

SPEAK OUT FOR IMMIGRANT ACCESS TO PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS!

Request:

We urge you to make a public comment against Housing and Urban Development Department's proposed rule revision that would eliminate including undocumented persons in a family using HUD financial assistance to pay for housing and prohibit such a person from being a leaseholder, even if others in the family using the subsidy were US citizens or eligible non-citizens. It would require verification of eligible immigration status of all recipients of assistance under a covered program who are under the age of 62 and move to evict any family including non-eligible persons.

Submission:

You can make a public comment opposing the regulatory revision by either of the following methods, referring to DHS Docket Number FR-6124-P-01. The comments **MUST ARRIVE BEFORE JULY 9, 2019**:

- **Preferred: ONLINE:** go to www.bit.ly/HUDregs or search for "Housing and Community Development Act of 1980" at <http://www.regulations.gov> to find the proposed rule change and follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- **Hard copy mail:** Send your letter (referencing docket number FR-6124-P-01) to:
Office of General Counsel, Rules Docket Clerk
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh St, SW, Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410-0001

Background:

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, Section 214, as amended, prohibits providing federal financial assistance to persons other than US citizens or certain categories of eligible non-citizens. HUD has up to now allowed pro-rating of housing subsidies to permit funding for eligible persons in mixed immigration status families to receive housing assistance even though other persons who are not eligible also live in the unit. This rule change would not allow, for example, a non-eligible parent of US citizen children to be a leaseholder even as part of a mixed status family whose assistance is prorated. A family unit that has an eligible parent and leaseholder, but an undocumented child or adult as part of the family could not qualify for any subsidy.

Talking points:

Millions of immigrant families are mixed-status, with some US citizen members, some legal but temporary status, some undocumented (and thus ineligible for these benefits). HUD's own analysis estimates that this proposed rule, if finalized, could result in the eviction of up to 55,000 US citizen children living in HUD-subsidized housing. This is cruel and unacceptable. The current interpretation of Section 214 is sensible: if an undocumented leaseholder in HUD housing has family members who are US citizens or otherwise authorized, the family may live in such housing, although the subsidy is prorated to exclude subsidy for those who are not eligible. HUD should continue to use this interpretation.

The proposed rule change would severely punish impoverished families of mixed immigration status. We believe this change would cause a sharp increase in homelessness, as many who could be evicted lack the financial resources to lease other kinds of housing, which could result in some children entering state welfare systems already overwhelmed with neglected and abused children. This is not acceptable for a nation that prides itself on being family friendly. We adhere to the UU principles of inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice and compassion in human relations. This proposed rule change is antithetical to a just, moral and equitable system of assistance to low-income families.