

# NYIC NYC 2024 Priorities



## Ensuring Economic Power & Good Jobs

*Immigrant communities have long suffered from a lack of access to many of the privileges and opportunities afforded to other communities. We must address the core inequities in the workplace, create policies and opportunities for immigrants to build economic power, and ensure immigrants have access to high quality jobs.*

### Recommendations:

**Renew \$4M for Adult Literacy Funding** to address the immense, inequitable gap in digital literacy, systems navigation skills and access to information. Less than 4% of immigrant parents have access to adult literacy programs that help them navigate family-stabilizing systems like healthcare and education.

**Renew and expand the Adult Literacy Pilot Program from \$2.5M to \$5M** to address growing needs for additional services, fully fund teacher salaries, and increase program sustainability.

**Baseline \$21.8 million for DYCD Adult Literacy programs to restore cuts and maintain service levels.**

**Renew and expand the Promise NYC program to \$25M** to provide subsidized child care for children without citizenship status who cannot be served under existing subsidies.

**Pass the People's Banking Act Package**, including:

- **Int. 498 and Int. 499**, two urgently needed bills requiring the City to provide the public with a quarterly summary of its accounts with commercial banks, promoting much needed transparency and accountability;
- **Int. 999**, which establishes a task force to immediately get to work on preparing an implementation plan and other charter requirements for a municipal public bank;
- **Resolution 203**, which urges the Governor and NYS Legislature to enact the New York Public Banking Act. [S1754 (Sanders) / A3352 (Hunter)]

**Pass Int. 1264, Int. 1253, and Int. 1270** to reduce the criminal liability on food and merchandise vending, update vendor citing regulations, and expand access to street vendor licenses and permits.

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## Securing Access to Quality Education

*New York City has welcomed an unprecedented number of asylum seekers since May 2022, including thousands of school-aged youth. The City must ensure that every student has access to public education programs that will help them thrive. Unfortunately, quality public school programs remain inaccessible for thousands of immigrant youth and families. The City must invest in proven models that successfully increase access and ensure it has schools with the instructional expertise and comprehensive supports to help immigrant youth graduate.*

### Recommendations:

**Invest \$800K to increase the number of high schools well-prepared to teach and support recently arrived asylum-seeker and immigrant youth.** This includes \$300K for the new English Language Learner programs at six transfer high schools to ensure that they have the resources they need to effectively serve ELLs. It also includes \$500K to deliver comprehensive school and educator development by experts in educating older newcomer ELLs to ten high schools to build their capacity to serve immigrant youth.

**Allocate \$4M to expand the successful Linking Immigrant Families to Early Childhood Education (LIFE) Project** citywide to ensure underserved immigrant families have a real opportunity to enroll in Pre-K and 3K programs. Families served by the NYIC's LIFE Project overwhelmingly reported they could not have applied without linguistically and culturally fluent one-on-one support from LIFE Project CBO partners.

**Invest \$4M in the Immigrant Family Communication and Outreach Initiative** to support the Office of Language Access and Marketing and Communications at NYCPS to help immigrant families with varying levels of literacy and access to digital media get important school-related information.

**Change the NYCPS's register audit process to allow individual schools to appeal their enrollment numbers on a monthly basis** beyond the October 31st audited register, to ensure there is adequate per pupil funding to meet the needs of the existing students, any asylum-seekers who have already enrolled and those who will enroll in the future.

**Baseline \$74M to ensure school social workers are available to support the needs of newcomer asylum seekers and all students.** Even with this funding, there is only one school social worker for every 435 students enrolled in NYCPS. More must be done so that each student has access to a full time social worker and psychologist to get the targeted support they need in school.

# NYIC NYC 2024 Priorities



## Building Political Power and Guaranteed Civil Rights

*Immigrant New Yorkers face unique barriers to participating in our democracy. The inability to fully participate in the democratic process translates into a lack of political power—the power to elect candidates with shared values and the power to enact public policy priorities. We envision an inclusive democracy where all New Yorkers are able to fully participate in decisions about the communities where they live, work and raise their families. To overcome the challenges facing our city, we must strengthen our democracy by ensuring all New Yorkers can have their voices heard.*

### Recommendations:

**Baseline \$5M In FY25 Adopted Budget to further the expansion of language services** through continued development of the recently launched three language services worker-owned cooperatives for those who speak Languages of Limited Diffusion (LLD) and the NYC Community Interpreter Bank that increases the supply of trained, vetted interpreters to be provided to community-based nonprofit organizations.

**Advance local law to remove citizenship and immigration status restrictions** that wrongly prevent noncitizen New Yorkers from public service, including City boards and commissions, and from qualifying for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) status.

**Advance legislation to standardize race and ethnicity data collection and disaggregation standards across all city agencies** by mandating the collection of demographic information on at least the top 30 largest ancestry groups and languages spoken in the city of New York.

**Pass legislation, Int. 84 and Int. 85** to direct the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) to administer economic and health-related surveys to newly arrived asylum seekers to foster employment opportunities and ensure wellbeing.

**Invest \$2M to NYC Public Schools to expand the provision of civic courses and lessons** on local democratic processes for diverse communities and in multiple languages. More proactively educate voters on the democratic process.

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## Creating Healthy Communities

*Whether it's the factors of living through a global pandemic or traveling on a harrowing journey through multiple countries to arrive in the United States, the physical and mental toll recent times have taken on New Yorkers make the need for quality healthcare and affordable housing even more dire. Without access to these essentials, any other gains that we may make for New Yorkers, especially immigrants, are moot. Attacks to long-standing policies, including the Right to Shelter Mandate, present a significant challenge to vulnerable communities and goes against the welcoming values of New York City. Mayor Adams' unprecedented shelter stay limits and anti-immigrant rhetoric, present a direct threat to the health and wellbeing of our vulnerable families and individuals.*

## Recommendations:

**Renew and expand funding for Access Health NYC at \$4M so CBOs and community health centers that were on the frontlines pandemic response can continue to educate the communities** about health access, coverage, and rights, specifically our newcomers and asylum seekers.

**Ensure trauma-informed medical professionals, counselors, and social workers are present to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care at shelters:**

- **Address limited capacity of social workers & other mental health professionals** to ensure city shelters are compliant with [2023 updates](#) to the city's administrative code requiring mental health professionals in shelters. Provide additional funding to hire, train, and retain staff to meet the needs of families and children.

**Pass Int. 210 to put an end to the Mayor's Limits on Shelter Stays and defend New York City's Right to Shelter**, which has provided stability and safety for vulnerable New Yorkers in their journey towards self-sufficiency.

**Expand CityFHEPS eligibility to households regardless of their immigration status and invest in inclusive, long-term solutions to New York City's housing affordability and availability crisis.** Housing vouchers like the CityFHEPS rental assistance supplement are proven tools for ending homelessness, yet many families are excluded from accessing them due to their immigration status. Expanding CityFHEPS eligibility will create a pathway to affordable permanent housing for immigrant communities while saving the City \$2.9B per year in emergency shelter costs.

# NYIC NYC 2024 Priorities



## Ending City Support for Detention, Deportation, and Mass Incarceration

*Safeguarding the fundamental dignity of our immigrant communities demands strategic action. While New York City continues to be home to a thriving population of immigrants, the increase of new arrivals in 2023 has created new challenges and opportunities. In order to meet this moment, New York City must channel resources into immigration legal services, redirect NYPD funding towards community-based prevention programs, and untangle the NYPD and the Department of Correction (DOC) from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This approach is vital to preventing the disruption of families, fostering community stability, and shielding immigrants from the looming threat of deportation.*

### Recommendations:

#### Increase Legal Services Funding:

- **Invest \$59M in funding for immigration legal services** to ensure continuity of services and to help defend immigrants against ongoing aggressive, anti-immigrant policies.
- **Invest \$20M in an emergency immigration legal services program** to meet the growing need of the City's newest immigrant residents.
- **Invest \$1M in a pilot program to provide immigration legal services clients with case management services and mental health supports.**

**Remove immigration legal services funding carve-outs** to ensure that the City does not doubly punish and unfairly leave behind members of our communities who most acutely need access to advice regarding complex immigration matters.

**Redirect no less than \$1B from the NYPD**, which has a long history of disproportionately targeting NYC neighborhoods with large BIPOC and immigrant populations, especially Black and brown communities, to community investments in education, services, and support.

**End all transfers and communications between DOC and ICE by passing Int. 214, Int. 395, and Int. 396** which restrict the NYPD and DOC from conspiring with ICE in the detention and deportation of immigrant individuals, and create a private right of action for impacted individuals.

**Disband the NYPD's Strategic Response Group**, which has conflated protest actions with terrorism and has a history of violent response to peaceful assembly.