



# nyic

NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION

**UNITED FOR JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY**



## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION

137-139 West 25th Street, 12th Floor

New York, NY 10001

[www.nyic.org](http://www.nyic.org)



# Letter from the Executive Director & Board Chair

Dear Friends,

What an incredibly exciting year it has been for the NYCIC!

As of this writing, we are on the verge of seeing the President announce long-awaited administrative relief that will potentially open the door for millions of America's immigrants to be protected from deportation and to work legally. This major victory has been the culmination of a two-year effort of our statewide *New Yorkers for Real Immigration Reform* campaign, working with our national allies to push the President to take this historic step for immigrants.

But we've been up to much more than that. Throughout 2014, we've continued to make real progress in reforms at many levels: helping win major victories in New York City such as a municipal ID and detainer reform; ensuring that immigrants can get affordable and quality health care; fighting for New York's immigrant students to get the support they need; and lifting up immigrants' voices in the 2014 elections through our *Immigrants Vote!* campaign. Along the way, we convened the first ever conference to coordinate broad legal services on the City and State level this June through the New York Immigrant Assistance Consortium (NYIAC), bringing together 300 community leaders to discuss how to prepare for administrative relief. Moving forward, we'll play a lead role in ensuring that up to a quarter of a million New Yorkers can walk through this historic door of opportunity and get the work permits, drivers' licenses and deportation protection they need.

This 2014 Annual Report gives you a quick snapshot of the Coalition's efforts this past year, and is dedicated to our members, our supporters, our allies. With your invaluable support, we've made big strides in 2014—and are poised to take even bigger ones in 2015. Thank you for your commitment to building a better New York!

Best,



Steven Choi  
Executive Director



Guillermo Chacón  
Board Chair

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NYC's Board pose with New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

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*President of the Laundry Workers New York, New Jersey Joint Board*  
Workers United





## NYIC Staff

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*Executive Director*

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*Civic Engagement Coordinator*

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**Claudia Cabrera**  
*DACA Outreach Public Ally*

**Laura Rocío Celaya**  
*NYIC Vista, Communications Projects and Fundraising Fellow*

**Nancy Opuku**  
*NYIC Vista, Volunteer Coordinator*

**Tea Tammistu**  
*Education Fellow*

### CONSULTANTS:

**Andrew Scherer**

**Katherine Fennelly**

**Melanie Reyes**

**Christina Chang**

**Karen Kaminsky**

**Jacki Esposito**

**Bessie Schachter**

## Notable Numbers 2014

- 65** Languages spoken by NYIC member organizations
- 2205** Attendees to NYIC's immigration advocacy events, rallies, and trainings
- 16,475** College Guides for parents distributed (**2,774** in English; **3,151** in Spanish; **10,550** in Chinese)
- 14** College Guide workshops presented to immigrant parents
- 436** Immigrant parents who attended a college workshop and learned their children *can* go to college
- 400** Press hits since January 2014
- 333,000** New American citizens that the NYIC and partners have registered to vote since 1998
- 35,000** Voters contacted through the NYIC's 2014 *Immigrants Vote!* Campaign
- 26** Organizations who joined NYIC's Civic Engagement Collaborative comprised of good government organizations, non-profit agencies, organizing groups and others
- 22,051** Attendees since 2011 at the NYIC's Key to the City events—a mobile, community-based initiative that provides immigrant families with vital consular identity documents, legal screenings, college readiness programming and more
- 14,334** Identity documents issued since 2011 through the NYIC's Key to the City events
- 62** Counties in New York State with NYIC member organizations present, representing every county in the state
- 147** Individuals recruited to the NYIC's Civilian Emergency Response Corps
- 240** Individuals recruited to the NYIC's general volunteer cohort
- 1,580** Volunteers who have supported individuals through **24** Superstorm Sandy recovery and/or immigration support service activities/events
- 124** Trainings conducted by the NYIC through our Immigrant Concerns Training Institute, serving a total of **3,084** people
- 6,352** Individuals (non-profit staff, community members, legal providers, government agency staff, and other public officials) reached through informational sessions, trainings, and community education events on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- 26** DACA outreach providers coordinated by the NYIC—who through their outreach efforts referred more than **3,000** individuals to legal and literacy providers
- 241** Participants at health advocacy trainings and town hall meetings



▽ JANUARY 2014: UNVEILING NYIC'S 2014 IMMIGRANT'S EQUALITY AGENDA



# 2014 HIGHLIGHTS ▶



## Immigrant Advocates Respond To Cuomo's 2014 Agenda With Goals Of Their Own

1/10/14: "Immigrant advocates in New York have responded to Governor Andrew Cuomo's State of the State address by announcing their own agenda for 2014. The Coalition has released its own '2014 Immigrant Equality Agenda' containing ten policy items that advocates will continue to push for in New York. The 2014 Immigrant Equality Agenda also includes raising the minimum wage, promoting college readiness for English language learners and protection from harsh enforcement."

▽ JANUARY 2014: DRIVERS LICENSES FOR ALL! ▶



## The New York Times

*Advocates Struggle to Reach Immigrants Eligible for Deferred Action* December 2013 "...We need to do everything to maximize participation in the program," said Steven Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, a leading advocacy group in New York City.



◁ JANUARY 2014 & ONGOING: REACHING THE "HARD-TO-REACH" UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH POPULATION A new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Initiative, supported by the City of New York, was created to conduct outreach, provide legal assistance, and expand adult education programming for young people who would qualify for DACA. The NYIC is leading the citywide outreach component of this effort, **coordinating 26 outreach providers that are working in collaboration with 70 adult education and legal groups.** Our outreach providers have done an exemplary job reaching out to "hard-to-reach" young undocumented immigrants to enroll them in DACA. Through their outreach efforts, **we have referred more than 3,000 individuals to legal and literacy providers.**

## AP Associated Press

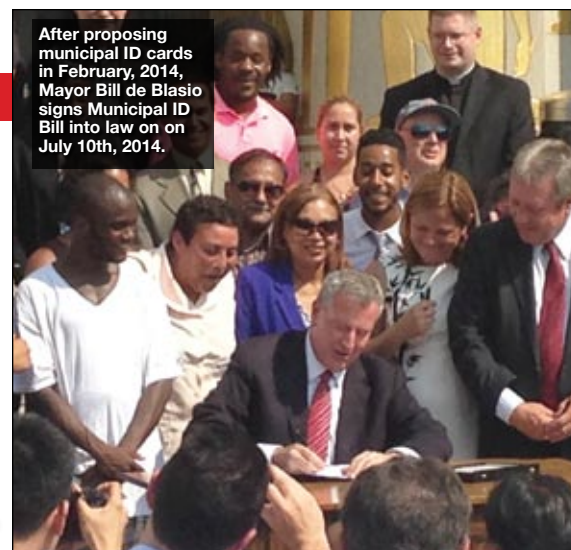
### NY: Provide Public Support for Immigrant Youth

1/13/14: DREAMers asked Gov. Andrew Cuomo to include money in the state budget for the implementation of the New York State Dream Act, a bill that would allow unauthorized immigrants living in the state and meet certain requirements, to access financial aid at universities.



△ JANUARY 2014: FIGHTING FOR THE NEW YORK DREAM The NYIC remains unrelenting in our fight for expanding state financial aid to students regardless of immigration status. While NYS DREAM failed to pass the Senate this year, we are rebooting for next year's campaign and won't stop until this is official legislation in New York!

After proposing municipal ID cards in February, 2014, Mayor Bill de Blasio signs Municipal ID Bill into law on July 10th, 2014.



## Newsday

### Advocates to renew push for driver's licenses for undocumented residents

January 9, 2014 "The license issue affects immigrants without permanent residence in substantial ways and puts many at risk of detention and deportation after traffic stops for unlicensed and uninsured driving," advocates said.

▽ FEBRUARY-JULY 2014: A NEW YORK CITY ID FOR ALL NEW YORKERS At the State of the City, Mayor Bill de Blasio made a historic announcement that he will support a New York City ID card for all New Yorkers regardless of immigration status—a huge victory for New York immigrant communities! Immigrants who lack access to a form of ID will be able to use this card to access libraries and municipal buildings, open bank accounts, sign leases, and much more! All year the NYIC worked as part of the New York City Municipal ID Coalition to ensure that the NYC Municipal ID card will have broad appeal and that immigrants and other vulnerable communities can access this ID safely. In January 2015 the card will be rolled out with multiple benefits and discounts for all New Yorkers, including a one-year membership at 33 of the City's leading cultural institutions!

### De Blasio Proposes Municipal ID Card Regardless of Immigration Status

According to the New York Immigration Coalition, the measure... will improve this community's day-to-day lives. "You can go to the police and you can show this as proof of identification," said Steven Choi, executive director of the NYIC. "You will be able to access certain city buildings. As a result of our advocacy, you can now go into public schools and be able to meet with your kids' teachers."





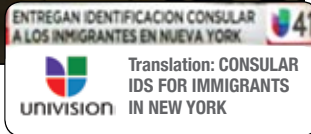


## Consular IDs as a Middle Step to De Blasio's City ID Plan

**FEBRUARY 24, 2014** "Since 2011 the NYCIC has organized 22 events, where undocumented immigrants could learn how to fill out taxes, open a bank account, and not get scammed by fake lawyers."



Councilmember Gale Brewer joins NYC's Key to the City events in East Harlem.



### △▷ FEBRUARY 2014 & ONGOING ALL YEAR: NYC'S KEY TO THE CITY PROGRAM EXTENDS IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AND SERVICES TO THOUSANDS

The City Council-funded "Key to the City" Initiative has taken place in schools in each borough since 2011, organized by the NYCIC in collaboration with schools, community partners, and the consulates of Mexico, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, and the Dominican Republic. The Initiative promotes immigrant integration in a variety of ways: facilitating immigrant parent access to their children's schools and to financial services by providing them with acceptable identity documents; offering workshops on the college preparation process; providing DACA information, legal screenings and referrals, adult education programs; and offering assistance on filing taxes, among other services. Most recently, the program is providing workshops for the Chinese community as well. In the past two-and-a-half years, **14,334 consular IDs and foreign passports** have been distributed, and **22,051 community members** provided with this broad range of services—a huge achievement for the betterment of New York immigrant communities!

▷ **MARCH-APRIL 2014: AFFECTING CHANGE ON THE CITY LEVEL** On March 3rd, Councilmember Carlos Menchaca hosted NYCIC's legislative breakfast to inform the City of NYC's top priorities for the year. A panel of experts spoke about our top City agenda items, including immigration enforcement issues, and ensuring adequate resources for immigrant services such as ESL classes, legal services, and integration efforts.

△ On April 10th, NYC's New York City membership met with City Council Members and the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to discuss our top priorities. In all, **56 individuals representing 29 NYC member organizations participated in 21 legislative meetings** to urge support for pressing issues including Municipal ID cards for all New Yorkers, educational equity for immigrant students, and health care for all. Our efforts were enormously successful! At a press conference on July 1st, NYCIC was joined by Councilmember Menchaca to celebrate and discuss the City Council's FY15 budget, which slated \$10.3 million dollars for the expansion of programs and services for immigrant communities!



City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito meets with NYCIC Board of Directors.



△▽ **MARCH 5, 2014: NYC 17TH ANNUAL IMMIGRANT DAY OF ACTION** In another successful annual advocacy trip to Albany, **250 immigrants, workers, DREAMers, family members, and supporters from across the state** converged on March 5th for the Coalition's 17th Annual Immigrant Day of Action! Advocates representing over **40 organizations** met with key allies in the State Assembly and Senate to push forward our 2014 Immigrant Equality Agenda.



## TIMES UNION Aiding New New Yorkers

3/22/14 State officials joined the New York Immigration Coalition to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the New York State Office for New Americans. Through the office, 27 "opportunity centers" were created in the state to make available quality legal help, English language training and entrepreneurship, organizers say.

△▽ **MARCH 18, 2014: SUPPORTING SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS ACROSS NEW YORK STATE** On March 18th, the NYCIC held a press conference at the Albany Public Library with New York Secretary of State Cesar Peralas to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Office for New Americans (ONA). Through ONA, **27 Opportunity Centers** were created across New York to provide quality legal help, English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Language (ESOL) training, and entrepreneurship support for New York State's newcomers. The NYCIC continues work with ONA and calls on the Governor to make even more resources available for this important statewide initiative!



500-plus New Yorkers joined a NYIRF rally at Foley Square on April 10th.

△▽ **JANUARY 2014-MAY 2014: NEW YORKERS FOR REAL IMMIGRATION REFORM PHASE I: CONGRESS MUST ACT; PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM** New Yorkers for Real Immigration Reform (NYRIR), a campaign of **170 diverse community, faith, labor, and business groups**, coordinated by the New York Immigration Coalition, intensified its efforts to hold Congress accountable to their inaction on immigration reform. Through May 2014, NYRIR held major actions including occupying Congressional offices in New York, meeting with representatives including Senator Schumer, and holding rallies in Washington D.C and New York. Every step of the way, New York immigrants shared their emotional stories of families torn apart by deportation, imploring Congress to put an end to roadblocks and pass immigration reform for the benefit of the entire nation.

**DAILY NEWS**  
Hundreds rally in Foley Square for immigrant rights, push for passage of bill to create NYC municipal ID card  
4/10/14 "We are battered by these deportations and we are angered by our politicians' lack of courage," Steven Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, which coordinated the rally, told the crowd.



△▽ **MAY 2014: MAY DAY RALLY FOCUSES ON WORKER RIGHTS AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS** NYCIC helped coordinate the historic May Day rally once again, calling on New Yorkers to unite against deportations plaguing immigrant communities!

**am NEW YORK**

**May Day rally in NYC for workers', immigrants' rights**  
5/1/14 "Our communities are under attack," said Steve Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, citing deportation and the denied economic justice. "When immigrants and labor are united, we will fight for immigration reform."





△▽ JUNE 9, 2014: **"THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND TOO": THE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW YORK IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CONSORTIUM** On June 9th, the **New York Immigrant Assistance Consortium**, coordinated by the NYIC, held its inaugural conference **"This Land is Your Land, Too: Working Together for Immigrant New Yorkers"**. Nearly **300 immigrant advocates**, legal service providers, government officials, and community members contributed to discussions on how to better coordinate support for New York's immigrant communities. Sessions covered topics such as how to combat immigration fraud, prepare for administrative relief, and incorporate lessons from DACA, past legalization efforts, and other mass assistance efforts like those following Hurricane Sandy and 9/11.



### Diverse New York Conference Discusses Immigrants Rights

6/11/14 Until now, there has been little coordination or constructive conversation among those stakeholders, but the recent "This Land is Your Land Too" conference in a packed Manhattan meeting hall aimed to change that. To help, the New York Immigration Coalition, which organized this conference, runs a government-funded program to train local grassroots advocates who are not attorneys.

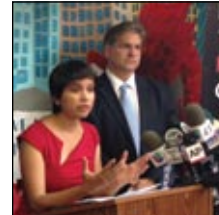


### ▲◀ JUNE 23, 2014: HONORING LEADERS AT BUILDERS 2014

On June 23rd, we held our annual fundraising gala at the beautiful *Capitale* on the Bowery. This year we celebrated and honored contributions from several inspiring immigrant rights leaders including **Jacques Brand**, Chief Executive Officer of North America, Deutsche Bank; **Eliseo Medina**, International Secretary-Treasurer, SEIU; and **Parkin Lee**, Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & Secretary, The Rockefeller Group. We also honored **Robert Morgenthau**, Former Manhattan District Attorney with a special Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to New York's immigrant communities!



▽▷ JULY-AUGUST 2014: **SUPPORTING MIGRANT YOUTH** With nearly 50,000 unaccompanied minors detained at the U.S southern border fleeing severe violence in Central America this year, the NYIC immediately geared up to support close to 9,000 children arriving in New York. The NYIC created a statewide initiative, the **"New York Unaccompanied Minors Working Group"** to bring together legal service providers, health and education providers, state and local government to fashion a coordinated response to help these children. Among the challenges for recently arrived youth are accelerated court hearings that leave little time to obtain quality legal representation. The NYIC quickly mobilized Youth



Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Nisha Agarwal speaks about need for legal service coordination to support recently arrived youth at NYIC.

Assistance Fairs, free legal clinics for immigrant youth. **Our free legal clinics have served close to 300 unaccompanied immigrant youth thus far.**



**TELEMUNDO** Coordinan ayuda para los niños inmigrantes que llegan a Nueva York  
Translation: *Coordinating Support for Child Migrants Arriving in New York*  
6/23/14 "Most of these kids come because they face violence including threat of death, said Steven Choi, executive director of the Coalition for Immigrants in New York, who leads the team called the "New York Unaccompanied Minors Working Group" during a press conference to announce the efforts.



**Arabic, and Haitian Creole!** The NYIC and project partners have distributed **20,000 guides** and reached **approximately 1,500 parents over the last two years** in multiple languages.

◁ ONGOING: **PROTECTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT PARENTS** Conducting cutting edge advocacy, the NYIC's Education Advocacy Collaborative has worked tirelessly to educate the City and State on the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) and immigrant parents—particularly around the issue of providing adequate interpretation services at schools and the obstacles that immigrant parents face when enrolling their children in school. In an effort to continue supporting immigrants parents, the NYIC continued its training series for New York immigrant parents on how to send their children to college by using our guide, "Your Children Can Go to College – Yes They Can!". The guide has been translated into several **new languages including Bengali,**

▽ AUGUST 2014: **COMBATING IMMIGRATION FRAUD** In a huge victory for the NYIC and our partners, the **Immigrant Assistance Service Enforcement Act** was signed into law by Governor Cuomo. The bill, which provides new and increased protections for immigrants, was closely crafted by the NYIC with our member agencies and partners, and Assemblymember Marco Crespo and



Maritza Mejia Ming, Chief, Kings County District Attorney Immigrant Fraud Unit speaks warns about immigration scams and tactics of "notarios."

Senator Ruben Diaz. Steven Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, said "We are proud to have worked closely with the Governor's office and Assemblymember Crespo and Senator Diaz in crafting a bill that provides new protections against immigration fraud. We look forward to working with the Governor and the Office for New Americans to build on this legislation and ensure that New York is invested

in immigrant communities that will pay off in benefits for our entire State." – in an August 6th press release from Governor Cuomo's office.



### CAPITAL What's Next for Obamacare in New York?

9/29/14 "New York has an important opportunity to reach immigrants who may not have enrolled during the first open enrollment period," said Claudia Calhoun, a health care specialist at the New York Immigration Coalition.

△ ONGOING: **ADVOCATING FOR GREATER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE** NYIC's Health Advocacy team made enormous strides this year from educating hundreds of immigrant New Yorkers on access to healthcare and enrollment options to lobbying the City to insure more eligible immigrants and boosting access to health care for the undocumented.







◁ **ONGOING: NYIC'S REGIONAL ADVOCACY** The NYIC has expanded its reach by hiring regional advocacy coordinators to support our member groups in Westchester and Long Island! On October 16th, we worked with our partner agencies in Westchester and Lower Hudson Valley to respond to vicious political ads scapegoating immigrant communities. In Long Island, we are working to support our partners to hold County Executive Ed Mangano accountable to the executive orders he signed in 2013 guaranteeing free translation and interpretation to Limited-English Proficient (LEP) residents of Nassau County at county agencies.

▷ **ONGOING: NYIC TRAINING INSTITUTE** As the state-designated trainer on Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accreditation and Recognition, the NYIC, with support from the Department of State's Office for New Americans, develops an intensive 40-hour training to help non-profit groups qualify for BIA recognition and accreditation, expanding the corps of groups who are authorized and qualified to provide immigration legal assistance. This year, the NYIC conducted **four intensive 40-hour BIA accreditation trainings**. These week-long trainings, which include site visits to immigration court, mock trials, and visits to citizenship ceremonies, along with a substantive immigration law curriculum, take place across New York State.



△▽ **NOVEMBER 2014: IMMIGRANTS VOTE!** This year, the NYIC's *Immigrants Vote!* campaign, made up of 10 active partner organizations, led an aggressive voter engagement program in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester county. This year, we contacted **20,000 immigrant voters and registered 12,000 voters** in the lead up to midterm elections!

## LATIN POST

More Than 1,400 Immigrants Register to Vote After New York Voter Drive  
A voter registration campaign underway by the New York Immigration Coalition saw over 1,400 new American immigrants sign up to vote over the past two weeks.



300 people watch President Obama's administrative relief announcement at NYIC's watch party on November 20th.



400 NYIRIR members form a human chain outside 26 Federal Plaza, gaining significant media attention including coverage from CNN.



△▽ **JUNE-NOVEMBER 2014: NEW YORKERS FOR REAL IMMIGRATION REFORM PHASE II: WE'RE "ALL IN FOR RELIEF"** As part of NYIRIR, we shifted our campaign to call on President Obama to act where Congress has failed. With 1,100 deportations a day, NYIRIR campaign members made an urgent call for executive action. Our message to the President: We can no longer wait while our communities suffer; you can provide administrative relief to stop unjust deportations and keep families together. Through sending postcards to the White House, thousands of calls, and several creative actions including a **350-person townhall** to share our communities' stories and a **400-person human chain** around New York's immigration court at 26 Federal Plaza, we successfully captured the attention of the White House.

