



# POLICY & ADVOCACY WORKGROUP UPDATES

## JANUARY 2023

### **Public Charge**

The U.S. Supreme Court denied the final appeal filed by the Texas-led case challenging new Public Charge rule. The new rule was effective as of December 23, 2022.

- Please refer to [PIF-IL multilingual resources](#) that explain that the new rule allows families to access medical, nutrition and housing assistance without fear of this affecting their eligibility to adjust status.
- For a non-exhaustive list of Illinois and federal benefits/programs that are “safe” to use because they are NOT counted in the public charge test, please see [here](#).
- PIF National is hosting a webinar on the new 2022 Biden rule on 1/18/23 at 11am CST. Register [here](#).
- PIF-IL will be hosting a Facebook live on 1/18/23 at 5:30pm CST. Stay tuned to [ICIRR's Facebook page](#) for more details.
- For any additional questions, please email [pifillinois@povertylaw.org](mailto:pifillinois@povertylaw.org). You can also sign up for their listserv by emailing them at this address.

### **Asylum: Title 42 and Transit Ban**

On Jan 5th the Biden Administration announced the expansion of Title 42 to include expulsions for individuals from Nicaragua, Haiti, and Cuba.

- This includes an agreement with the Mexican government to permit 30,000 expulsions per month from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Haiti & Cuba. A new parole program will to be made available for 30,000 total individuals from these countries per month.
- See statements denouncing this policy from the [American Immigration Council-AIC](#), [National Immigration Law Center-NILC](#) and [Physicians for Human Rights-PHR](#).
- **ACTION ALERT:** [American Immigration Council sign-on](#) to urge DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to support the pilot case management program for those seeking asylum in the U.S.

The Biden Administration also revived the Trump-era “transit ban” that bars those who crossed a third country from seeking asylum in the U.S. Previously, in 2020, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the Trump Administration's attempt to apply the transit ban, but it was later vacated by the D.C. District Court.

- **ACTION ALERT:** The administration announced that a new proposed rule would soon be published by DHS and DOJ for public comment.
- Here are some helpful resources from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC): [2023 Policy Platform for Immigration Justice](#); [Executive Actions for the Biden Administration](#); [Federal Rulemaking and Public Comment Tips](#).

## **USCIS Application Fees**

On Jan 4th USCIS announced a proposed rule that would increase application fees for naturalization, family-sponsored and employment-based visas, and other immigration benefits. The public comment period closes on March 6, 2023.

- See the [National Partnership for New Americans-NPNA statement](#) for more information. You can find their template and suggestions for participating in public comment period [here](#).

## **The Welcome Corps**

On Jan 19th the Biden Administration announced a new [private refugee sponsorship program](#) that allows U.S. citizens and permanent residents to sponsor an individual to enter the U.S. as a refugee. The Welcome Corps is described as a service program to complement to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. For more information, see the [Welcome Corps website](#) and this [American Immigration Council statement](#).

## **Afghan Humanitarian Parole Program**

Congress passed [H.R 2617 Consolidated Continuing Appropriations Act, 2023](#) to extend the eligibility period for Afghan humanitarian parolees to Sept 30th. Afghan humanitarian parolees are only eligible for ORR benefits and services if they enter with parole between Jul 31, 2021 and Sept 30, 2023. Groups who are exempted from this rule include (a) spouses or children of ORR-eligible Afghan humanitarian parolees and (b) parents/legal guardians of ORR eligible unaccompanied refugee minors.

# **CIMH Policy & Advocacy Workgroup Co-Chairs**

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**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

**SEE OUR 2022 ARCHIVED WORKGROUP UPDATES [HERE](#). THESE UPDATES WILL BE UPLOADED TO THE CIMH WEBSITE SOON.**

**JOIN OUR MONTHLY WORKGROUP MEETING ON THE 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 10-11 CST.**