

# "Public Charge" Rule Changes Mean Lost Health Care for Colorado Families

Under current federal immigration law, the term "public charge" is used to describe a person who is dependent on government funded long-term care (e.g. nursing home care) or cash assistance for the majority of their support. If it is determined that an individual is likely to become a "public charge," their application to enter the U.S. or become a lawful permanent resident may be denied. The administration is seeking to pass a rule broadening the definition of public charge to cover use of a wide range of supports that help families achieve and maintain economic security.

**THE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL HARM COLORADO COMMUNITIES, THREATEN THE ECONOMY, AND MAKE IT HARDER FOR FAMILIES TO MAKE ENDS MEET.**

Health programs affected by the proposed rule changes include:

- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program (not currently included in proposal but Administration is seeking comment on this program)

**Today, more than 1.4 million Coloradans have regular access to health care because of public health programs.**

**IN COLORADO, THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE COULD LEAD TO:**

**\$248 M**

IN LOST  
ECONOMIC  
ACTIVITY

**1,700**

POTENTIAL  
JOBS LOST  
FROM REDUCED  
FEDERAL FUNDS

**\$124 M**

IN LOST  
FUNDING FOR  
HEALTH CARE  
COVERAGE



**INCREASED  
EMERGENCY  
ROOM USE**



**HIGHER HEALTH  
CARE COSTS FOR  
ALL**



**LOST HEALTH CARE  
JOBS**



**DECREASED  
FUNDING FOR RURAL  
COMMUNITIES**