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April 21, 2026

Regulations Division
Office of General Counsel
Department of Housing and Urban Development

Regarding: HUD Docket 2026-1999, R-2026-03405: Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, Verification of Eligible Status

The Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition and the undersigned organizations strongly oppose the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) proposed rule ([RIN 2501-AD89, FR-2026-03405](#)) targeting lawfully present immigrants and U.S. citizens in immigrant families. The proposed rule will have widespread negative consequences for families and worsen the nation's housing affordability crisis. HUD should abandon this proposal.

Safe and stable housing is critical for families, creating strong community connections, building economic self-sufficiency, and improving health care outcomes. Public housing and voucher programs provide subsidized housing for an [estimated 10 million people in households](#) with low incomes, many of whom are families with children, people with disabilities, and seniors.

The proposed rule singles out "mixed families," which the proposal defines as families "whose members include those with citizenship or eligible immigration status, and those without citizenship or eligible immigration status." In so doing, the proposal punishes U.S. citizens, while doing nothing to increase the availability of affordable housing and help all families live in safe and stable housing, regardless of immigration status. It also forces millions of citizens to go through an unproven and flawed system to prove their status.

The proposed rule goes against longstanding policy and interpretation

Under federal law and HUD's longstanding policy, U.S. citizens and individuals with certain lawful immigration status are eligible to receive housing assistance through the Section 8 voucher program, public housing, and other HUD housing programs. Contrary to HUD's false claims, people who are undocumented do not receive housing subsidies under current policy. If the eligible individual is part of a mixed status family, the family receives prorated housing assistance only for the eligible individual. These families therefore pay a higher amount of rent than other households. HUD housing providers then use these funds to help pay for services for all tenants.

The proposed rule ignores federal law and tries to change this longstanding policy by denying housing assistance to [eligible](#) individuals – including U.S. citizens and lawfully present immigrants – just because someone else in their family has not claimed to have citizenship or eligible immigration status.

Further, HUD has maintained the same interpretation of policy allowing mixed status families to live together for over three decades and through several administrations. Now, without any explanation, HUD is proposing to radically change its own longstanding interpretation to further a political ideology. When changing a long-held agency interpretation, the agency must state “good reasons for the new policy” and consider whether the rule has “engendered serious reliance interests” to some group. HUD does neither, ignoring that the rule has engendered serious reliance interests for both mixed status families now receiving housing assistance and their housing providers.

The proposed rule threatens the housing stability and well-being of families and children, including U.S. citizens

Federal rental assistance [enables families to afford decent and stable homes and sharply reduces their chances of experiencing homelessness](#). Safe and stable housing, in turn, is critical to the well-being and healthy development of children, while housing instability and [homelessness](#) are linked to [immediate and long-term adverse effects](#), from school readiness to chronic disease in adulthood.

Over [95 percent](#) of children in mixed status families who are receiving HUD assistance are U.S. citizens. These children are eligible for prorated HUD rental assistance under Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act. Under the current rule, if their parents or caregivers are ineligible for housing assistance, they can still sign a lease on behalf of the family and pay for the remainder of their rent out-of-pocket.

The proposed rule would bar children and other U.S. citizens who are eligible for housing subsidies from receiving them simply because they live with a family member with ineligible status. By doing so, the proposed rule increases their chances of housing instability and poverty and the adverse effects these hardships have on their health and well-being.

The proposed rule forces families to choose between family separation or eviction and homelessness

According to HUD, approximately [20,000 mixed status families live in HUD-assisted housing](#). Ineligible individuals in these families pay a higher amount of rent and are able to remain with their families. The proposed rule will put these families in an impossible situation: stay together and get evicted or split the family up. Because most of the eligible individuals in mixed status families are children (and U.S. citizens), parents or caregivers will likely choose to keep the family together and therefore face eviction.

In fact, the proposed rule could result in the [eviction of 36,000 U.S. citizen children](#) according to HUD’s estimate. For families already struggling to make ends meet, and with affordable housing in short supply, no longer receiving rental assistance will leave them [vulnerable to homelessness, overcrowding, and/or frequent moves](#).

The proposed rule requires eligibility verification based on a flawed system

The proposed changes would require all individuals in a household – including children – to have their information shared with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for eligibility verification through the unreliable Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program. An examination of the recently expanded SAVE program revealed [persistent errors](#) resulting in U.S. citizens being turned away from the polls on Election Day. In a recent [letter to HUD](#), prominent industry groups shared similar concerns about frequently changing and inaccurate data, among other issues.

If SAVE does not confirm a citizen's status, a manual review of documents would be required, posing burdens on both individuals and agencies. [Research](#) on voter registration indicates that nearly 1 in 10 U.S. citizens over 18 do not have readily accessible proof of citizenship, and at least 3.8 million U.S. citizens don't have these documents at all. Recent experience with U.S. [citizenship documentation in voter registration](#) found that 14 percent of people aged 80 and older lacked access to documents proving citizenship and 33 percent of married women lack documents that meet citizenship requirements with their current legal (married) name. Past experience with a rigid citizenship [documentation requirement in the Medicaid program](#) resulted in marked declines in enrollment and increased administrative costs. Put simply, SAVE does not work, and relying on SAVE puts both immigrants and U.S. citizens at risk of losing their housing.

Immigrant families account for 28% of the U.S. population, and one in four children in this country live in immigrant families. This proposed policy targeting immigrant families will not only create instability and negative long-term consequences among immigrants and their citizen children, it will have a huge impact on entire communities and the nation as a whole. HUD must abandon this proposal and keep current regulations in place.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

African Communities Together (ACT)

AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services

Alianza Americas

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

American Public Health Association

Appleseed Foundation

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Law Caucus

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

Bazon Center for Mental Health Law
Big Cities Health Coalition
Caring Across Generations
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Catalyst
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Economic Policy Institute
Equal Rights Advocates
Family Promise
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees
Health In Partnership
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Impact Fund
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc.
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Justice + Joy National Collaborative
Justice in Aging
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Mobilize Health Community
MomsRising
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for Family Child Care
National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Youth Law (NYCL)
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Health Law Program (NHeLP)
National Housing Law Project (NHLP)
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)

National Network 4 Youth (NN4Y)
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Partnership for New Americans
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Next Step Success, LLC
Organization for Latino Health Advocacy
Partnership for Just Housing
People Power United
Point Source Youth
Popular Democracy
Positive Women's Network-USA (PWN-USA)
Prevention Institute
Progressive Vietnamese American Organization (PIVOT)
Public Justice Center
Rawson Consulting and Marketing Corp.
RESULTS
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
The Kelsey
The Workers Circle
UndocuBlack Network
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United Parent Leaders Action Network
Vision Y Compromiso
Wednesday Walkouts for Health
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
ZERO TO THREE

Regional/Multi-State

Common Cause (MN, NY)
DeafHope (CA, IL, IN, WI)
Daughters of Charity (AK, AZ, CA, DE, GA, IL, IN, LA, MD, MI, MO, SC, VA)
Haven Services Inc. (CA, NV)
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC (IL, IA, NY)
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (MN, ND)
Legal Link (CA, CO, TX)
Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice (MA, RI)
Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project (IL, MO)
Real Food for Kids (DC, MD, VA)

Revolución Violeta (CO, TX)

Serving at-risk families everywhere, Inc. (SAFE) (AL, AR, GA, SC)

Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice (SCIJ) (MA, RI)

Southern Poverty Law Center (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS)

The Redress Movement (CO, NE, NC, WI)

Alaska

Christ Lutheran Church

Arizona

Children's Action Alliance

Phoenix Legal Action Network (PLAN)

Arkansas

Aiding Survivors of Trafficking and Child Abuse (AID Arkansas)

California

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Ahri Center

Buen Vecino

CA Alliance of Child and Family Services

California Behavioral Health Association

California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC)

California Coalition for Women Prisoners

California Community Foundation

California Immigrant Policy Center

California Women's Law Center

Change Well Project

Child Care Law Center

Circulate Planning & Policy

Circulate San Diego

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (CCWRO)

Community Action Marin

Community Bridges

Community Health Partnership

Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA)

Danielle Tobey Consulting LLC

Disability Rights California (DRC)

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant

Equality California

Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara County

Food4All

Food for People (FFP)

Foothill Unity Center

Glide Foundation
Give for a Smile
HealthRIGHT 360
Healthy Contra Costa (HCC)
Housing as a Human Right Orange County (HHROC)
Housing California
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
LVRN
Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego
National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles (NCJW|LA)
Nourish California
Open Heart Kitchen of Livermore, Inc.
Parktree Community Health Center
Praxis Health Empowerment
Progress Advisors
RotaCare San Rafael
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
Santa Cruz Friends Meeting Peace and Social Justice Working Group
South Bay People Power
SEIU California
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families
The Children's Partnership
The Fresno Center (TFC)
The Public Interest Law Project
The Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition
The Village Family Services
The Women's Building
Up Valley Family Centers of Napa County

Connecticut

Connecticut Voices for Children
IRIS: Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Colorado

Alianza NORCO
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning

Delaware

Housing Alliance DE

Florida

WeCount!

Georgia

Black Child Development Institute (BCDI) - Atlanta

BVOA

Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.

Latino Community Fund Georgia (LCF Georgia)

Raksha, Inc.

Hawaii

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Maui Roots Reborn

Illinois

AIDS Foundation Chicago

Center for Housing and Health

CJE SeniorLife

Coalition for Immigrant Mental Health

Housing Action Illinois

IL Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Illinois Head Start Association

Illinois Partners for Human Service

Jane Addams Senior Caucus

Legal Council for Health Justice

Mayor's Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights (IMRR), City of Chicago

Partners for Our Communities

scaleLIT

Tenant Advocacy Center

The Refugee Center

The Sanctuary Working Group (SWG)

Trilogy

United African Organization

Indiana

Center for At-Risk Elders, Inc. (CARE)
Indiana Justice Project

Iowa

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Refugee & Immigrant Voices in Action (RIVA)
Trinity Las Americas United Methodist Church

Kentucky

Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky
The Kentucky County of Churches

Louisiana

HRI Community Resources, Inc.

Maine

Maine Equal Justice (MEJ)
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)

Maryland

Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership

Massachusetts

Boston Medical Center Health System
Catholic Charities
Center for New Americans
Children's League of Massachusetts
City of Boston MOH (Mayors Office of Housing) Family Advisory Council
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals (COBTH)
East Boston Social Centers
Greater Boston Legal Services
Haydenville Congregational Church
Health Law Advocates
Hearthway
Housing Greenfield
Immigrant Services Providers Group/Health (ISPG/H)
Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts (JFSWM)
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA)

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition
Metro West Collaborative Development
Neighborhood Food Action Collaborative (NFAC)
New Culture Housing Cooperative
Personal Disability Consulting, Inc.
Rian Immigrant Center
Union Combined Parishes
Valley Housing Cooperative

Michigan

Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Centro Multicultural La Familia
Detroit Disability Power (DDP)
Grand Rapids for Affordable Housing (GRfAH)
Greater Lansing Democratic Socialists Internationalist Committee
Immigration Law & Justice Michigan (formerly JFON)
Marygrove Detroit Pax Christi
MI Poder
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC)
Michigan League for Public Policy
Michigan's Children
No Detention Centers in Michigan (NDCM)
Treetops Collective
United Community Family Services

Minnesota

Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
Center for School Change
Clare Housing
Community Stabilization Project
Housing Justice Center
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC)
Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH)
MHP (Minnesota Housing Partnership)
Mid MN Legal Aid (MMLA)
Minnesota Budget Project
Somali American Social Service Association
S.T.A.N.D. UP Minnesota Parents United

Missouri

Housing Authority of Joplin, MO
Missouri State Center for Ozarks Poverty Research

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed

Nevada

Silver State Equality

New Day Nevada (NDN)

New Jersey

Catholic Charities of South Jersey

El Pueblo Unido Atlantic City

Emanuel Lutheran Church

New Jersey Association for Lifelong Learning (NJALL)

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. (NJAMHAA)

New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children

NJ Coalition to End Homelessness

Rutgers Housing Justice and Tenant Solidarity Clinic

St. Matthew Trinity Lunchtime Ministry

New Mexico

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center

New York

Center for Elder Law & Justice

Chelsea Public Housing Coalition

Church Women United in New York State

Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)

Domestic Violence Project | Urban Justice Center

Empire Justice Center

Episcopal Diocese of New York

Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC)

Family Promise of Greater Rochester

Fearless! Hudson Valley, Inc.

Fifth Avenue Committee

Genesee County Interagency Council

Greater Syracuse Tenants Network

Healthy Alliance

Homeless Services United

Legal Services NYC

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

Long Island Housing Services, Inc. (LIHS)

Long Island Immigrant Justice Alliance

Long Island Latino Teachers Association (LILTA)
Make the Road New York
Migrant Support Services
New York Legal Assistance Group
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC)
NYCD 16-15 Indivisible
Parents to Improve School Transportation (PIST NYC)
Peace, Justice & Integrity of Creation Office, Sisters of Charity of New York
PJIC Office, Sisters of Charity of New York
Saratoga Immigration Coalition
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
SEPA Mujer Inc. (Servicios para el Avance de la Mujer)
The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.
The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island
Women in Need (WIN)

North Carolina

NC Field, Inc.
North Carolina Asian Americans Together (NCAAT)
North Carolina Justice Center

Ohio

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE)

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Policy Institute (OK Policy)
Selph and Associates, LLC

Oregon

Equity Coalition
Homeless Research Faith Experts
Justice At The Table (JATT)
Multnomah County
Kaiser Permanente, Oregon
Latino Network
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
South Coast Health Equity Coalition

Pennsylvania

Caribbean Community in Philadelphia
Casa San Jose
Haitian-American United for Change

Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
Just Harvest
Minority Center for Participation & Empowerment
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC)
Public Interest Law Center

Rhode Island

Housing Network of Rhode Island
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

South Carolina

PASOs
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Tennessee

Memphis Public Interest Law Center

Texas

American Gateways
Border Network for Human Rights
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Christians Against Christian Nationalism - North Texas
FEA Foundation Ministries
Foundation Communities
Gather Houston
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Latino Texas Policy Center
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM)
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo County Texas

Utah

Comunidades Unidas (CU)
Crossroads Urban Center
Utah Domestic Violence Coalition
Utahns Against Hunger

Vermont

Bennington County Coalition for the Home
Hunger Free Vermont (HFVT)
Migrant Justice

Peace and Justice Committee of Bethany UCC
Vermont Asylum Assistance Project

Virginia

Central Church of the Brethren
Child Health Partnership
Legal Aid Justice Center
The New Sands Residents Association
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations

Washington

ACLU Burien People Power
Be:Seattle
Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence (CEGV)
Consejo Counseling & Referral Service
Family Promise of Spokane
Friends of Youth
Jewish Family Service (Seattle)
La Casa Hogar
Lake Washington United Methodist Church
Latino Community Fund of Washington State
New Beginnings
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Plymouth Housing Group
Queen Anne Helpline
Refugee Women's Alliance
ROOTS Young Adult Shelter
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Skagit Legal Aid
St. James Immigrant Assistance
The DOVE Project
United Way of King County
Washington Parent Ambassadors
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR)
Washington State Budget and Policy Center
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
YWCA Seattle/King/Snohomish

Wisconsin

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
Hmong American Women's Association (HAWA)
Stepping Stones, Inc.
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault