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: 10.31.2023

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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 (for Spanish, text INCIAR)
    - For more information, visit info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/COVID-19-Changes
  - Enrollment in NY State of Health will remain open through May 2024 so anyone who loses their Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or Essential Plan coverage during the redetermination process will be able to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan, if they qualify.
- How to enroll
  - Get free enrollment assistance from a Navigator, in person or by phone. Find a Navigator at info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/ipanavigatorsitelocations.
  - Online at 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, text “CoveredNYC” to 877-877, or visit on.nyc.gov/healthinsurance for help and additional resources.
  - Find multilingual information about health coverage at info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/InformationalMaterials

Medicaid coverage for undocumented immigrants age 65+ in New York State
- Starting January 1, 2024, undocumented immigrants living in New York State who are age 65 and older, and meet certain income requirements, will be eligible for full Medicaid (as opposed to only emergency Medicaid).
- The new coverage is through Medicaid Managed Care plans. Health plan enrollment is necessary in order for coverage to begin.
- Medicaid health plan’s benefit package will cover a wide range of services, including doctor’s visits, inpatient hospital care, lab tests, etc., not just emergency care.
- Current emergency Medicaid recipients who are age 65 or older should receive a notice in December 2023 alerting them to the change.
- Undocumented immigrants age 65 or older can also choose to continue to receive only emergency Medicaid.
- More information will be provided as it becomes available.
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Family Reunification Parole process for Ecuador
- On October 18, 2023, DHS announced a new family reunification parole process for nationals of Ecuador. The new process is for certain nationals of Ecuador, whose family members are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, who have received approval to join their family in the U.S.
- The Family Reunification Parole process allows for parole only on a case-by-case and temporary basis.
- Individuals will generally be considered for parole for up to 3 years and will be eligible to request employment authorization while they wait for their immigrant visa to become available. When their immigrant visa becomes available, they may apply to become a lawful permanent resident.

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.

Information for recent arrivals and asylum seekers
- 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 (English)
  - apoyodeasilo.org/preguntas-frecuentes-ice-isap (Spanish)
- If you move, it is important to update your address with the U.S. government. That way, you will make sure to receive important documents in the mail like hearing or interview notices. You need to update your address separately with every immigration agency you interact with.
- For more information about moving and updating your address, visit:
  - help.asylumadvocacy.org/faqs-moving-traveling (English)
  - apoyodeasilo.org/preguntas-frecuentes-mudanza-viajes (Spanish)
- Effective May 31, 2023, USCIS changed the filing location for certain affirmative asylum applications submitted by mail. Online filing is available and encouraged for applicants who are not in immigration court proceedings and who do not have to submit their application to the Asylum Vetting Center.
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- On September 13, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas ruled against DACA, holding that the program was unlawful.
- 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.
  - Online filing is available for those who currently have DACA or whose DACA expired less than a year ago.
  - For more information about DACA and how to renew your DACA status, visit uscis.gov/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.
- All TPS applicants can now file Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, online at uscis.gov/I-821.
- Between July and October 2023 DHS has extended and redesignated TPS for Afghanistan, Cameroon, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela.
Changes in immigration bond payment process
- On April 20, 2023, ICE announced the launch of Cash Electronic Bonds Online (CeBONDS), which allows obligors to make a bond payment to ICE online instead of at a local ICE office.
- To make a bond payment, obligors must create an account on ICE’s CeBONDS web page, verify their identity and immigration status, and electronically complete the Obligor Contract, Form I-352. Only U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, certain non-profit organizations, and law firms can pay bonds using CeBONDS.
- ICE has stated that it will continue to work with obligors on a case-by-case basis who want to pay bonds in person at an ICE office. In these instances, contact the nearest ICE field office for guidance.
- For more information, visit ice.gov/bonds.

Immigration Detention visitation guidelines
- On May 11, 2023, ICE released its new “Post Pandemic” Guidelines and Protocols, which fully reinstates visitation across all detention facilities.
- Facilities with a “green” status have no restrictions, while facilities with a “red” status require visitors to wear a face mask and may limit the number of visits per individual in detention.
- Virtual visitation will be used as an additional method of visitation, and does not replace in-person visitation.
- To find out the status of a detention facility, check the “Facility Status Dashboard” at ice.gov/coronavirus.

Resources for Afghan refugees and parolees
- On June 8, 2023, DHS announced a new process that will enable Afghan nationals to renew their parole and continue to live and work in the U.S.
  - Afghan nationals who are currently parolees may now apply for a renewal of their parole and employment authorization through a new no-fee application process, available online and on paper, that uses Form I-131, Application for Travel Document.
  - DHS will also consider a two-year extension of parole for Afghan parolees who apply for asylum or adjustment of status to a lawful permanent resident. If an extension is approved, the applicant’s original employment authorization will be extended and sent to their last address of record with USCIS.
  - Afghan nationals are encouraged to pursue a permanent status in the U.S. that they may be eligible for, including through the Special Immigrant and asylum processes.
- For more information, visit uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals/re-parole-process-for-certain-afghans.
- Federal Government resources:
  - USCIS public guidance for Afghans: uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghans
  - Afghan Assistance Resources across the federal government compiled by the Office of Refugee Resettlement: acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources
Empire State child credit expansion

- The Empire State child credit, New York State’s supplement to the federal Child Tax Credit, was expanded this year to include children under age 4 for the first time.
- If you have a child dependent under the age of 18 and file taxes, you are eligible to receive this refundable tax credit in the next filing season.
- Notably, the Empire State child credit includes parents who file their taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
  - 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.
    - Please note that applying and getting approval for an ITIN can take up to a few months, so you should apply early instead of waiting until tax season.
    - To learn more about how to apply, which additional tax credits you could be eligible for, and other benefits to getting an ITIN, visit taxoutreach.org/tax-filing/itin.
  - For more information about the Empire State child credit, visit tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/empire_state_child_credit.htm.

Public School System (3K-12)

- New York State guarantees every child, regardless of immigration status, the right to a free and quality education, starting in kindergarten and until they either receive a high school diploma, or age out at the end of the year in which the student turns 21.
- Families are guaranteed the right to translation and interpretation of all documents containing important information about a child’s education in a timely manner.
- Students may apply and enroll in a NYS public school at any time throughout the year, though options may be limited outside the traditional enrollment period.
- Public schools may not ask about immigration status and will not share student information for any regular day school program. Some early childhood programs with extended hours may have immigration or income-based eligibility requirements.
- New York City Public Schools information
  - For information on how to request translation and interpretation services in a NYC Public School, visit schools.nyc.gov/hello or call 718-935-2013.
  - For information on the admissions process, download the “2023 NYC Public Schools Admissions Guide,” available in 9 languages, at schools.nyc.gov/admissions.
  - To find and apply to a NYC Public School, visit myschools.nyc, call 311, or visit a Family Welcome Center for assistance. Family Welcome Center locations can be found at schools.nyc.gov/fwc.
  - Enrollment periods vary depending on different grade levels. To see the Fall 2024 Admissions Timeline, visit schools.nyc.gov/enroll.
**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 has been renewed and will support around 600 children from July 2023 to June 2024.
  - 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, nmic.org/promisenyc)
  - Brooklyn: Center for Family Life (718-438-9500, centerforfamilylife.org)
  - Staten Island: La Colmena (718-442-7700, lacolmenanyc.org)
  - Queens: Chinese-American Planning Council (718-358-8899, cpc-nyc.org)

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**Child Care Assistance Program**

- The New York State budget this year included an expansion of child care assistance to those making 85% of the state median income. An estimated 100,000 additional families will now be eligible to participate in the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Changes to the program include the following:
  - Families making up to 85% of the state median income will now be eligible.
    - $63,416 for a family of 2
    - $78,337 for a family of 3
    - $93,259 for a family of 4
    - $108,180 for a family of 5
    - $123,101 for a family of 6
  - Costs will be limited to 1% of the total family income above the poverty line for participating families.
  - The number of allowable annual absences will increase from 24 to 80.
- For more information and to see if you may be able to get child care at low or no cost, visit oofs.ny.gov/ccap.

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**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.
- Get help at 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
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/kkaEnGIIk-pY](https://youtu.be/kkaEnGIIk-pY)

**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)

**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: [www.nycvotes.org/how-to-vote/voting-rights](https://www.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)
New York State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)

- More than $500 million in federal funding is now available to support the resurgence of small businesses across New York State through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), a program through the American Rescue Plan Act.
- SSBCI provides funds to support programs for small businesses, including socially and economically disadvantaged individual (SEDI) owned businesses and very small businesses (VSB), to recover from the economic effects of COVID-19 and allow them the opportunity to succeed in the post-pandemic economy.
- To find out which SSBCI programs can help you, and learn more about how to apply for them, visit esd.ny.gov/ssbci.

New York State disaster and flood recovery resources

- If you need help after a natural disaster or flood, the NYS Department of Financial Services may be able to help.
  - Call the DFS Disaster Hotline at 800-339-1759, or visit dfs.ny.gov/recovery for information and resources.
- Undocumented New Yorkers who have been impacted by a disaster can also call the Office for New Americans (ONA) Hotline at 800-566-7636 between 9:00am and 8:00pm, Monday through Friday. Hotline assistance is available in over 200 languages.

New minimum pay rate for NYC food delivery workers

- A new minimum pay rate for NYC’s app-based food delivery workers ($17.96 an hour, not including tips) was supposed to take effect on July 12, 2023.
- However, due to lawsuits filed by food delivery companies DoorDash, Grubhub, and Uber, the minimum pay rate will not take effect until further notice.
- For more updates, check nyc.gov/DeliveryApps.
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
  - brooklynnd.org/hate-crimes-bureau
- Queens District Attorney
  - 718-286-6000
- NYC Commission on Human Rights
  - 718-722-3131
  - nyc.gov/cchr
- Safe Horizons Victim Assistance
  - 1-866-689-4357

Outside NYC:
- Nassau County District Attorney
  - 516-571-3505
  - 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. 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 or visit ny.gov/coronavirus.
- Get the facts on the COVID-19 vaccine in New York at ny.gov/vaccine.
- Apply for health coverage: call 1-855-355-5777 or visit 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 or visit omh.ny.gov.
- If you are experiencing anxiety due to the coronavirus emergency, call 1-844-863-9314.
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: If your life or someone else’s is in imminent danger, call 911. If you are in crisis and need immediate help, call 1-800-273-8255 or Text “GOT5” to 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.

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 or visit dol.ny.gov/safety-and-health.
- For help with Unemployment Insurance, call 1-888-209-8124 or visit 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 or visit dhr.ny.gov.

New York City COVID-19 resources
- NYC residents looking for service providers or other resources can find directories below:
  - Education: nyic.org/covid-education-resources
  - Employment: nyic.org/covid-employment-resources
  - Financial: nyic.org/covid-financial-resources
  - Food: nyic.org/covid-food-resources
  - Healthcare: nyic.org/covid-healthcare-resources
  - Small business: nyic.org/covid-small-business-resources
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.

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