

HHS Announces Policy Reversal, Excluding Undocumented Immigrants and Some Lawfully Present Immigrants From Accessing Taxpayer-funded Program Benefits

[Health Equity](#)

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On July 14, HHS issued a [notice](#) reinterpreting the definition of “Federal public benefit” under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. As a result, HHS has identified additional HHS programs now considered to provide “Federal public benefit[s]” including, for example, Head Start and Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment block grants. HHS Secretary Robert F Kennedy, Jr. [stated](#) that the reinterpretation “restores integrity to federal social programs, enforces the rule of law, and protects vital resources for the American people.” On July 22, a group of 21 attorneys general have [sued](#) the Trump Administration, asking a court to stop the policy change arguing that the change is unlawful.