

DECEMBER 04-11 • VOLUME 9 - No. 16

The BRONX

FREE PRESS

The Community's Bilingual Newspaper
El Periódico Bilingüe de la Comunidad

COMENTARIOS de p8

identificar a las personas que en el futuro puedan depender, o probablemente dependerán, principalmente del gobierno como su principal fuente de apoyo. Esa evaluación se realiza cuando una persona solicita ingresar a los Estados Unidos o solicita ser residente permanente legal o titular de una tarjeta verde. Actualmente, solo se consideran dos tipos principales de beneficios: asistencia en efectivo (como las ingresos de la Seguridad Social y la Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas, o TANF), e institucionalización para la atención a largo plazo. Si esa persona usa o se piensa que usará esos servicios en el futuro, su solicitud podría ser denegada.

En octubre, la administración Trump propuso ampliar la definición de carga pública para incluir más tipos de beneficios, incluidos: Medicaid que no sea de emergencia, Nutrición Suplementaria (también conocida como SNAP o cupones de alimentos), Subsidio por Bajos Ingresos para Costas de Medicamentos Recetados bajo Medicare Parte D, y vales de vivienda de la Sección 8 de Vivienda Pública.

Los programas que permanecerían exentos de la regla de carga pública propuesta incluyen el programa de Mujeres, Bebés y Niños (WIC, por sus siglas en inglés), créditos fiscales (Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo y/o subsidios de la Ley del Cuidado Asequible de la Salud), Programa de Seguro Médico para Niños (CHIP, por sus siglas en inglés), programas educativos (como Head Start) y otros programas que son financiados exclusivamente por los estados y las localidades.

Además, ciertos inmigrantes estarían exentos, incluidos los refugiados, asilados,

Panelistas incluidos (de izquierda a derecha): Max Handler, Douglas York, y Gustavo Rivera.



sobrevivientes de la trata, violencia doméstica y otros delitos graves. Las personas que solicitan la ciudadanía estadounidense no se ven afectadas por las reglas de carga pública. Los niños u otros dependientes inscritos en programas de beneficios no se consideran si el solicitante no es elegible para el beneficio. No obstante, la propuesta ha provocado una seria preocupación entre los defensores, quienes argumentan que los cambios tendrán como objetivo a las comunidades inmigrantes vulnerables. Handler dijo que es importante saber que la regla es prospectiva y se basa solo en lo que suceda en el futuro. Al tomar la determinación de carga pública, el gobierno analiza la solicitud completa de la persona. También considerará la edad, la salud, la situación familiar, los ingresos, la educación

y los recursos disponibles. El hecho de tener un contrato firmado por un patrocinador prometiendo apoyo también tiene un peso en la prueba de "totalidad de circunstancias" del gobierno, considerando todos los factores disponibles. Antes de cambiar la regla, el gobierno debe demostrar que leyó y tomó en consideración cada comentario enviado. En respuesta, una red nacional de grupos de inmigración y defensa ha creado un sitio web, OurAmericanStory.us, para que cualquier persona, independientemente de su ciudadanía o estatus legal, pueda enviar un comentario fácilmente.

Existen diferentes plantillas para los usuarios, pero cada comentario debe ser único para ser contado. "Imagina que tienen sentimientos muy fuertes sobre esto", dijo Handler a la audiencia. "Pueden canalizar esos sentimientos formalmente a través del proceso de comentarios públicos". El proceso de comentarios no es solo una formalidad.

El gobierno tiene la obligación de revisar todos los comentarios antes de emitir una norma definitiva. "Deben demostrar que han tomado en consideración el contenido de esos comentarios antes de que puedan ponerlo en práctica". Actualmente, se han enviado más de 135,000 comentarios.

"Cientos más comentarios, mejor", dijo. No hay una línea de tiempo establecida para el periodo de revisión de comentarios. "Hay ejemplos de normas propuestas sujetas a comentarios públicos que nunca se finalizaron. Ese sería un resultado ideal".

Si la regla entra en vigencia, sucederá 60 días después de que se complete el proceso de revisión. Hasta que se finalice la regla, no hay ninguna multa por inscribirse en los beneficios actualmente aceptables en este momento.

"Una de las cosas para las que está diseñada esta regla es confundir a las personas y asustarlas para que no usen los beneficios, incluso cuando no tienen nada de qué preocuparse", dijo Handler. "El verdadero problema en este momento es cómo el miedo

está afectando a nuestros residentes y pacientes", dijo el Dr. Douglas York, director general de UCHC.

"El miedo a lo desconocido está causando que las personas no busquen atención médica en este momento. Escuchamos a nuestros pacientes que temen venir aquí como familia, como solían hacerlo. Por ahora no hay fundamento. Pero crear ese ambiente de miedo está causando que las personas cambien su comportamiento. Y lo que es tan triste y tan desafortunado es que no reciben la atención que necesitan", dijo York.

Añadió que otros grupos comunitarios que trabajan con personas de estatus mixto para encontrar vivienda, asistencia legal, alimentos y otros beneficios también están experimentando los mismos temores. "El temor en este momento, ese es nuestro desafío mientras esperamos que esto se aborde adecuadamente".

Rivera dijo que las afirmaciones de la administración de que solo se preocupan por restringir la inmigración legal son una mentira. "Cuando escuchas a la gente que se veía afectada, no estamos hablando de delinquentes, ni de locos invasores, estamos hablando de hombres, mujeres y niños en todo el estado, y en todo el país, quienes se ven directamente afectados por las acciones de esta administración".

Además, Rivera insistió que el asunto era una cuestión básica.

"No tengo ningún respeto por esta administración o por la persona que la dirige", dijo. "Porque no nos tiene ningún respeto. No tiene respeto por las mujeres, ni respeto por los inmigrantes. No tiene respeto por las personas de color. Lo demuestra todos los días en las acciones de su administración".

Para obtener más información, por favor visite OurAmericanStory.us.

Si tiene preguntas generales sobre la carga pública, también puede comunicarse con el equipo de Políticas de Salud de NYC al 212.627.2227, extensiones 249 o 250.

BRONX *TimesReporter*

November 2-8 2018

Your Neighborhood – Your News®

75 cents

SERVING THROGGS NECK, PELHAM BAY, COUNTRY CLUB, CITY ISLAND, WESTCHESTER SQUARE, MORRIS PARK, PELHAM PARKWAY, CASTLE HILL, ALLERTON



FERNANDEZ HOSTS WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR

Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez hosted her inaugural Women's Health Fair on Saturday, October 20 at North Central Hospital. Featured guests included **UCHC**, Destination Tomorrow, Chef Wilson, NYPCC, The Suicide Institute, NYC Suicide Council, NYPD Recruitment Section, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Montefiore/Einstein, North Central Hospital, Lenox Hill Radiology, Advantage Clinical Trials, HRA Insurance, Metro Plus, Commission on Human Rights, Bronx Health Link and the Jewish Board of Family Services.



Fernandez (c) and North Central Bronx representatives welcomed everyone to the informative health fair.

Photo courtesy of Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez's Office

TOP STORIES



Search...



ManhattanTimes



Call for Comment Petición de comentarios

Posted by: Postmaster in Local, News, Politics/Government December 5, 2018 0 Comments

English

Español

Call for Comment

Panel sounds alarm on public charge rule

Story by Sherry Mazzocchi

The federal government might soon have quite the reading list.

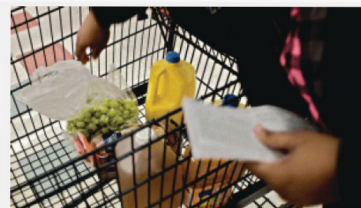
With a deadline looming, elected officials and immigration advocates are urging everyone to submit individual comments on the website OurAmericanStory.us before Dec. 10, 2018.

"The more comments, the better," said Max Handler, Senior Manager of Health Policy at the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) recently.

Together with elected officials and advocates, Handler took part in [a community forum hosted at Union Community Health Center \(UCHC\)](#) on Fri., Nov. 30th.

"We do not want this rule to go into effect," insisted Handler. "There is nothing that is okay about this proposal. The demand is that the rule be withdrawn altogether."

State Senator Gustavo Rivera added his agreement in blistering terms.



The proposed changes focus on public benefits.

HOME

ABOUT US

SECTIONS ▾

ARCHIVES ▾

PUBLISHERS' PICKS

VIDEOS

GET THE PAPER

ADVERTISING

CONTACT

ManhattanTimes

Call for CommentPetición de comentarios - Manhattan Times News



"We do not want this rule to go into effect," stated NYC's Max Handler.

Sparking the animated discussion was the proposal advanced by the Trump administration to alter how "public charge" is determined.

In immigration law, a public charge determination seeks to identify people who may or are likely in the future to become primarily dependent on the government for their main source of support.

That assessment is made when a person applies to enter the U.S. or applies to become a lawful permanent resident, or a green card holder.

Currently only two main types of benefits are considered: cash assistance (such as Social Security Income and Temporary Assistance for Needy Family, or TANF) and institutionalization for long-term care. If that person uses or is thought to use those services in the future, his or her application could be denied.

In October, the Trump administration proposed expanding the definition of public charge to include more types of benefits, including non-emergency Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition (otherwise known as SNAP or food stamps), Low Income Subsidy for prescription drug costs under Medicare Part D, and Public Housing Section 8 housing vouchers.

Programs that would remain exempt from the proposed public charge rule include the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, tax credits (Earned Income Tax Credit and/or Affordable Care Act subsidies), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), education programs (such as Head Start) and other programs that are exclusively funded by states and localities.

Also, certain immigrants would be exempt, including refugees, asylees, survivors of trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes. People applying for U.S. citizenship are not affected by public charge rules. Children or other dependents enrolled in benefit programs are not considered if the applicant is not eligible for the benefit.

Nonetheless, the proposal has sparked serious concern among advocates, who argue that the changes will target vulnerable immigrant communities.

Handler said it is important to know that the rule is forward-looking and is based only on what happens in the future. In making the public charge determination, the government looks at the individual's complete application. It will also take into account age, health, family situation, income, education and any available resources. Having a contract signed by a sponsor promising support is also given weight in the government's "totality of circumstances" test considering all of the available factors.



The Trump administration issued the proposal in October.

Before changing the rule, the government must demonstrate it read and took into consideration every submitted comment.

In response, a nation-wide network of immigration and advocacy groups has created the website, OurAmericanStory.us so anyone, regardless of citizenship or legal status, could easily submit a comment. There are different templates for users, but each comment must be unique to be counted.

"I imagine you have pretty strong feelings about this," Handler said to the audience. "You can channel those feelings formally through the public comment process."

The comment process is not just a formality.

The government is required to review every single comment before issuing a final rule. "They have

HOME

ABOUT US

SECTIONS ▾

ARCHIVES ▾

PUBLISHERS' PICKS

VIDEOS

GET THE PAPER

ADVERTISING

CONTACT

ManhattanTimes

Call for CommentPetición de comentarios - Manhattan Times News



Advocates have initiated a nationwide campaign.

impacting our residents and our patients," said Dr. Douglas York, UCHC CEO.

"The fear of the unknown is causing people not to seek out health care right now. We are hearing from our patients that they are afraid to come here as a family as they used to. For now it's unfounded. But creating that environment of fear is causing people to change their behavior. And what's so sad and so unfortunate is that they are not getting the care that they need," York said.

He added that other community groups working with people of mixed status to find housing, legal assistance, food and other benefits are seeing the same fears emerge as well. "The fear right now—that's our challenge while we wait for this to be addressed properly."

Rivera said the administration's claims that they only care about curtailing illegal immigration is a lie. "When you heard the people who would be impacted, we're not talking about criminals, we're not talking about these crazy invaders, we're talking about men, women and children all across this state—and all across this country—who would be directly impacted by the actions of this administration."

For more information, please visit OurAmericanStory.us

If you have general questions about public charge, you can also contact the NYC's Health Policy team at 212.627.2227, extensions 249 or 250.

There is no set timeline for the comment review period. "There are examples of proposed rules subject to public comment that never get finalized. That would be an ideal outcome."

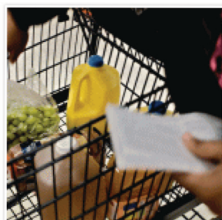
If the rule does go into effect, it will happen 60 days after the review process is complete. Until the rule is finalized, there is no penalty for enrolling in currently acceptable benefits right now.

"One of the things this rule is designed to do is to confuse people and scare them out of using benefits even when they have nothing to worry about," Handler said.

"The real issue right now is how fear is



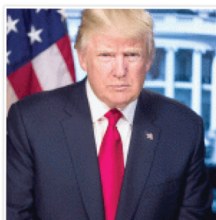
Panelists included (from left): Max Handler; Douglas York; and Gustavo Rivera.



The proposed changes focus on public benefits.



Panelists included (from left): Max Handler; Douglas York; and Gustavo Rivera.



The Trump administration issued the proposal in October.

HOME

ABOUT US

SECTIONS ▾

ARCHIVES ▾

PUBLISHERS' PICKS

VIDEOS

GET THE PAPER

ADVERTISING

CONTACT

The screenshot shows a web browser interface for BronxNet. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Watch Live, Schedule, Fiscal Sponsorship, About, Producers, Translate, and social media icons. Below this is a secondary bar with 'YOUR BRONX', 'WATCH' (highlighted), and 'JOIN US'. A search bar is on the right. The main content area shows a video player with a clip titled 'OPEN: Anti-Bullying Coalition'. The video features Cruz Fuksman, identified as 'Community Liason, New York Psychotherapy & Counseling Center'. The clip is dated 'Oct 01, 2018'. Below the video, there's a description: 'Anthony Otten and Cruz Fuksman of the New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center join Dr. Bob Lee to preview their new Anti-Bullying Coalition and what they have coming up in the community.' There's also a link 'ABOUT THE SHOW' and a comment count '0 Comments'. Social media sharing icons are at the bottom right.

“Union Community Health Center receives recognition for partnering with NYCPP by joining and co-leading the inaugural launch of the Bronx Anti-Bullying Coalition on October 11, 2019.”

BRONX*Times*

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 / NEWS / EDUCATION / FORDHAM

AS PART OF SENATOR RIVERA'S CAN HEALTH INITIATIVE, THE EVENT OFFERED LOCAL FAMILIES A FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON COMPETE WITH FREE BACKPACKS, EXCITING ACTIVITIES AND FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Rivera Hosts Back To School Giveaway



Photo by Miriam Quin

(l-r) Jessica Carteno, Yaquelin Carteno, Alexandra, Betty and Saul were excited to go back to school.

By Robert Wirsing

Senator Gustavo Rivera hosted his annual Back to School Event on Tuesday, August 28 at St. James Park. As part of Senator Rivera's CAN Health Initiative, the event offered local families an afternoon compete with free backpacks, exciting activities and free health screenings.



Photo by Miriam Quin

Senator Rivera (c) helped students and their families have fun preparing for the school year.

BRONX *Times*



August 24-30, 2018

Your Neighborhood - Your News®

SERVING PARKCHESTER, HUNTS POINT, FORDHAM SOUTH, GRAND CONCOURSE, FORDHAM NORTH, BRONX NORTH, CO-OP CITY



UNION COMMUNITY HOLDS OPEN HOUSE, HEALTH FAIR

Union Community Health Center hosted its Open House and Health Fair on Thursday, August 16 at 2016 Bronxdale Avenue. This year's theme was celebrating health centers: 'Home of America's Health Care Heroes.'



Moraima Rodriguez (l) enjoyed some of Chef Wilson's nutritious treats.

Photo by Aracelis Batista



Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez (front, 4th from l) had a great time meeting with UCHC's Serena Muñiz (front, 3rd from l), public affairs manager and Luz Correa (front, c), director of Government Community Relations.

Photo by Aracelis Batista



Hasan Ahmed (l) enjoyed receiving an awesome face paint design courtesy of Apryl Cadabra.

Photo by Aracelis Batista