

2015
ANNUAL REPORT



United for Justice and Opportunity



From Executive Director and Chair of the Board

2015 has been an amazing, ambitious year at the New York Immigration Coalition—filled with major accomplishments and victories!

In 2015, New York's diverse immigrant communities have continued to grow and thrive like never before—while also facing many challenges. On the federal level, President Obama's historic executive action in November 2014 has been held up in legal limbo, leaving half a million immigrant New Yorkers without the work authorizations and protection from deportation that would give them a stronger foothold here. In the face of adversity, we've continued to stand up for New York's immigrant communities in fighting for this relief that the Empire State's immigrants so richly deserve.

And we've done so much more. In 2015, we've continued to bring together our members—local grassroots groups and service providers, organized labor and business, academics—to work with elected officials and make real progress for immigrants in New York. Our *Key to the City* Initiative has worked with the New York City Council, consulates, and service providers to **connect nearly 6,000 hard-to-reach immigrants** with valuable IDs, legal services, and a new lease on life. We've worked with partners to **win a new \$1 million "Access Health" initiative** to ensure that New York City's immigrants can get affordable and quality health care. We've fought back against fraud by **creating the Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers Task Force**—to bring together community groups, law enforcement and government agencies to stop immigration fraud in its tracks. And we'll host the largest immigrant-related conference in the nation—the **National Immigrant Integration Conference**—right here in New York City in December 2015, bringing together a thousand people to shape immigrant policies, platforms and practices as we head into a Presidential election year.

Moving ahead, we'll continue to play a lead role in New York State—from Buffalo to Brentwood—to secure the educational future of New York's immigrant students, to launch our "Immigrant Blueprint for New York" vision for immigrant rights and integration in New York State, and to reach 50,000 immigrants through our Immigrants Vote! Campaign for the 2016 elections.

This 2015 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 support, we've taken big steps in 2015—and are ready to take even bigger ones in 2016. Thank you for your commitment to building a stronger New York!



Best,

Steven Choi
Executive Director



GA Chacón

Guillermo Chacón

Board Chair

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FJC - A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds

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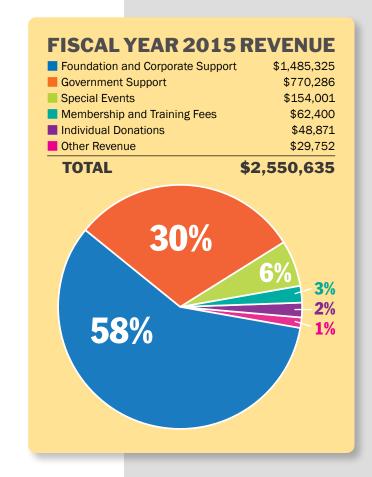
Robert Sterling Clark Foundation

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Organizational and Corporate Supporters

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College

NYIC SPECIAL EVENTS





"STATE OF THE IMMIGRANT CITY" Legislative Breakfast

2/26/15 Coalition launches 2015 New York City Immigrant Equality Agenda; convenes elected officials and advocates to discuss the "State of the Immigrant City"; advocates call for support for city resources for vital immigrant services, voter registration, immigrant workers, and access to quality healthcare.



■ NIIC, December 13-15, 2015













Regional Advocacy engages local Member organizations from Long Island, the Hudson Valley, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and other upstate areas through advocacy, training and service coordination to address the needs of immigrants outside of New York City.



2 in-person meetings and 1 statewide videoconference meeting held to convene the Upstate Network for Immigrant Rights, founded in January 2015

Newsday

NY Immigrant Advocates Push Equality Agenda 1/5/15

Long Island: Advocates spoke on Jan. 5, 2015, at a news conference in Hempstead about the New York Immigration Coalition's Immigrant Equality Agenda that they will be pushing for in Albany this year. The agenda covers such topics as education and tuition payment and the issuance of driver's licenses to immigrants. Members of the New York Immigration Coalition, an umbrella organization for more than 200 groups, held simultaneous news conference on the steps of City Hall in New York City, at the Central American Refugee Center in Hempstead, Long Island, and at Westchester Hispanic Coalition in White Plains, Westchester. Over one hundred New Yorkers gathered to call on Governor Cuomo and the New York Legislature to adopt the 2015 "Immigrant Equality Agenda" to better serve the present needs of the state's diverse and growing immigrant population.

200+

immigrant students that attended school presentations throughout Long Island about their rights, the availability of legal services and advocacy opportunities

200+

volunteers and non-profit staff trained in Nassau and Suffolk counties and the Hudson Valley to be "Immigration Ambassadors" and "Immigration Navigators", supporting lawyers around a variety of immigration legal service needs

230

contacts that the NYIC maintains in upstate New York

NORTHEAST PUBLIC RADIO

NY Immigration Coalition Lobbying For DREAM Act In Albany

3/3/15 The DREAM Act has once again passed the State Assembly in Albany. But once again the measure's future in the State Senate is uncertain. Supporters of the DREAM Act, which would allow the children of undocumented immigrants to receive college tuition assistance from the state, are more optimistic this year of the bill making it to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's desk.

The New York Times

After Surge in Young Migrants, *Group Teams Up to Bolster Services*

Feb. 23, 2015 "The collaboration will also tap into money awarded to the New York Immigration Coalition and Equal Justice Works through a federal program that provides legal representation to children facing deportation."

Nearly 200

immigrants, allies and stakeholders that participated in Westchester's first-ever immigration summit to discuss critical issues facing immigrant populations



Westchester summit aims to tackle critical issues to county's immigrant population

Hundreds gathered at Westchester Community College to discuss the needs of the community and find solutions.

100 people that attended 2 assemblies in the Hudson Valley

















Special Projects develops and implements unique community-based initiatives and campaigns to engage, empower and holistically integrate immigrant communities in New York City and State.

individuals reached and referred to legal and literacy providers by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Initiative in the past two years

individuals helped by the NYIC-coordinated NYC DACA Initiative's network of outreach, legal, and adult literacy providers in the past two years

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

NYC Council prepares to implement Obama's executive order, despite federal court ban, 4/3/15

New York Immigration Coalition executive director Steven Choi said, "The Key to the City Initiative would not have been possible without the support of New York City Council and many partners who have collaborated with us to put together a comprehensive one-stop-shop event for immigrant communities. Through these events, individuals can obtain consular IDs and passports, and sit in on workshops on broad services from applying for DACA to learning how to avoid immigration fraud."

4,500

people reached and

500

screened for DACA since July, at

75

events hosted by the Mexican Initiative for Deferred Action (MIDA)—a new initiative to empower Mexican communities

ONDITICIAS

Free Consular Service Program Partners with Schools to Help Immigrants

5/29/15: Over 25,000 immigrants have received services from being able to obtain passports to free immigration legal assistance within the public schools in New York thanks to a special program by the New York Immigration Coalition. NYIC and other other organizations demonstrated in front of City Hall to ask City Council to increase funding to the program and look for the positive impact of the initiative in the last five years.





17,207

mobile, community-based initiative that provides immigrant families with vital consular identity documents, legal screenings, college readiness programming and more—with

3,340 IDs issued at

events this year alone

IDs issued since 2011 at Key to the

City events-a

KEY TO THE CITY EVENTS

5,531

people served at

Key to the City events this year alone

51

countries of origin of immigrants served at Key to the City events

13

consulates that partner with the NYIC at Key to the City events: Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and St. Lucia

Legal Initiatives reaches thousands of legal service providers and non-profit staff every year through training, liaison work, and technical assistance—effectively enhancing the availability of quality legal services across New York State.



five-day trainings about Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accreditation held for new immigration law practitioners, serving

139 people

trainings that the NYIC conducted through its Immigrant Concerns Training Institute, serving a total of people

670 peo

The Legislative Gazette LegislativeGazette.com

New Law Clamps Down on Those Exploiting Immigrants

2/2/15 "The New York Immigration Coalition applauds Gov. Cuomo for signing into law the Immigrant Assistance Service Enforcement Act, a critical piece of legislation that empowers New York's immigrant communities," said Steven Choi, the executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition. "We are proud to have worked closely with the Governor's Office and Assembly Member Crespo in crafting a bill that provides new protections against immigration fraud, punishes those who seek to take advantage of immigrant communities, and lays a foundation to expand reliable immigration services across the state."



500+

Nepali citizens that received information and assistance after the April 2015 earthquake at events organized by the NYIC around Temporary Protected Status (TPS)—of which

200

people received application assistance for TPS or other relief

staff of law enforcement or government agencies that the NYIC trained on immigration law to better investigate, prosecute, or otherwise target immigration services fraud



Emergency Measures in Motion to Protect Nail Workers

5/11/15 Steve Choi of the New York Immigration Coalition discusses the New York Times exposé on exploitative labor conditions at nail salons.



8/31/15

The U.S Asylum System is Completely Overwhelmed

"Only a few years ago, these kinds of cases would probably have been dispatched quickly and relatively painlessly," said Camille Mackler of the New York Immigrant Coalition, who practiced asylum law privately for several years. "If this backlog hadn't happened, and if the system functioned as it should, [immigrants with strong cases] would have gotten asylum within three to four months and gone on with their lives," Mackler said.







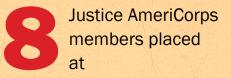
OUR MEMBERS

total Member organizations that comprise NYIC membership Member organizations that have attended NYIC trainings

re-grants and subcontract payments made to Member organizations in fiscal year 2015, totaling more than

counties—every county in New York State—served by NYIC Member organizations

\$250,000



NYIC Member organizations to help provide and support direct representation of unaccompanied children in the immigration court system

AmeriCorps VISTA members placed at

NYIC Member organizations to help develop organizational capacity to deliver immigrant-focused anti-poverty services

NYIC MEMBERS are nonprofit organizations—grassroots

community organizations, not-for-profit health and human services organizations, religious and academic institutions, labor unions, business and civic partners throughout New York State—that are committed to advancing the NYIC's mission to achieve a more just society that values the contributions of immigrants and extends opportunity to all. The NYIC supports its members by providing opportunities to be involved in Collaborative working groups, issue campaigns, trainings and events; receive critical capacity-building services, technical assistance and leadership development opportunities; and access free or discounted translation equipment, media promotion and other resources.

Immigration Advocacy engages groups around the NYIC's statewide advocacy agenda and has historically pushed to pass federal immigration reform.



D Judge's Decision Leaves Immigrants in Legal Limbo

2/17/15 "This will certainly have a chilling effect on the implementation because a program like this needs a huge amount of time and preparation to get it up," said Muzaffar Chisti, policy director at the Migration Policy Institute and board member of the New York Immigration Coalition.

attendees at simultaneous press conferences in Westchester,
Long Island and New York City launching the NYIC's 2015 Immigrant Equality Agenda for New York State

500

supporters that defended administrative relief at

4

press conferences and

1

town hall meeting

ELDIARIO

"New York Immigrants Pressure Judges to Make Decision on DACA and DAPA", 7/10/15

"The executive action is constitutional; it makes sense from an economic point of view and it is a critical lifeline against congressional inaction on the issue of immigration reform," said Steven Choi, executive director of the Coalition of Immigration New York, who described the lawsuit as a "xenophobic tactics."

9

Immigration Advocacy Collaborative meetings and

1

retreat held with

200

people total in attendance

am NEWYORK

Obama-sponsored Immigration Programs Draw Dozens in Support at Battery Park

10/20/15 Teresa Gutierrez, 51, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico, said she is disappointed in the lack of action. "We aren't just suddenly showing up now, we have a life here," said Gutierrez, who has four children who are American citizens. "This would let me be me, and stop living in the shadows."

people present at the NYIC's 2015 Immigrants' Day of Action in Albany to push for statewide priorities—led by organizers that underwent the NYIC's train-the-trainer workshop to prepare their communities for the day



The Smart Choice for Cities: Welcome Immigrants, Don't Stigmatize Them

By Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Nisha Agarwal and NYIC executive director Steven Choi 9/29/15 Organizations like the New York Immigration Coalition help to reinforce the need for cities like New York to work with immigrant communities, provide support and resources, and build trust — further ensuring the safety of all. And by treating immigrant residents as an asset rather than a threat, New York City continues to grow and thrive as a dynamic metropolitan center.

meetings held with Customs and Border
Patrol in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the rights of New York's immigrant communities on the northern border

4

New York State DREAM Act campaign events that the NYIC supported, engaging

150 participants













Education Advocacy aims to improve the quality of education for New York's English Language Learner (ELL) and immigrant students and to promote opportunities for parents to meaningfully engage in their education.

9

Education Collaborative meetings held, with an average of

15 community leaders

at each meeting

30+

engaged parents and community members that showed support for improved language access at the NYIC's October 1st press conference press conferences held on the BUILD THE BRIDGE CAMPAIGN, which advocates for improved translation and interpretation services for immigrant families

DAILY®NEWS

Non-English speaking parents aren't getting promised translation services: survey

6/17/15 Only four out of 175 parents said it's easy to communicate with their kids' school, according to the New York Immigration Coalition survey, released Tuesday. Parents have a right to translation and interpretation services under federal law and the city's regulations. However, half of parents surveyed didn't understand what was going on during school meetings because there were no interpreters. More than half (51%) said important school notifications sent home were not translated into a language they could understand.



Immigrant groups see chance to improve language services in chancellor's reorganization, 2/17/15

A consortium of advocacy groups called on the Department of Education on Tuesday to put a staff member in charge of translation and interpretation services in each superintendent's office, which are set to grow as part of a reorganization of the school system that will begin this summer. "There's something very real at stake here for our immigrant families," said Kim Sykes of the New York Immigration Coalition. "So many of them come to the U.S., come to New York City, precisely because they want their children to have a better education. They really want to know what is going on and they want and need to be able participate actively."

36,811

College Guides distributed by the Education Collaborative in

6

different languages for immigrant parents:

12,833 in Chinese

12,769 in Spanish

8,876

in English

898

in Haitian Creole

822

in Bengali

613

in Arabic

Health Advocacy works to ensure that all immigrants and Limited-English-Proficient (LEP) persons have access to safe and quality health care.

\$1 million

given by the New York City Council to support

New York City organizations as part of the Access Health NYC initiative, which will improve outreach and education on health access and rights





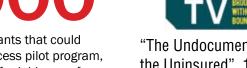
OICES CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL

CUNY TV Independent Sources: Extending Health Care to the Undocumented?

5/8/16 | The latest episode of CUNY TV's "Independent Sources" starts off with a look at efforts to make health care coverage and benefits available to the city's undocumented immigrants, a guarter million of whom are uninsured. The New York Immigration Coalition and The Hastings Center have given recommendations to the Mayor's Office on ways to address the lack of health care access among the undocumented.

345,000

undocumented, uninsured immigrants that could benefit from the Mayor's Direct Access pilot program, which aims to provide access to affordable care for immigrants excluded from federal and state support





"The Undocumented and the Uninsured", 10/13/15

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Mayor's Initiative Could Boost Immigrant Health Care Access

Direct Access aims to create a kind of universal health care using existing providers

By MELANIE GRAYCE WEST Oct. 1, 2015 12:00 a.m. ET

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is expected on Thursday to introduce a multimillion-dollar initiative to improve health-care access for some of the city's lowincome, uninsured immigrant population by connecting them to primary and preventive health-care services.

The initiative, called Direct Access, isn't an insurance program, but it aims to create a kind of universal health care using existing providers already paid for by city, state or federal funds. Patients would have a primarycare doctor and a so-called medical home where care would be coordinated.

Patients would receive a health-care card tied to their municipal-identification cards, known as IDNYC.



immigrant health coverage trainings provided to teachers. students, health professionals. consulates, communitybased organizations and other partners

media spots earned by the Health Collaborative on immigrant health access













Civic Engagement works to achieve more democratic and participatory political and civic processes.



Advocates, council members announce immigrant engagement effort

June 11, 2015 • The Engage Immigrant New York City campaign focuses on a particular set of policy recommendations and a "toolkit" for community-based organizations to conduct outreach

to immigrant groups in the city. The campaign will primarily push for improving language access in elections, expanding student voter registration outreach and promoting the city's participatory budgeting process to immigrant communities. Murad Awawdeh, the civic engagement coordinator for the New York Immigration Coalition, which is facilitating and organizing the campaign effort, said that ... "The civic engagement processes that are listed here are dedicated to everyone without regard to status. You can join a P.T.A., you can join a community education council, you can become a participatory budgeting delegate."

350,000

new American citizens that the NYIC and its partners have registered to vote since 1998

groups that participate in the Civic Engagement Collaborative, including good government organizations, nonprofit agencies, organizing groups and others



GOTHAMGAZETTE

The Place for New York Policy and Politics

INAUGURAL STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION DAY KICKS OFF AT 25 CITY SCHOOLS

3.23.15 • Murad Awawdeh and Betsy Plum from the New York Immigration Coalition facilitated two workshops with McCourt students. Awawdeh and Plum started by asking students to rate how much power they perceive having in their circles of family, friends, school, community, and government.

additional New York City Council districts that now engage in participatory budgeting—a process by which local residents, regardless of immigration status, collectively determine how public capital funding is allocated—totaling

7 City Council districts

4,000

high school seniors registered to vote in

20+

New York City high schools that took part in Student Voter Registration Day, together with

15

New York City Council Members

Board of Directors

Angela Fernandez

Executive Director, Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Annetta Seecharran

Individual

Bakary Tandia

Case Manager and Policy Advocate African Services Committee

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Director of Immigrant Services Catholic Charities Diocese of Rockville Center

Elsie St. Louis

Executive Director
Haitian-Americans United for Progress

Estela Vazquez

Executive Vice President, Local 1199-SEIU

Eva Hassett

Executive Director, International Institute of Buffalo

Gail Golden

Co-Chairwoman, Rockland Immigration Coalition

Gonzalo Mercado

Individual

Grace Shim

President, MinKwon Center for Community Action

Guillermo Chacón

President, Latino Commission on AIDS

Jeffery Leb

Advocacy Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs, UJA-Federation of New York

Kevin Douglas

Co-Director of Policy & Advocacy United Neighborhood Houses

Lewis Papenfuse

Executive Director, Worker Justice Center

Linda Sarsour

Director, Arab-American Association of New York

Luz Tavarez-Salazar

Director, Government & Community Relations Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of New York

Mae Lee

Executive Director
Chinese Progressive Association

Manuel Castro

Executive Director

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Muzaffar Chishti

Director, Migration Policy Institute at NYU School of Law

Patrick Young

Director of Legal Services Central American Refugee Center



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Special Assistant

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Hadiyah Harrison, Public Ally

Marine Ragueneau, Civic Engagement Public Ally

Samantha Van Doran, Development VISTA

Sooah Kwak, Education Advocacy Fellow

Tuqa Youssef, Communications VISTA





THE NEW YORK IMMIGRATION

COALITION is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for nearly 200 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. The NYIC aims to achieve a fairer and more just society that values the contributions of immigrants and extends opportunity to all.

www.nyic.org

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