

2015 New York State Immigrant Equality Agenda

Major Priorities

1. Win Equal Access to Education: Provide undocumented immigrant students access to state tuition assistance (TAP).
 - a. *Goal*: Pass the “New York State DREAM Act” or ensure its inclusion in the budget, to provide equal access to TAP to children regardless of immigration status.
2. Address Needs of Unaccompanied Children: Address the educational and health needs of the unaccompanied minors outside of New York City in Long Island and Westchester.
 - a. *Goal*: Ensure funding to support local communities working to meet the needs of child refugees in schools, and elicit public statements by State elected representatives to support addressing the needs of these children.
3. Strengthen Immigration and Integration Services: Prepare New York State to respond to the President's executive action, and ensure qualifying immigrants have access to services.
 - a. *Goal*: Increase funding to Office of New Americans (ONA) to \$30.3 million to provide legal services, ESL classes, and workforce development and to combat fraud.

Secondary Priorities

4. Support Justice for Farm Workers: Ensure farm workers have a bill of rights that include day of rest, overtime pay, and right to collective bargaining.
5. Ensure Health Care Access for All: Provide free/affordable health care coverage to undocumented immigrants.
6. Ensure Detained Immigrant Legal Representation: Provide resources to ensure that all immigrants in detention proceedings in New York have access to legal representation.
7. Provide Drivers Licenses for All: Pass legislation to allow all New Yorkers to have access to drivers' licenses, regardless of immigration status.
8. Help Immigrant Students Graduate: Address declining English Language Learner (ELL) graduation rates by making a major investment in support for ELL students, and continuing to expand options for ELLs and immigrant students to earn a high school diploma.
9. Build Trust between Law Enforcement and Immigrants: Introduce "New York TRUST Act" legislation to end the collaboration between local law enforcement and ICE and protect immigrant communities from discriminatory enforcement.
10. Enable All New Yorkers to Maximize their Skills and Training: Eliminate unnecessary legal status barriers to access to professional licenses and certification for immigrants.