

Legislative Affairs Updates
February SPA Quarterly Meetings

Federal: Public Charge

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s “Public Charge” rule change was recently given approval to move ahead, with the new rules set to go into effect on **February 24, 2020**.
 - However, the merits of the case are still being discussed in the lower courts, meaning that there is a possibility that the rule may be blocked again or found to be unlawful in the future.
- The rule change adjusts the types of public benefits that can lead to certain classes of immigrants being labeled as a “public charge,” potentially impacting their ability to adjust their immigration status. Please consult the attached one-pager for more details on what types of assistance and what types of immigration status changes are affected.
- The rule change **does not change the implications of receiving benefits for many immigrants, depending on status.** Even for those classes of immigrants that public charge impacts, **it does not change the actual eligibility for benefits,** only the potential impacts on one’s ability to adjust their immigration status.
- Please consult with an immigration attorney before disenrolling from benefits. We have provided a handout with an array of legal services providers that can assist.
 - You can visit the Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign website at www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org for more information and resources.

Federal: United States Decennial Census

- LAHSA is working in partnership with Los Angeles County and the U.S. Census Bureau to help ensure that people experiencing homelessness have every opportunity to participate and be counted in the upcoming Census.
- Starting in late March, the Census Bureau will begin surveying households experiencing homelessness through the **Service Based Enumeration (SBE)**, scheduled for March 30 - April 1.
 - During the time, Census workers will visit and administer surveys at emergency and transitional shelters, meal sites, food banks, and at non-sheltered outdoor locations. Interim housing providers will also have the option submit information in lieu of a site visit.
- Other locations including safe parking facilities and hotels and motels will be visited during the **Enumeration at Transitory Locations (ETL)**, scheduled for April 9 - May 4.
- If you are an interim housing provider, provide meal services, or operate a safe parking program, you may be contacted by a Census representative in the coming weeks to schedule a visit.
 - **SBE Advance Contact:** February 3 – March 6, 2020
 - **ETL Advance Contact:** February 24 – March 20, 2020
- If you are not contacted by the conclusion of the Advance Contact period for your operation or have general questions, please contact the Los Angeles Regional Census Office at larccggetlops@uscensus.onmicrosoft.com.

How You Can Help:

- Spread the word about the importance of participating in the 2020 Census.
- Help inform and prepare our unhoused neighbors for a possible visit from a Census representative during the outdoor count (or “TNSOL”). In addition to visits from Census staff, people experiencing homelessness can respond to a questionnaire online or by phone during the general reporting period. **You do not need a permanent address to be counted.**
 - For more information on the Census, efforts to reach hard-to-count populations, and outreach materials, please visit:
 - **United States Census Bureau – 2020 Census:** 2020census.gov
 - **Los Angeles County – 2020 Census:** census.lacounty.gov
- Help increase access to the Census by sharing information on upcoming community events and other engagement opportunities to include mobile Census stations and informational booths.
 - Please send engagement opportunities to Traci Kawaguchi, Legislative Affairs Analyst, at: tkawaguchi@lahsa.org.

State: AB 1907

- The 2020 State legislative session commenced in Sacramento last month.
- Legislators have until February 21, 2020 to introduce new bills for the 2020 session.
- In January, Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (AD-53: Downtown Los Angeles) introduced AB 1907, a measure to streamline development of interim, supportive, and affordable housing.
- LAHSA, along with Housing California and other advocates, is co-sponsoring the measure.
- AB 1907 would exempt three types of projects from lengthy review processes. Projects include:
 - Shelter developments that meet certain service and low-barrier standards;
 - Supportive housing funded by sources such as Prop HHH and No Place Like Home;
 - Developments in which all housing is affordable to people at 80% AMI and below, funded by programs including the state’s Multifamily Housing Program
- The bill is being heard in key Assembly committees over the coming weeks.

How You Can Help:

- Please contact your state legislators today to let them know your organization supports AB 1907 and sees it as a critical step forward to develop the housing and shelter we need to address homelessness.