successes of currently and formerly homeless New Yorkers. It will feature live entertainment and a free meal. Broadway Community, 601 W. 114th Street, Manhattan, NY, 10026. You can RSVP [here](#).

Tue., Jun 25th, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., NY Proinary Election, Get out and vote!

Wed., Jun 26th, 1:30 p.m., NY City Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, New York, NY, 10007.

Sun., Jun 30th, Last day to enact New York City budget for 2019-20 (starts July 1, 2019).