

KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER



Comment Campaign Launch | March 19, 2026

Led by the National Housing Law Project and the Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition, the **Keep Families Together** campaign is fighting back to protect immigrants and tenants and to keep all of us stably housed.

KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER



Speakers

- **Sonya Acosta**, *Center for Budget Policy & Priorities*
 - **Esther Reyes**, *Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) Coalition*
 - **Renee Williams**, *National Low Income Housing Coalition*
 - **Marie Claire Tran-Leung**, *National Housing Law Project*
- 

Agenda

**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**



1. Mixed Status Families
2. New Verification Requirements
3. Comment Campaign & How to Get Involved
4. Question & Answer

**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

Mixed Status Families

Who can receive HUD housing subsidies?

- ✓ U.S. Citizens & Nationals
- ✓ Noncitizens with Eligible Immigration Status

Being ineligible for HUD housing subsidies is not the same as being undocumented.



Who can live in HUD-subsidized housing?

One or more eligible family members

- ✓ U.S. Citizens
- ✓ Noncitizens with Eligible Immigration Status

Other members "do not contend" eligibility

- A 3rd option: not eligible, not ineligible
- These family members do not receive housing subsidies.
- These family members do not give their status.

Mixed status families can live together.

- The family gets prorated subsidies that cover only eligible family members.
- The family pays the rest of the rent themselves.
- PHAs and owners then have more \$\$ for more vouchers, repairs, & other expenses.

**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

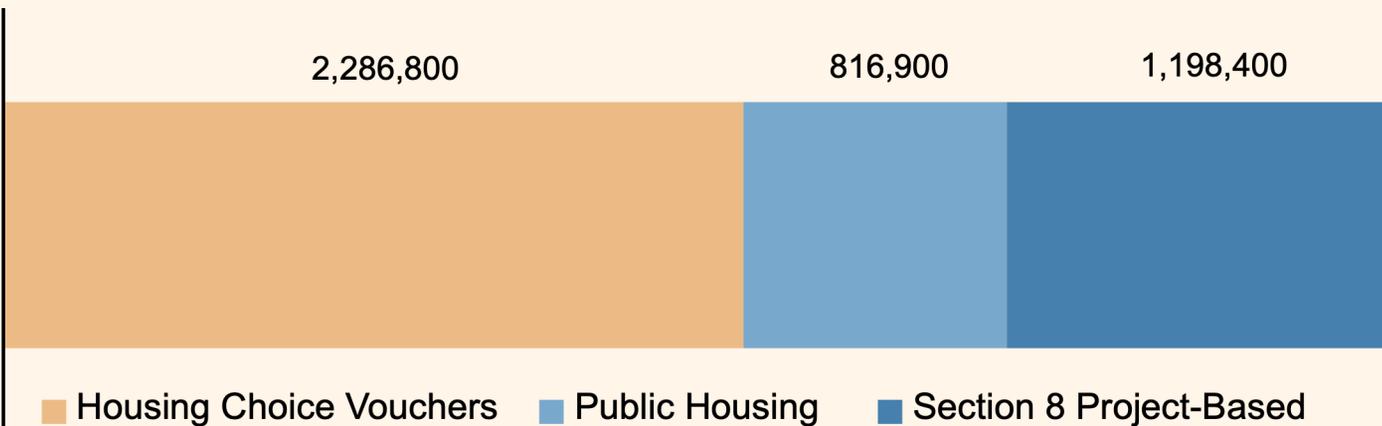
**Mixed status families pay more, and they
make more housing available for everyone.**



The rule would cover more than 4 million households in the three largest rental assistance programs.



It does not cover other programs, including Section 202 and Section 811.



96 percent
of people in
these households
are U.S. Citizens

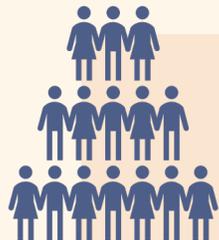
80,000 People in 20,000 Families Face Eviction.



37,000 are children



56% are women and girls



96% are people of color, including 86% who are Latine

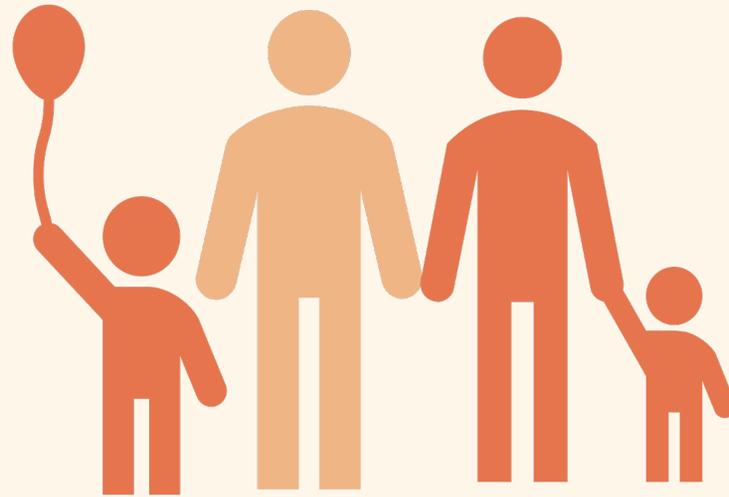


2 in 3 are U.S. citizens



Nearly 3,000 are older adults and more than 5,000 are people with disabilities

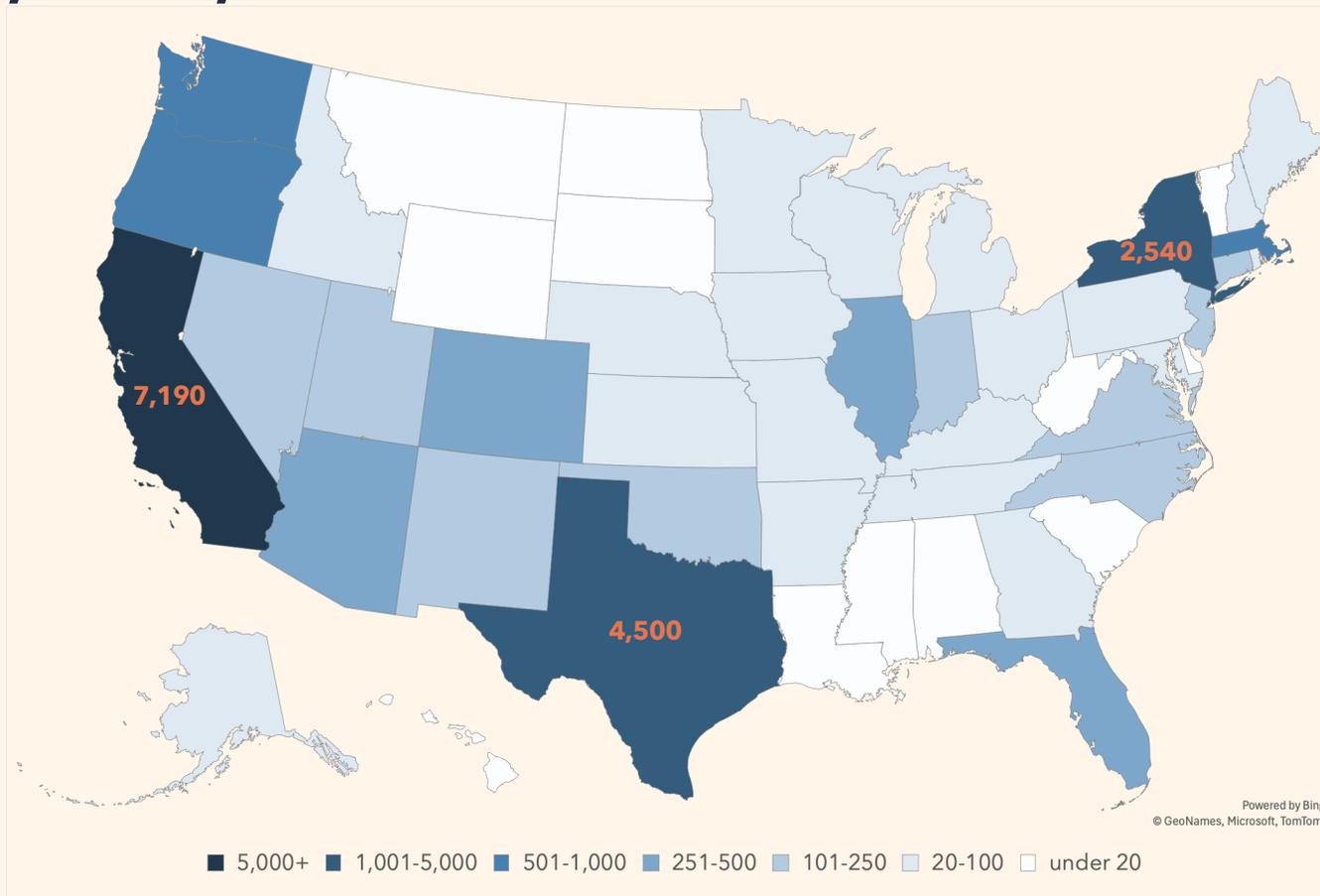
**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**



Typical mixed-status household is a family of four
with two adults, two children, and three eligible
U.S. citizens

Over 70% of mixed-status households live in California, Texas, and New York.

**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**



HUD wants to separate and kick out mixed status families.



HUD's proposal would:

- Require that **every household member be a U.S. citizen or a noncitizen with eligible immigration status;**
- Take away a family member's **right not to contend eligibility;**
- Take away a mixed status family's right to **prorated rental assistance,**

even though Congress intended for mixed status families to stay together.



**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

New Verification Requirements



HUD wants everyone to verify status - *again*.

All citizens would have to allow their PHA/owner to run their info through DHS' SAVE system.

- "Not ready for prime time" → SAVE has wrongly identified citizens as noncitizens
- Many citizens would still have to show their papers, like a passport or a birth certificate.
- EIV-SAVE reports have already increased fear in immigrant communities and burdened housing providers.

Older noncitizens would have to provide documents proving eligible immigration status.

- The new requirements to verify both citizenship and immigration status would put the housing of older adults at risk.

These changes will impact *millions* of HUD residents.



**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

Comment Campaign & How To Get Involved



We fought this before. We'll do it again.

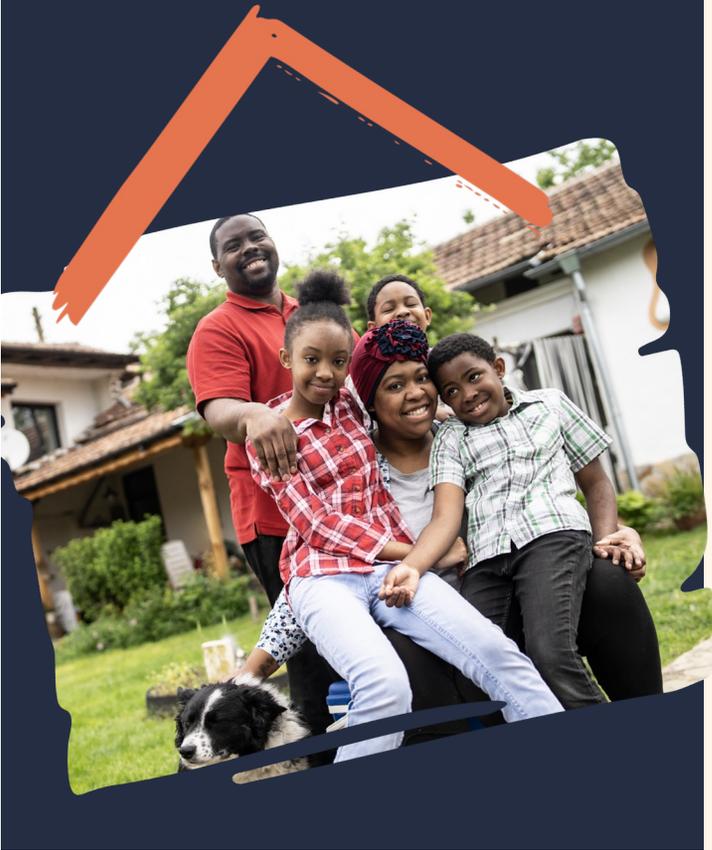
**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

Over 30,000 comments opposed HUD's proposal to kick out mixed status families in 2019.

- HUD residents and tenants, both citizens and immigrants
- Public housing authorities and other housing providers
- State and local government officials
- Service providers (legal, immigration, housing & homelessness, and others)
- Researchers
- Everyday people



KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER



Why Comments Matter

- **HUD must review all comments.** If HUD releases a final rule, the final rule must address all the points that the comments raise.
- **Comments help tell the story for the public** with the help of journalists, advocates, and others.
- **Your voice matters.** This is your chance to tell the administration that this isn't right.

Comment Resources & Opportunities

**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

- **Comment Template for Organizations**
- **Individual Comment Guide**
- **Organizational Sign-on Comments**
- [Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition Sign-on Comment](#)



Comment Template for Organizations

KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER

- **Substantive comments with data and specifics** are the most helpful.
- **The comment template is a starting point.** It provides structure and weaves in HUD's regulatory impact analysis.
- **Use your own words.** Choose some sections to adapt; discard others.
- **Bring other organizations into this fight.** Create templates or sign-on letters for specific stakeholders.



Comments by Individuals



- **You can submit a comment,** even if your organization submits its own.
- To submit directly to HUD, [use the Keep Families Together campaign website](#)
- For a portal that will submit your comment for you, [go here](#).



Example comments

Every comment should:

- **Begin by stating your opposition:** “I strongly oppose HUD’s proposed rule “Housing and Community Development Act of 1980: Verification of Eligible Status (FR-6524).”
- **Name your demand:** “The Trump administration should immediately withdraw its current proposal.”
- **Share a personal story** about why this is important to you.
- **Tell HUD what you want them to do instead,** like “work with Congress to make major new investments in the federal housing programs and take actions that ensure everyone has a safe and affordable place to call home.”

Not sure what to say? Customize the messages below.

I care about housing. +

I care about children. +

HUD's Proposal Harms Mixed Status Families and their Communities.



- HUD will **force families to either separate or face eviction and homelessness**, causing harm now and in the future.
- HUD would **unfairly punish children who are U.S. citizens** based on who they are related to.
- The harm will **extend to the communities** where mixed status families live, including their neighbors who are HUD residents.

HUD's Proposal Worsens the Housing Crisis for *Everyone*.



- HUD admits in its regulatory impact analysis that **kicking out mixed status families will reduce the overall number of HUD-assisted housing units.**

- Mixed status families pay more.
- To make up for the financial gap, PHAs will issue fewer vouchers or let some units sit vacant.

- **PHAs and owners want to focus on providing housing, not enforcing immigration laws.**
- **State and local governments** will bear the costs of **increased homelessness** in their communities.

HUD's Proposal Threatens the Housing of *all* HUD Residents.



- The flawed verification process **will mistake citizens for noncitizens**, costing HUD residents and housing providers time and money.
- The new verification process **requires PHAs to share information about citizens with DHS unnecessarily**, raising significant privacy concerns. .



**Poll: Will you join us
and submit a comment
by April 21?**

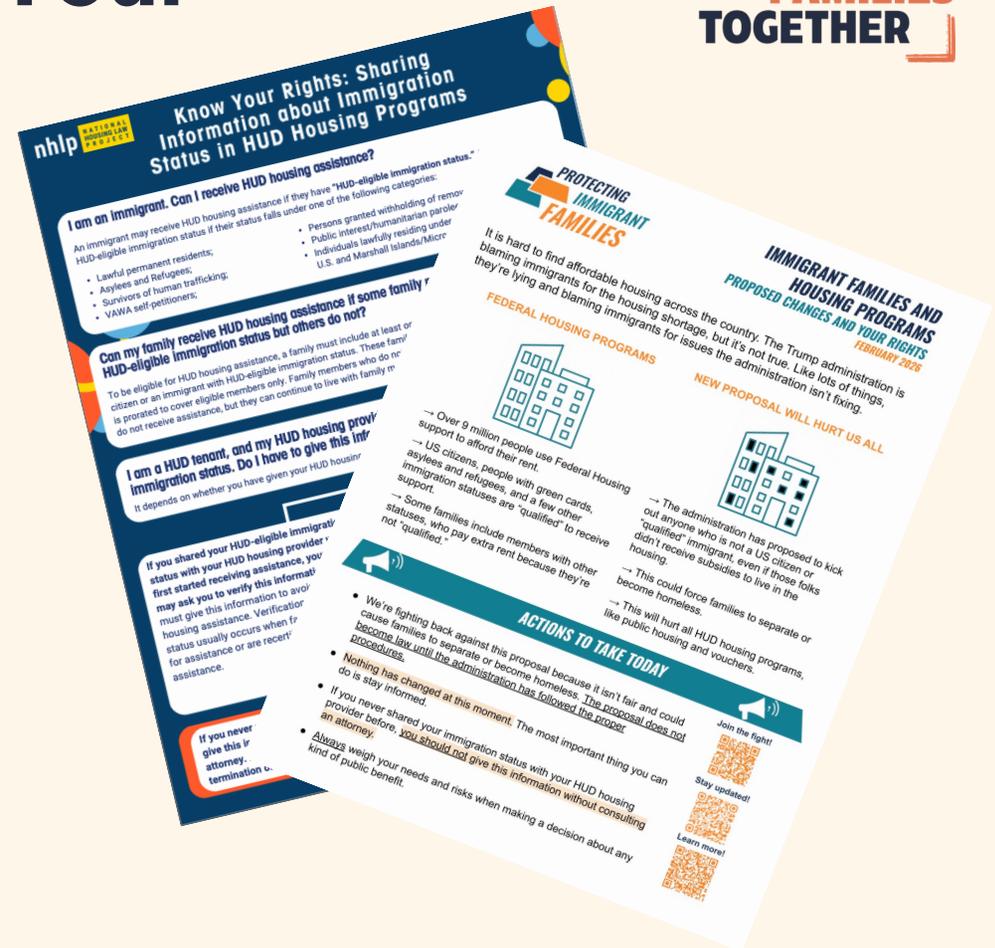
**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**



Get Involved: Educate Your Community

**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

- **The law has not changed.** Mixed status families do not need to move out.
- If you have never shared your immigration status with your HUD housing provider before, **do not share information about your status** before talking to a lawyer.

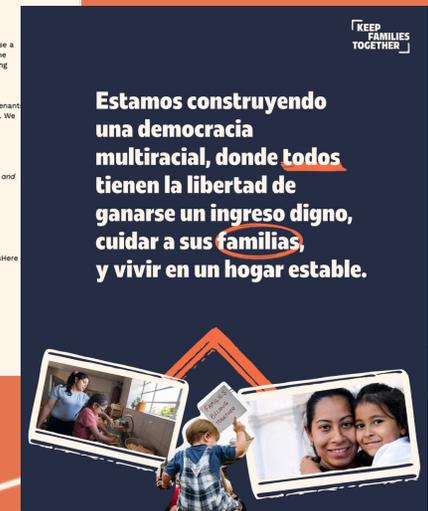
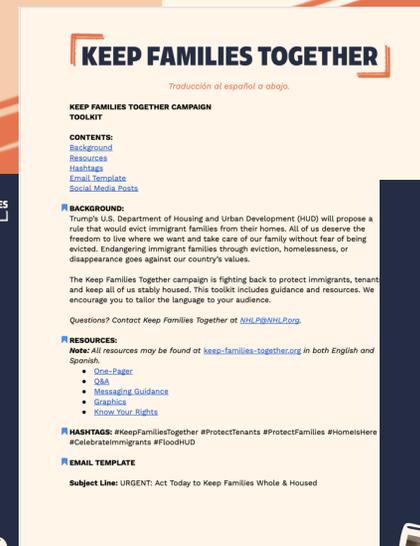


Get Involved: Spread the Word



Our #KeepFamiliesTogether toolkit includes images and graphics for social media, messaging guidance and more so you can activate your community.

- One-pager
- Q&A
- Messaging guidance
- Graphics
- Know Your Rights



Get Involved: Organize Others!



- **Host Comment Parties.**
- **Work with HUD Residents.** HUD's proposal impacts all residents, and HUD needs to hear from them.
- **Your public housing authority or other HUD housing provider.** HUD's proposal impacts their mission to provide affordable housing.
- **Your state and local government officials.** HUD's proposal will saddle states and localities with the costs of increased homelessness.





**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

Questions and Answers



Resources



Office Hours

Hosted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition with KFT partners

Monday, March 23, 2026 | 3 p.m. EST | [Register here.](#)

- [Center for Budget Policy & Priorities, Report on HUD Mixed Status Families Rule](#)
- [National Housing Law Project, Analysis: HUD Mixed Status Families Rule](#)
- [Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition Mixed Status Families Rule website](#)



**KEEP
FAMILIES
TOGETHER**

**Tell HUD to keep immigrants stably housed
at [keep-families-together.org](https://www.keep-families-together.org)**

