

# New York State Community Toolkit

A resource guide for immigrant New Yorkers  
September/October 2022



The New York Immigration Coalition developed this toolkit to provide a resource for community members and our partners and allies who work with them. It is updated regularly based on changing laws and policies.

Information last updated on: 10.12.2022

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## COVID-19 Updates

- Updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccine boosters are now available. The new boosters are called “bivalent” because they protect against the most recently circulating Omicron variants as well as the original virus strain.
  - New Yorkers 5 years and older are eligible for the bivalent boosters at least two months after their previous booster or primary vaccine series.
  - For more information, visit [ny.gov/booster](https://ny.gov/booster)
- Starting June 18, 2022, children who are 6 months and older are eligible for the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.
  - For more information and frequently asked questions about vaccines for children, visit [ny.gov/VaxforKids](https://ny.gov/VaxforKids)
- If you test positive for COVID-19, treatments that help prevent severe disease are available.
  - Treatments work best when you receive them as soon as possible after becoming sick, so it's important to get tested and talk to your healthcare provider right away.
  - For more information, visit [ny.gov/covidtreatment](https://ny.gov/covidtreatment)

## Get free at-home COVID-19 tests

- If you have a health plan (insurance through an employer or marketplace, or public programs like Medicaid, Medicare, or CHIP), you can get up to 8 free test kits per month.
  - You can use a pharmacy or store that your health plan designates “in network” where you’ll be charged \$0, or get reimbursed by submitting a claim.
  - For more information, visit [cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free](https://cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free)
- Ordering from [COVIDtests.gov](https://COVIDtests.gov) was suspended on September 2 because Congress has not provided additional funding for the program.

## Get Vaccinated Today

- COVID-19 vaccines are widely available in New York State. Everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated and get their booster dose when eligible: [ny.gov/vaccine](https://ny.gov/vaccine).
- COVID-19 vaccines are FREE regardless of immigration status or insurance coverage.
- Vaccines are widely available at pharmacies, local health departments, clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other locations across New York State.
  - Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://Vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 888-720-7489) to find appointments near you.
  - Many local health departments are offering walk-in vaccine clinics or at-home vaccinations. Find contact information for your local health department at [nysacho.org/directory](https://nysacho.org/directory).

## Monkeypox

- Health officials in New York, the U.S., and around the world are monitoring cases of monkeypox in areas that do not usually report monkeypox infections, including in New York State.
- Monkeypox is a rare, viral infection that does not usually cause serious illness. However, it can result in painful symptoms, hospitalization, or death.
- While New Yorkers should not be alarmed, everyone should stay informed about monkeypox. This means understanding the symptoms, how it spreads, and what to do if you are exposed.
- For more information and updates, visit [health.ny.gov/monkeypox](https://health.ny.gov/monkeypox).
- NYC Health has prevention resources in multiple languages at [nyc.gov/monkeypox](https://nyc.gov/monkeypox).
- New Yorkers who have been exposed to monkeypox or who are at higher risk of exposure are eligible for the JYNNEOS vaccine.
  - Getting vaccinated can reduce your chance of monkeypox infection, and it can reduce the severity of symptoms if you get it.
  - Vaccination is free and available regardless of immigration status or residency.

# Immigration <sup>1/3</sup>

## USCIS extends Green Card validity to 24 months for renewals

- Effective September 26, 2022, USCIS will automatically extend the validity of Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) to 24 months for lawful permanent residents who file Form I-90 to renew an expiring or expired Green Card.
- USCIS has updated the language on Form I-90 receipt notices (which previously provided a 12-month extension), and has begun printing amended receipt notices for individuals with a pending Form I-90.
- These receipt notices can be presented with an expired Green Card as evidence of continued status, such as to employers and for international travel.



## Refugee admissions cap maintained

- The Biden administration announced on September 27, 2022, that it would maintain the cap on the number of refugee admissions for Fiscal Year 2023 at 125,000.
- Due to cuts in overseas refugee processing and U.S. resettlement resources, it is unlikely that the number will be reached. In Fiscal Year 2022, the U.S. took in only 25,465 refugees.

## Information for recent arrivals: ICE and ISAP check-ins and change-of-address forms

- There are many different immigration agencies within the U.S. government. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the agency that enforces immigration laws, and the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) is the name for ICE's program to monitor certain immigrants.
- Some people have to check in regularly with ICE or ISAP as part of their case. If you entered the U.S. by crossing the border and you were detained, or if you were detained some time after entering the country, you may have ICE or ISAP check-ins.
- For more information on the check-in process, visit:
  - [help.asylumadvocacy.org/faqs-ice-isap](https://help.asylumadvocacy.org/faqs-ice-isap) (English)
  - [apoyodeasilo.org/preguntas-frecuentes-ice-isap](https://apoyodeasilo.org/preguntas-frecuentes-ice-isap) (Spanish)
- If you have a case in Immigration Court, you must keep your address current with ICE and the court.
  - To change your address with the Immigration Court, you must file Form EOIR-33/IC, available at the local Immigration Court and online at [justice.gov/eoir/formlist.htm](https://justice.gov/eoir/formlist.htm). You must do this within 5 days of moving to a new address.
  - For more information, see:
    - [ice.gov/doclib/detention/checkin/changeAddress-en.pdf](https://ice.gov/doclib/detention/checkin/changeAddress-en.pdf) (English)
    - [ice.gov/doclib/detention/checkin/changeAddress-es.pdf](https://ice.gov/doclib/detention/checkin/changeAddress-es.pdf) (Spanish)
- If you have a case with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), you should keep your address current with USCIS to make sure that you receive correspondence and benefits in a timely manner and avoid delays to your case. For more information, visit [uscis.gov/addresschange](https://uscis.gov/addresschange).

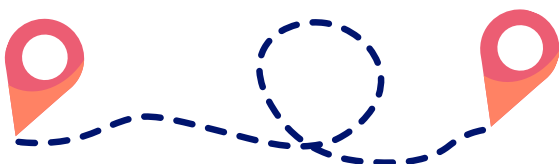
# Immigration <sup>2/3</sup>

## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- On October 5, 2022, a federal appeals court in Louisiana ruled that DACA is not a lawful program as currently implemented. The appeals court sent the case back to the Texas district court for consideration of the Biden administration's new 2022 DACA regulation, which is scheduled to take effect on October 31, 2022.
- Litigation is ongoing, so it is possible that there will be additional changes to the program.
- In the meantime, DHS will continue to accept and process renewal DACA requests (including requests for work permits and advance parole). DHS will accept but not process initial DACA requests.
  - If you currently have DACA, your status is still valid.
  - If your DACA expires soon, renew now!
  - If you submitted a first-time initial DACA application to USCIS that has not yet been granted, that application will be frozen. It will not be processed until further notice.
- Individuals who previously received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) can now file Forms I-821D (DACA renewal application) and I-765 (work permit renewal application) online.
  - This ability is for those who currently have DACA or whose DACA expired less than a year ago.
  - More information about how to renew DACA online:  
[uscis.gov/humanitarian/renew-your-daca](https://uscis.gov/humanitarian/renew-your-daca)

## Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)

- The U.S. government may designate a foreign country for TPS if certain conditions, such as armed conflict or natural disasters, prevent nationals of that country from returning safely.
- During a designated period, individuals who apply for and are granted TPS:
  - Are protected from deportation
  - Can obtain a work permit and social security number
  - May be granted travel authorization
  - Cannot be detained by DHS because of their immigration status
- TPS is a temporary benefit that does not lead to permanent status. However, TPS holders may apply for any other immigration benefit or nonimmigrant status that they are eligible for.
- Countries currently designated for TPS:
  - Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Cameroon, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen
- For specific country information, eligibility requirements, registration periods, and latest updates, check [uscis.gov/TPS](https://uscis.gov/TPS).
- All TPS applicants can now file Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, online at [uscis.gov/i-821](https://uscis.gov/i-821).
- As of July 1, 2022, USCIS has provided certain previously excluded TPS holders with eligibility to adjust to permanent status and obtain green cards. USCIS now interprets TPS holders who return from authorized travel abroad as being lawfully "inspected and admitted," satisfying a key eligibility requirement for adjusting status. USCIS has also established a new process and form for authorizing travel for TPS holders.
- On June 27, 2022, the Biden administration extended and expanded DED for Liberians living in the U.S. through June 30, 2024.
  - For more information on DED, visit [uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-enforced-departure](https://uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-enforced-departure).





# Immigration <sup>3/3</sup>



## Work permits for many immigrants will be automatically extended by 540 days

- Starting May 4, 2022, USCIS will automatically extend the validity of work permits for many immigrants by 540 days while they await processing of their renewals.
- This change will prevent thousands of immigrants, including asylum seekers, from losing work authorization while their renewal applications are stuck in USCIS's backlog.
- Resource from Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) explaining the new policy:
  - English: [help.asylumadvocacy.org/work-permits-extended-540-days](https://help.asylumadvocacy.org/work-permits-extended-540-days)
  - Spanish: [apoyodeasilo.org/permisos-de-trabajo-extendidos-540-dias](https://apoyodeasilo.org/permisos-de-trabajo-extendidos-540-dias)
- For more information and a complete list of the work permit categories who will receive the auto-extension, visit [uscis.gov/eadautoextend](https://uscis.gov/eadautoextend).

## Uniting for Ukraine

- On April 21, 2022, President Biden announced a program to welcome Ukrainians fleeing Russia's invasion. Uniting for Ukraine provides a pathway for Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who are outside the U.S. to come to the U.S. and stay temporarily in a two-year period of parole.
- Ukrainians participating in Uniting for Ukraine must have a supporter in the U.S. who agrees to provide them with financial support for the duration of their stay.
- For more information on the program and application process, see the DHS webpage: [dhs.gov/ukraine](https://dhs.gov/ukraine).

## Resources for Afghan refugees and parolees

- Afghan parolees may be eligible for the extraordinary circumstances exception to the 1-year filing deadline for asylum applications if applicants file for asylum while their parole is still valid. For more information, see [uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals](https://uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals).
- Starting July 20, 2022, the Department of State and USCIS have combined two steps in the Afghan SIV application process: the Chief of Mission (COM) approval, and the SIV petition. For more information, visit [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/special-immg-visa-afghans-employed-us-gov.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/special-immg-visa-afghans-employed-us-gov.html).
- Federal Government resources:
  - USCIS public guidance for Afghans: [uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghans](https://uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghans)
  - "Employment Information Regarding Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders and Parolees" in English, Dari, and Pashto: [justice.gov/crt/worker-information](https://justice.gov/crt/worker-information)
  - Afghan Assistance Resources across the federal government compiled by the Office of Refugee Resettlement: [acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources](https://acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources)
- Resettlement resources:
  - New York State – I-ARC's Afghan Resettlement Project: [immigrantarc.org/afghanistan](https://immigrantarc.org/afghanistan)
  - New York City – including a roadmap of city services available in Dari and Pashto: [nyc.gov/afghanistanresources](https://nyc.gov/afghanistanresources)
  - Western New York – Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees: [wnyrac.org](https://wnyrac.org)
  - Albany/Capital region – Resource list: [bit.ly/3kvWRZd](https://bit.ly/3kvWRZd)
  - Ithaca/Finger Lakes region – Cornell Afghanistan Resource List: [bit.ly/3CwfFxy](https://bit.ly/3CwfFxy)
- Human Rights First Data Collection Form for identifying persons in need of evacuation from Afghanistan: [humanrightsfirst.org/afghan-evacuation](https://humanrightsfirst.org/afghan-evacuation)

## School Year 2022–23

- NYSED and the Board of Regents approved COVID-19 exemptions to Regents exams in June 2020, August 2020, January 2021, June 2021, August 2021 and January 2022. If a student received a COVID-19 exam exemption, they do NOT need to take/re-take that exam to graduate. At this point, no COVID-19 exemptions have been approved for June 2022 or August 2022 exams.
  - For more details about COVID-19 exemptions, check out Advocates for Children’s “Summary of Changes to Graduation Requirements due to COVID-19.”
  - For more details about students’ Regents exam rights, see Advocates for Children’s “Regents Exam Rights.”
  - Information is available in multiple languages at [advocatesforchildren.org/get\\_help/guides\\_and\\_resources/transition](https://advocatesforchildren.org/get_help/guides_and_resources/transition)

## Resources for families of students learning English

- Being informed is critical to ensuring that English Language Learners (ELLs) are well served. The New York State Education Department has created an English Language Learner Parents’ Bill of Rights which summarizes critical rights concerning educational access and programming for ELLs and their parents: [bit.ly/3EJd0Td](https://bit.ly/3EJd0Td)
  - Information is available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, French, Haitian Creole, Karen, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Urdu.
  - You can call the ELL Parent Hotline at [800-469-8224](tel:800-469-8224) if you have questions or concerns.

## One-Time Student Loan Debt Relief

- On August 24, 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a Student Debt Relief Plan that includes one-time student loan debt relief targeted to low- and middle-income families.
- The U.S. Department of Education (ED) will provide up to \$20,000 in debt relief to Pell Grant recipients with loans held by ED and up to \$10,000 in debt relief to non-Pell Grant recipients.
- Borrowers are eligible for this relief if their individual income is less than \$125,000 or \$250,000 for households.
- Get details about the program and what comes next at [studentaid.gov/debtrelief](https://studentaid.gov/debtrelief).
- Applications are not yet open. If you’d like to be notified, sign up for email updates at [ed.gov/subscriptions](https://ed.gov/subscriptions).



## Federal Student Loan Forgiveness

- If you work in the public or non-profit sector, you may qualify for federal student loan forgiveness.
- Because of a COVID-emergency program from the U.S. Department of Education, many federal student loans are being forgiven for government or nonprofit workers. This is an important and urgent opportunity—the program expires October 31, 2022.
- 250,000 New Yorkers working in government or nonprofits are now eligible, and 5,000 New Yorkers have already been forgiven an average of \$63,935.
- To see if you qualify, use the Help Tool at the US Department of Education website: [StudentAid.gov/PSLF](https://StudentAid.gov/PSLF).
- The [PSLF.nyc](https://PSLF.nyc) Campaign has more resources to help New Yorkers access the program, including twice weekly webinars for borrowers and employers.

## College access resources for undocumented students

- Informed Immigrant's new guide provides resources and information for undocumented high school and college students, both with and without DACA, to help them make informed decisions about their futures and get the tools they need to advocate for themselves:  
[informedimmigrant.com/guides/students](https://informedimmigrant.com/guides/students)
- Best Colleges recently published a college guide for DACA and undocumented students based on the most recent updates to DACA:  
[bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students/college-guide](https://bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students/college-guide)

## Financial aid for part-time students

- Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is available for students attending a SUNY, CUNY, or nonprofit college on a part-time basis.
  - To be eligible, you must have been a first-time freshman in the 2006-07 academic year or later, earned 12 credits or more in each of two consecutive semesters, and maintain a "C" average.
  - For more information, visit [hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/nys-tap/part-time-tap](https://hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/nys-tap/part-time-tap)
- Part-time TAP is not the same as Aid for Part-time Study.
  - The Aid for Part-time Study (APTS) program provides grant assistance for eligible part-time students enrolled in approved undergraduate studies.
  - For more information, visit [hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/aid-for-part-time-study](https://hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/aid-for-part-time-study)

## College Financial Aid and NYS DREAM Act

- Need money for college? Your first step is to fill out the federal government's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Now is the time to get started: some federal and state money is first-come, first-served. Apply at [studentaid.gov/FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/FAFSA).
- Get help at [UnderstandingFAFSA.org](https://UnderstandingFAFSA.org), a new website answering the most frequent questions of New York City high school students and families. The free FAFSA Guide for High School Students is available in ten languages.
- The Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act gives undocumented and other students access to NYS-administered grants and scholarships that support their higher education costs.
  - For more information or to apply, visit [hesc.ny.gov/dream](https://hesc.ny.gov/dream)





# Democracy

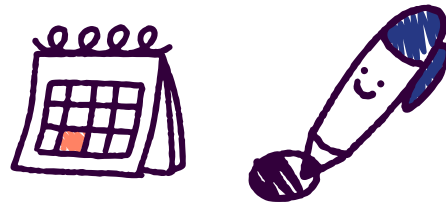
**To learn more about election systems and how they work, watch our videos in:**

- **English:** [youtu.be/-F-xuJ04NpI](https://youtu.be/-F-xuJ04NpI)
- **Spanish:** [youtu.be/kkaEnGIk-pY](https://youtu.be/kkaEnGIk-pY)

## **General Election: November 8, 2022**

- The deadline to register to vote in this General Election is October 14, 2022.
  - Unsure if you are registered to vote? Check your voter registration status at [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)
- You can request an absentee ballot (vote by mail) if you are unable to vote in person, or have health or safety concerns.
  - Online, by mail, phone, or fax: your request must be received by October 24.
    - Request a ballot online at [absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov](https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov)
  - In-person: you can go to your county's Board of Elections office to request a ballot by November 7.
    - Find your county's Board of Elections at [www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html](https://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html)
  - Find out more about absentee voting at [www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html](https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html)
  - Be sure to postmark or deliver your completed ballot by November 8.
- You can vote in-person early from October 29 to November 6, or on Election Day, November 8.
  - Find your poll site at [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)
  - NYC residents: [findmypollsite.vote.nyc](https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc)
- Offices on the ballot include:
  - Congress: U.S. Senate, U.S. House
  - NYS: Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Senate, State Assembly, State Supreme Court
  - Local: some county and judicial offices
    - Voters in the city of Buffalo will be electing school board members this general election

- Ballot proposals
  - Voters statewide will decide on one proposal that would allow for state bonds to be sold to fund environmental projects.
    - The full text is available at [www.elections.ny.gov/2022BallotProposal.html](https://www.elections.ny.gov/2022BallotProposal.html).
- New York City voters will be able to vote on three proposals from the NYC Racial Justice Commission, to: add a statement of values to the NYC Charter, create an Office of Racial Equity, and measure the true cost of living. Remember to flip over your ballots to vote on these ballot questions.
  - You can read the proposals at [racialjustice.cityofnewyork.us/ballot](https://racialjustice.cityofnewyork.us/ballot) and find more information at [nycvotes.org/proposals](https://nycvotes.org/proposals).



## **Your rights at the polls**

- Voters may visit ANY of the Early Voting Centers in the county where they reside, except in New York City, where voters are assigned by address to ONE early voting site.
- If you believe you are voter eligible and have registered in time to vote, but your name could not be found on the voter rolls, you may request a provisional or affidavit ballot.
- You do not have to present ID at the polls even if you are a first time voter.
- You may still vote if you are experiencing homelessness.
- In some circumstances, you may still be eligible to vote if you have been convicted of a felony.
- For more eligibility requirements: [nycvotes.org/how-to-vote/voting-rights](https://nycvotes.org/how-to-vote/voting-rights)
- Some employees in New York State are eligible to receive up to two hours of paid time off in order to vote. Check to see if you qualify: [www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/elections/TimeOffToVoteFAQ.pdf](https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/elections/TimeOffToVoteFAQ.pdf)

# Economy

## New York State Seed Funding Grant Program

- The New York State Seed Funding Grant Program provides assistance to early-stage small businesses to succeed in a recovering New York State economy.
- Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.
- Eligibility:
  - Be a currently viable micro-business, small business, or for-profit arts and cultural organization, including independent arts contractors.
  - Started business on September 1, 2018 or later and has been operational for at least six months before an application is submitted
  - Only one grant per business EIN or SSN allowed
  - Did not qualify for business assistance under the New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program.
- For more information on eligibility, documentation requirements, and eligible costs, and to apply, visit [nyseedgrant.com](https://nyseedgrant.com). Application guides are available in multiple languages.

## Farmworker overtime threshold to be lowered

- On September 30, 2022, New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Commissioner Roberta Reardon announced that the state's farmworker overtime threshold will be lowered from 60 to 40 hours per week.
- This is a historic win for New York State's farmworkers, some of the only hourly workers in the state that are denied overtime at 40 hours.
- The change will be phased in over 10 years, starting January 1, 2024 through January 1, 2032.
- Further details and updates on implementation can be found at [dol.ny.gov/farm-laborers-wage-board](https://dol.ny.gov/farm-laborers-wage-board).

## NYC Taxi Medallion Debt Relief Program

- New York City established a \$65 million Medallion Relief Program (MRP) to help Medallion Owners restructure loans, reduce principal on those loans, and lower monthly payments.
- Eligibility:
  - Medallion loan holders from any lender for up to 5 medallions
  - Must have owned a medallion before March 2021
- Each loan will be guaranteed by the City in case of default, replacing the personal guarantee, giving drivers protection against losing their homes and savings.
- For more information and multilingual resources about the program, visit [www1.nyc.gov/site/tlc/about/taxi-medallion-owner-relief-program.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/tlc/about/taxi-medallion-owner-relief-program.page).
- Drivers who are interested in applying for debt relief should schedule a free legal services appointment with TLC's Owner/Driver Resource Center at [portal.driverresourcecenter.tlc.nyc.gov](https://portal.driverresourcecenter.tlc.nyc.gov) or by emailing [driversupport@tlc.nyc.gov](mailto:driversupport@tlc.nyc.gov).
  - You will need your TLC License Number, ZIP code, and the last five digits of your social security number or EIN to schedule an appointment.
- Drivers can also seek support from the New York Taxi Worker Alliance. Call [718-706-9892](tel:718-706-9892) or visit [nytwa.org](https://nytwa.org) for more information.



## NYC private-sector vaccination requirement ending

- Beginning November 1, 2022, New York City will no longer mandate that private employers require their workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- NYC businesses are encouraged to promote vaccines, boosters, and put in place their own policies.

# Know Your Rights

**Community members and allies should be aware of their rights whenever dealing with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Border Patrol, or other law enforcement.**

**If you are stopped by immigration or other law enforcement, remember:**

- Stay calm. Do not run. Do not resist or obstruct the officer.
- Do not lie or provide false documents.
- You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used against you.
- If an agent asks if they can search you or your belongings, you have the right to say no.
  - However, you may not physically resist.
  - Police may pat down your clothing if they suspect a weapon.
- If you are not a US citizen and an immigration agent requests your immigration papers, you must show them if you have them with you.
- If you are stopped, detained, or harassed by law enforcement, try to get the agent(s)' name, number, and any other identifying information.
- You or someone else in the community can take video or audio recordings of interactions with law enforcement. You can also write down what happened after they leave.
- It is illegal for law enforcement officers to perform any stops, searches, detentions, or deportations based on your race, national origin, religion, sex, or ethnicity.

**You can report interactions with federal agents to the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP).**

**IDP also provides legal information and referrals to immigrants who have been arrested, ticketed, or convicted of a crime. Call 212-725-6422 or email info@immdefense.org.**



## **Private Spaces**

- Your home and other “private spaces” (such as employee-only areas of a workplace) carry special protections that public spaces do not. Officers can only enter private spaces if they have your consent or they show you a judicial warrant (signed by a judge).

## **Protected Areas**

- On October 27, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security issued a new policy that restricts ICE and CBP enforcement actions in or near “protected areas.”
- Examples of protected areas include, but are not limited to: schools and other educational institutions or events, healthcare facilities, places of worship, places where children gather, social services locations, disaster or emergency response centers, ceremonies such as weddings and funerals, and public demonstrations such as parades and rallies.
- In New York State, federal immigration agents cannot arrest people at, or going to or leaving from, state, city, and municipal courthouses, without a judicial warrant.

## **Be aware of immigration fraud**

- Immigration law is complicated. Be careful when discussing your situation with any person or business.
- You should only speak to a lawyer or Department of Justice (DOJ) accredited representative for legal advice on your situation.
- Never get immigration help from a “notario,” travel agent, tax preparer, forms preparer, or notary. In the US, a “notario” is NOT a lawyer!

**If you need help with your case or have general immigration questions, call the Office for New Americans hotline at 1-800-566-7636.**

# Hate Crimes

**In recent months, there have been increased reports of hate crimes against members of the immigrant community.**

## **What is a hate crime?**

- A hate crime is an offense that is motivated by bias.
- A person commits a hate crime when one of a specified set of crimes is committed targeting a victim because of a perception or belief about their race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation, or when such an act is committed as a result of that type of perception or belief.
- Governor Cuomo created the Hate Crimes Task Force to fight the increase in reports of bias motivated threats, harassment and violence throughout New York State.
- When hate crimes are reported, all information regarding your experience, identity, and others remains confidential.

**If you see something or are a victim of a hate crime, report it to the police and call the NYS Division of Human Rights. Call 1-888-392-3644 or Text “HATE” to 81336.**

**If you or someone you know has been a victim of a crime, the NYS Office of Victim Services may be able to help with medical bills and counseling expenses, burial and funeral costs, lost wages, and other types of assistance. Call 1-800-247-8035 or visit ovs.ny.gov.**

## **For residents of NYC and surrounding counties**

In NYC:

- Public Advocate
  - 212-669-7250
- Manhattan District Attorney
  - 212-335-3100
  - manhattanda.org/victim-resources/hate-crimes
- Brooklyn District Attorney
  - 718-250-4949
  - brooklynda.org/hate-crimes-bureau
- Queens District Attorney
  - 718-286-6000
- NYC Commission on Human Rights
  - 718-722-3131
  - nyc.gov/cchr
- Safe Horizon Victim Assistance
  - 1-866-689-4357

Outside NYC:

- Nassau County District Attorney
  - 526-571-3505
  - nassauda.org
- Nassau County District Attorney, Office of Immigrant Affairs
  - 516-571-7756
- Nassau County Executive Laura Curran
  - 516-571-3131
- Suffolk County District Attorney
  - 631-853-4161
  - suffolkcountyny.gov/da
- Suffolk County Police Department, Hate Crimes Unit
  - 631-852-6323
- Suffolk County, Department of Minority Affairs
  - 631-853-4738
- Westchester County, Human Rights Commission
  - 914-995-7710
  - humanrights.westchestergov.com



# Resources at-a-glance



## NYS Office for New Americans

- If you or someone you know is in need of free legal assistance, call the hotline at [1-800-566-7636](tel:1-800-566-7636). All call information is confidential. Assistance is available in 200+ languages.

## NYS Department of Health

- For the latest information on the COVID-19 pandemic, call the hotline at [1-888-364-3065](tel:1-888-364-3065) or visit [ny.gov/coronavirus](https://ny.gov/coronavirus).
- Get the facts on the COVID-19 vaccine in New York at [ny.gov/vaccine](https://ny.gov/vaccine).
- Apply for health coverage: call [1-855-355-5777](tel:1-855-355-5777) or visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov).

## NYS Office of Mental Health

- For questions about mental health services or to find a mental health service provider, call [1-800-597-8481](tel:1-800-597-8481) or visit [omh.ny.gov](https://omh.ny.gov).
- If you are experiencing anxiety due to the coronavirus emergency, call [1-844-863-9314](tel:1-844-863-9314).
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: If your life or someone else's is in imminent danger, call [911](tel:911). If you are in crisis and need immediate help, call [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) or Text "GOT5" to [741-741](tel:741-741).
- Domestic Violence: If you or someone else is in a relationship is being controlled by another individual through verbal, physical, or sexual abuse, or other tactics, call the NYS Domestic Violence Hotline at [1-800-942-6906](tel:1-800-942-6906).

## NYS Department of Labor

- The Department of Labor is committed to protecting and promoting workers' safety and health, wages, and working conditions.
- For information about wage and hour laws, workplace health and safety, or to file a complaint, call [1-888-469-7365](tel:1-888-469-7365) or visit [dol.ny.gov/safety-and-health](https://dol.ny.gov/safety-and-health)
- For help with Unemployment Insurance, call [1-888-209-8124](tel:1-888-209-8124) or visit [dol.ny.gov/unemployment/unemployment-insurance-assistance](https://dol.ny.gov/unemployment/unemployment-insurance-assistance).

## NYS Division of Human Rights

- The Human Rights Law in New York prohibits discrimination in areas like employment, housing, credit, education, and places of public accommodations, based on age, race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, disability, military status, and other classes.
- If you feel you have been discriminated against, file a complaint at [1-888-392-3644](tel:1-888-392-3644) or visit [dhr.ny.gov](https://dhr.ny.gov).

## New York City COVID-19 resources

- NYC residents looking for service providers or other resources can find directories below:
  - Education: [nyc.org/covid-education-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-education-resources)
  - Employment: [nyc.org/covid-employment-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-employment-resources)
  - Financial: [nyc.org/covid-financial-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-financial-resources)
  - Food: [nyc.org/covid-food-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-food-resources)
  - Healthcare: [nyc.org/covid-healthcare-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-healthcare-resources)
  - Small business: [nyc.org/covid-small-business-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-small-business-resources)



To view this document online or in other languages, visit [nyic.org/KYR](https://nyic.org/KYR) or scan this code:



If you have questions or comments about this toolkit or the information in it, please contact:

Jennifer Diaz – [jdiaz@nyic.org](mailto:jdiaz@nyic.org) (NYC)

Bryan Lee – [blee@nyic.org](mailto:blee@nyic.org) (Upstate NY)

If you would like to schedule a free Know Your Rights workshop with your community group, please contact: [kyr@nyic.org](mailto:kyr@nyic.org).

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization that represents over 200 immigrant and refugee rights groups throughout New York.

We envision a New York State that is stronger because all people are welcome, treated fairly, and given the chance to pursue their dreams. Our mission is to unite immigrants, members, and allies so all New Yorkers can thrive.



**New York Immigration Coalition**

131 W 33rd St, Ste 610

New York, NY 10001

212 627 2227

[nyic.org](https://nyic.org)