

## MMC Diversity-Issues Taskforce Immigration Policy Updates February 9, 2020

1. On Feb 1, DHS issued a statement showing their full support on equal access to COVID-19 vaccines to undocumented individuals and stated that ICE & CBP will not conduct enforcement activities at or near vaccination sites, this aligns with their sensitive location's guidance. They also mentioned they will work with FEMA to reach underserved and rural communities (FEMA has allocated \$49M to Cook County for Vaccine Distribution). Read statement [here](#).
2. On Feb. 8, it was announced that the December COVID-19 bill included \$2B in FEMA funds for funeral services for low-income families who have had a loved one pass away due to COVID-19. It was stated that they will provide up to \$7,000. This assistance is available regardless of immigration status. The application is not yet available, but it will be within the next couple months. This assistance would be for funerals/ funeral costs between Jan 20, 2020 & Dec 31, 2020. Read *The Hill* article [here](#) & CRS article on details of regulation for FEMA funeral assistance for COVID-19 [here](#).
3. Two highlighted executive orders:
  1. Rescinded a 2017 executive order that expanded enforcement priorities and targeted sanctuary cities. Read executive order 1 [here](#)
  2. Rescinded the exclusion of undocumented individuals from the 2020 Census count that was announced in a 2020 Presidential Memorandum. Read executive order 2 [here](#).
4. On Feb 2, the Biden administration issued an executive order calling for the immediate review of the agency actions on the public charge and for the identification of the appropriate agency actions and recommended steps agencies should take to clearly communicate current public charge policies and proposed changes in a report that must be submitted to the president within 60 days. This means that the public charge rule is still in effect nationwide. This executive order is a first step in reversing the rule, but it does not in itself reverse the public charge rule. Read Section 4 of executive order [here](#).

The Forum has created community-facing fact sheets and 1-minute videos on the public charge & housing and public charge & education:

- FACT SHEET ENG: [Public Charge Housing Fact Sheet](#), [Public Charge Education Fact Sheet](#)
- FACT SHEET SPA: [Public Charge Housing Fact Sheet](#), [Public Charge Education Fact Sheet](#)
- VIDEO: [How Public Charge Affects Housing Programs and Assistance](#)
- VIDEO: [How Public Charge Affects Education and Assistance Programs](#)
- VIDEO: [Como La Regla De Carga Publica Afecta A Los Programas De Vivienda Y A Las Ayudas](#)
- VIDEO: [Como La Regla De Carga Publica Afecta A Los Programa De Educacion Y A Las Ayudas](#)

5. IHDA has received funding from the federal government through the December COVID-19 bill for rental assistance, should begin rollout within next couple months, and it again should be available regardless of immigration status.
6. 14 welcoming centers have been newly added throughout the state—10 of which serve populations outside Chicago.