

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 22, 2019

Los Angeles County to Join Legal Opposition to Proposed HUD Rule Impacting Mixed-Status Families

On May 10, 2019, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) proposed a new federal housing rule that would affect thousands of immigrant families in Los Angeles County (County) accessing public housing and Section 8 assistance. The proposed rule would prohibit “mixed-status” families – households that have eligible and ineligible household members – from receiving public housing assistance. For example, U.S. citizen children may be eligible while their parents may be ineligible due to their immigration status. Currently, those families receive prorated housing assistance, but the ineligible household members are allowed to live in the home. However, if adopted, the rule would effectively force ineligible household members to live outside the family home, or the family would have to forego housing assistance altogether, resulting in the separation of families and increased homelessness.

The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) serves mixed-status families who live in the unincorporated areas of the County and receive federal housing

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assistance. Although LACDA serves a relatively small number of mixed-status families, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), estimates that nearly one-third of households in Los Angeles public housing are of mixed-status and that more than 11,500 residents would be impacted if this rule goes into effect. HUD's own estimates indicate that the proposed rule would impact approximately 108,000 individuals in 25,000 families nationwide, including 55,000 children who would face eviction and could become homeless. The implementation of this proposed rule would exacerbate Los Angeles County's homelessness crisis by denying critical housing assistance to our most vulnerable residents.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to file and/or join as plaintiff or as amicus in litigation opposing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Proposed Rule, "Housing and Community Development Act of 1980: Verification of Eligible Status," published in the Federal Register on May 10, 2019 (Docket No. FR-6124-P-01), as deemed appropriate by County Counsel.

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HLS: jv