Background: USCIS Fee Schedule

• USCIS is a fee-for-service agency.

• Every two years, USCIS must review its fees for immigration benefits & naturalization.

• What has historically been a nonpartisan exercise is now being politicized.
USCIS Proposed Fee Schedule

• Published on Nov. 14.

• Toplines:
  – USCIS is simultaneously raising fees across the board while slashing the availability of fee waivers.
  – While saying that it needs to raise fees for its operations, USCIS is also proposing to transfer $200 million to ICE.
Summary of Proposed Rule

- Naturalization: $640 to $1,170 + elimination of all fee waivers for naturalization
- DACA: $495 to $765
- Asylum: $50 fee
- Adjustment of Status: $1,225 to $2,195
- Fee waivers: will slash fee waivers except where required by law
- Transfer of $200 million to ICE
Procedural Notes

• 30 day comment period (60 days is typical)

• Comment period will close Dec. 16

• Experts project that the proposed rule will go into effect 4-5 months following comment period
Frontline Advocacy Strategies

• Public comments:
  – Organizational comments
    • Mitigate harm, groundwork for potential litigation & Congressional oversight/investigation
  – Individual comments
    • Slow down/mitigate harm, raise awareness

• Media strategies/raise awareness:
  – Feeds into other strategies – appropriations, legislation, Congressional oversight/investigation
State and Local Response

• Public comments from state and local officials
• City resolutions
• Media strategies/community outreach:
  – Op-eds, press statements, fraud prevention training
• Fundraising for application fees and to build capacity among service providers
Tools for State and Local Response

• Toolkit for State and Local Governments on USCIS Proposed Fee Changes
  https://cliniclegal.org/resources/toolkit-state-and-local-governments-uscis-proposed-fee-changes

• **Webinar: Friday, Dec. 6, 1:00-2:30 p.m.**
  Strategies for Elected Officials to Oppose USCIS’ Latest Wealth Test on Immigrants
CLINIC Resources

- Fee Schedule webpage
- Organizational template comment
- Individual click-to-comment campaigns on naturalization and asylum
- Fee Schedule Fighters Toolkit
- State and Local Toolkit
Questions?