

# New York State Community Toolkit

A resource guide for immigrant New Yorkers  
January/February 2023



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: 02.16.2023

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# Health



## Health insurance

- Important changes are coming soon for New Yorkers enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan.
  - Since early 2020, people enrolled in these programs have had their coverage extended automatically due to federal government policies relating to COVID-19.
  - However, new federal rules will require NY State to resume eligibility reviews and renewals for people enrolled in these programs. This means you may need to take action to renew your health insurance or the insurance of your family members.
  - Beginning in spring 2023, renewal notices will be sent to enrollees in these programs based on their enrollment end dates. Renewal notices will include the deadline to take action to renew their insurance or risk having a gap in coverage. Deadlines will be based on their enrollment end dates and will range from June 30, 2023, through May 31, 2024.
  - Sign up for text alerts from NY State of Health so you don't miss important health insurance updates, including when it's time to renew:
    - Text START to [1-866-988-0327](tel:1-866-988-0327) (for Spanish, text INCIAR)
  - For more information, visit [info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/COVID-19-Changes](https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/COVID-19-Changes)

- New Yorkers can get public and commercial health insurance through NY State of Health. The open enrollment period for 2023 coverage began on November 16, 2022.
  - Enroll by the 15th of the month to get coverage starting the 1st of the following month. For example: you must enroll by December 15, 2022 for coverage starting on January 1, 2023.
- How to enroll
  - Get free enrollment assistance from a Navigator, in person or by phone. Find a Navigator at [info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/ipanavigatorsitelocations](https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/ipanavigatorsitelocations).
  - Call the NY State of Health Customer Service Center at [1-855-355-5777](tel:1-855-355-5777).
  - Online at [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov). A chat feature is available on the website during customer service center hours to help you complete your application.
  - New York City residents: call [311](tel:311), text "CoveredNYC" to [877-877](tel:877-877), or visit [on.nyc.gov/healthinsurance](https://on.nyc.gov/healthinsurance) for help and additional resources.
- Find multilingual information about health coverage at [info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/InformationalMaterials](https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/InformationalMaterials)

## 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.

## Get Vaccinated Today

- 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](tel:438829), or call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233) (TTY 888-720-7489) to find appointments near you.

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

## **New process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans**

- DHS has announced a new process that allows nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, and their immediate family members, to request to come to the U.S.
- Qualified individuals who are outside the U.S. and lack entry documents can now be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for advance authorization to travel, and a temporary period of parole for up to 2 years for humanitarian reasons.
- To participate in this process, individuals must have a supporter in the U.S. who agrees to provide them with financial support. They must also pass security and background checks, and meet other eligibility criteria.
- For more information about this program, visit [uscis.gov/CHNV](https://uscis.gov/CHNV).

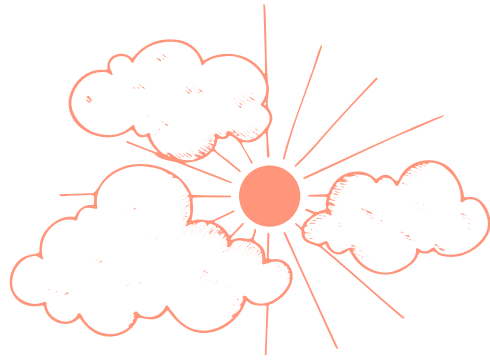
## **Online filing for asylum seekers**

- On November 9, 2022, USCIS announced that certain affirmative asylum applicants may now file an online Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal.
- On January 23, 2023, USCIS announced that certain affirmative asylum applicants may now file an online Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization.
- Online filing allows applicants to submit forms electronically, check the status of their application online, and receive online notices from USCIS. You may file for affirmative asylum if you are physically present in the U.S.
- To apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) based on your pending asylum application under the (c)(8) eligibility category, you may file Form I-765 150 days after you file your asylum application.

## **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/formslist.htm](https://justice.gov/eoir/formslist.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).





## 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, Ethiopia, 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).
- On December 30, 2022, DHS announced the extension and redesignation of Yemen for TPS for 18 months, from March 4, 2023, through September 3, 2024.
- On January 12, 2023, DHS announced the extension and redesignation of Somalia for TPS for 18 months, from March 18, 2023, through September 17, 2024.

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



## Employment authorization for Afghan and Ukrainian parolees

- Starting November 21, 2022, certain Ukrainian and Afghan parolees, and their qualifying family members, will be authorized to work upon arrival. This means that they do not need to wait for USCIS to approve their Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, before they can work in the U.S.
- Qualified parolees will only need to show Form I-94 to their employer to verify their employment eligibility. After 90 days, they will need to show their employer an EAD (work permit), but the Form I-765 filing fee will be waived.
- For more details, visit [uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/certain-afghan-and-ukrainian-parolees-are-employment-authorized-incident-to-parole](https://uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/certain-afghan-and-ukrainian-parolees-are-employment-authorized-incident-to-parole).

## 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

- As of October 1, 2022, the Biden administration stopped using humanitarian parole to admit Afghans into the U.S., and will instead focus on resettling Afghan evacuees who qualify for immigration programs that provide permanent legal status.
- On November 22, 2022, USCIS announced it is extending and expanding filing fee exemptions and expedited application processing for certain Afghan nationals through September 30, 2023.
- 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)

# Education

## Promise NYC child care assistance

- In January 2023, New York City launched Promise NYC, a new program that will provide child care subsidies for low-income families with undocumented or non-citizen children, who were previously ineligible because of their immigration status.
- The program will support at least 600 children from January to June 2023.
  - Families may be eligible if they:
  - Are not eligible for other forms of child care subsidies
  - Have a child ages 0-13
  - Have a household income below 300% of the federal poverty level
- Families are encouraged to apply as soon as possible with the following designated community organizations in their borough:
  - Bronx and Manhattan: Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation ([212-822-8300](https://212-822-8300), [nmic.org/promisenyc](https://nmic.org/promisenyc))
  - Brooklyn: Center for Family Life ([718-438-9500](https://718-438-9500), [centerforfamilylife.org](https://centerforfamilylife.org))
  - Staten Island: La Colmena ([718-442-7700](https://718-442-7700), [lacolmenanyc.org](https://lacolmenanyc.org))
  - Queens: Chinese-American Planning Council ([718-358-8899](https://718-358-8899), [cpc-nyc.org](https://cpc-nyc.org))



## 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)

## 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 website that provides guides and resources for students and families seeking money for college.
  - Their free FAFSA How-To Guide for High School Students is available in ten languages.
  - The website has updated how-to pages for undocumented students and immigrant families.
- 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-xuJO4NpI](https://youtu.be/-F-xuJO4NpI)
- **Spanish:** [youtu.be/kkaEnGIk-pY](https://youtu.be/kkaEnGIk-pY)

## Primary Election: June 27, 2023

- The last day to register to vote in this primary election, or to change your address, is June 17, 2023.
- To participate in a primary election in New York State, you must be registered to a party holding an election.
  - If you are currently unaffiliated with a party and would like to enroll in one, or if you would like to change your party affiliation, you must fill out a new voter registration form to reflect your changes.
  - The last day to change your party enrollment for the June 2023 primary election is February 14, 2023.
- To review your voter registration and party affiliation, visit [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov).
  - If you have questions about your registration status, contact your county Board of Elections: [www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html](https://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html)
  - NYC residents: visit [vote.nyc](https://vote.nyc)



## Register to vote

- You can register to vote if you are aged 16+, a US Citizen and a resident of NY for at least 30 days before the election.
  - If you are age 16 or 17, you can pre-register to vote but cannot vote until age 18.
  - You cannot register to vote if you are in prison for a felony conviction or are judged mentally incapable by a court.
- NYS Board of Elections: [elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html](https://elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html)
- NYC Board of Elections: [vote.nyc/page/register-vote](https://vote.nyc/page/register-vote)
- Register online (if you have a NYS Driver License, Permit or Non-Driver ID): [voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter](https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter)
- Request a paper registration form by phone (available in English or Spanish): 1-800-FOR-VOTE (1-800-367-8683)
- Unsure if you are registered to vote? Check your voter registration status at [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)

## Intro 1867 – Our City Our Vote (New York City)

- In June 2022, a Richmond County State Supreme Court Judge struck down Local Law 11-2022, otherwise known as the Our City Our Vote Law, which would have enfranchised close to 1 million New York City residents with municipal voting rights in 2023.
- The City has filed an appeal of the decision, which means the law will still be under litigation, and implementation of the law remains paused.

# Economy <sup>1/2</sup>



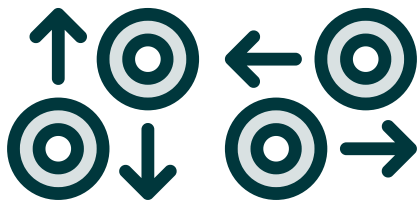
## Filing your taxes in 2023

- The 2023 tax season has begun! The IRS is accepting and processing 2022 tax year returns, and the deadline to file is Tuesday, April 18, 2023.
- Important changes for tax year 2022:
  - Some tax credits that were expanded in 2021 will return to 2019 levels. This means that affected taxpayers will likely receive a smaller refund compared with the previous tax year. Changes include amounts for the Child Tax Credit (CTC), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child and Dependent Care Credit.
    - Those who got \$3,600 per dependent in 2021 for the CTC will, if eligible, get \$2,000 for the 2022 tax year.
    - For the EITC, eligible taxpayers with no children who received roughly \$1,500 in 2021 will now get a maximum of \$560 in 2022.
    - The Child and Dependent Care Credit returns to a maximum of \$2,100 in 2022 instead of \$8,000 in 2021.
  - Unlike 2020 and 2021, there were no new stimulus payments for 2022 so taxpayers should not expect to get an additional payment.
  - For more information on changes that may affect your tax return, visit [irs.gov/newsroom/important-tax-alerts-and-news](https://irs.gov/newsroom/important-tax-alerts-and-news)
- Need help filing your taxes?
  - You can get free tax preparation assistance by IRS-certified volunteers from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), and Tax-Aide programs.
    - These services are available if your income is \$60,000 or less, you are 60 years old or older, or you have a disability or speak limited English.
    - For more information and to find a location near you, visit [irs.gov/VITA](https://irs.gov/VITA)
  - You can get connected to IRS-certified volunteers virtually to have your return prepared through [GetYourRefund.org](https://GetYourRefund.org)
    - This service is free if your income is \$66,000 or less, and is a good option if you are comfortable using technology.
  - You can prepare and file your own return through IRS Free File at [irs.gov/freefile](https://irs.gov/freefile)
    - If your income is \$73,000 or less, you can access guided return preparation assistance.
- Filing taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
  - ITINs are available to people who are required to have a U.S. taxpayer identification number but who do not have, and are not eligible for, a Social Security number (SSN). Having an ITIN allows you to file taxes and claim tax credits that you are eligible for.
  - To learn more about how to apply, which tax credits you could be eligible for, and other benefits to getting an ITIN, visit [taxoutreach.org/tax-filing/itin](https://taxoutreach.org/tax-filing/itin)
- Watch out for scams! The IRS will never text, email, or contact you on social media asking for your personal or financial information.
  - Learn about recent tax scams and how to recognize and report one at [irs.gov/alerts](https://irs.gov/alerts)

# Economy <sup>2/2</sup>

## Minimum wage increases

- Effective October 1, 2022, the minimum wage for home care aides has been increased to \$17.00 per hour in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester, and \$15.20 per hour for the remainder of New York State.
- Starting December 31, 2022, the general minimum wage for workers outside New York City, Long Island, and Westchester will increase to \$14.20 per hour.
- For an overview of NYS Minimum Wage regulations, visit [dol.ny.gov/minimum-wage-0](https://dol.ny.gov/minimum-wage-0)



## COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program

- The \$250 million COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program provides financial assistance to NYS small businesses that were burdened with pandemic-related operational costs, from structural changes and building upgrades to health-related supplies and materials.
- The program is open to small businesses operating in NYS with 100 employees or less and gross receipts of less than \$2.5 million. The business must have incurred at least \$2,000 of qualifying expenses between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.
- Small businesses can receive a tax credit of 50% of qualifying expenses up to a maximum of \$25,000 in tax credits based on qualifying expenses of \$50,000.
- For more information and to apply, visit [esd.ny.gov/covid-19-capital-costs-tax-credit](https://esd.ny.gov/covid-19-capital-costs-tax-credit)

## 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.

## NYC Small Business Opportunity Fund

- The NYC Small Business Opportunity Fund provides flexible, low fixed-interest-rate capital and free business support services to small business owners and emerging entrepreneurs in New York City's five boroughs.
  - No minimum credit score required
  - Loans up to \$250,000 at 4% fixed interest rate
  - Free business support from trusted, local, mission-driven lenders
  - Easy to apply
  - No application fees
  - Open to businesses at all stages – from startups to growing to rebuilding
- For more information and to apply, visit [sbsopportunityfund.nyc](https://sbsopportunityfund.nyc)

# 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)