

# New York State Community Toolkit

A resource guide for immigrant New Yorkers  
November/December 2024



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: 12.10.24

## **Contents**

- Health **3**
- Immigration policy updates **5**
- Recent arrivals and asylum seekers **7**
- Family resources **9**
- Schools and education **10**
- Financial empowerment **11**
- Democracy **12**
- Know Your Rights **13**
- Community Safety **14**
- NYS Resources **15**

# Health



## Health Insurance

- New Yorkers can get public and commercial health insurance through NY State of Health.
  - If you qualify for Medicaid, the Essential Plan, or Child Health Plus, enrollment is open all year.
  - If you get commercial health insurance, open enrollment will begin November 1, 2024 and continue until January 15, 2025.
- 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) (TTY: [1-800-662-1220](tel:1-800-662-1220)).
  - 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, 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)

## Expanded Health Coverage for DACA Recipients

- DACA recipients are now eligible for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare.
- DACA recipients and other newly eligible individuals can apply for health coverage through the marketplace between November 1, 2024 and January 15, 2025.
  - The expanded health coverage includes the Essential Plan and other Qualified Health Plans.
- To enroll visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov).
- For more information about health coverage as a DACA recipient, visit [cms.gov/files/document/daca-fact-sheet.pdf](https://cms.gov/files/document/daca-fact-sheet.pdf)

## Essential Plan Coverage Expansion

- Starting April 2024, more New Yorkers will be eligible for the Essential Plan.
  - The expansion includes New York residents with incomes up to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Line.
  - The expansion also includes Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients.
    - Starting August 1, 2024, DACA recipients can get cheaper health coverage through the Essential Plan.
    - Starting November 1, 2024, DACA recipients can get cheaper health coverage through Qualified Health Plans.
  - If you are currently enrolled in the Essential Plan and are pregnant, you will be able to remain enrolled in your current plan, rather than being re-evaluated for Medicaid.
- To learn more about the Essential Plan, visit [info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/EssentialPlan](https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/EssentialPlan).
- To learn more about enrolling in the Essential Plan as a DACA recipient, visit [on.ny.gov/41sKYcs](https://on.ny.gov/41sKYcs)

## 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)
- How to enroll
  - If you currently have Emergency Medicaid, you can transition to full Medicaid by following the instructions in the letter from NY State of Health.
    - You can also choose to continue to receive only emergency Medicaid.
  - If you are uninsured, and do not already have Emergency Medicaid, you must apply through your Local Department of Social Services, or the New York City Human Resources Administration.
  - If you need assistance or have questions, call NY State of Health at [1-855-355-5777](tel:1-855-355-5777). Language assistance is available.



## Updated COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing

- An updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine is now available.
  - The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older get one of the updated vaccines.
  - This includes people who have had a COVID-19 vaccine AND people who have had COVID-19 before.
  - For more information about the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine, visit [cdc.gov/covid/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines)
  - To get the updated vaccine at a location near you, visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov)
- If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 or are exposed, you should get tested.
  - COVID-19 testing can help you decide what to do when sick, such as getting early treatment to prevent severe illness or isolating to lower the risk of spreading illness.
  - Starting at the end of September 2024, U.S. households will be able to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests at [COVIDTests.gov](https://COVIDTests.gov)

## Mpox

- As of August 2024, the World Health Organization has declared Mpox, previously monkeypox, as a public health emergency.
- Mpox is mainly spread through intimate contact, sex, or prolonged skin-to-skin contact with someone with the virus.
- Symptoms of Mpox include rashes, sores, or blisters on your body.
- Individuals at risk of exposure can receive the JYNNEOS vaccine.
  - The two-dose vaccine is free and available to New Yorkers regardless of immigration status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
  - For more information on the Mpox vaccine and to find a vaccine site, visit [cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/mpox/vaccines)
- For more information visit [nyic.org/resources-training/kyr/#16](https://nyic.org/resources-training/kyr/#16)

# Immigration policy updates



## **Parole in Place for Certain Undocumented Spouses of U.S. Citizens (Keeping Families Together)**

- On November 7, 2024, a U.S. District Judge ruled against the Keeping Families Together program. The ruling ends the program and closes the application process immediately.
- Keeping Families Together aimed to expand access to the parole in place program for long-term undocumented immigrants married to U.S. citizens, as well as the step-children of U.S. citizens.
- The ruling comes after the Biden administration and the Department of Homeland Security had announced the Keeping Families Together program in June 2024 and began accepting applications on August 19th.
- The application process is now closed and no applications will be accepted.

## **Parole for Cuban, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV)**

- On October 4, 2024, USCIS announced that they would not renew the parole program for Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan (CHNV) parolees.
- However, any individual parolee may still apply to renew their parole through the Form I-131 like others approved for parole by USCIS under general parole processes.
- For more information visit [uscis.gov/CHNV](https://uscis.gov/CHNV)

## **USCIS now requires Report of Immigration Medical Examination and Vaccination Record with Form I-485 for Adjustment of Status**

- On December 2, 2024, USCIS announced that the agency now requires certain applicants to submit Form I-693, Report of Immigration Medical Examination and Vaccination Record when applying for permanent residence.
- To fill complete the form, applicants must:
  - Complete an immigration medical examination and all required vaccinations.
  - Get the form signed by a civil surgeon to show they are free from health conditions that would prevent them from entering the United States.
- If you are required to submit Form I-693, or a partial Form I-693 (such as the Vaccination Record), you must submit it with your Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.
  - Applications can be rejected if Form I-693 is missing.
- For more information, visit [uscis.gov/i-693](https://uscis.gov/i-693).



# Immigration policy updates



## Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- 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, Lebanon, 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).
- DHS recently designated TPS for Lebanon, from October 16, 2024 through April 2026.
- DHS recently extended and re-designated TPS for:
  - Somalia from September 18, 2024, to March 17, 2026.
  - Yemen from September 4, 2024, to March 3, 2026.

## Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)

- DED allows certain individuals from designated countries and regions facing political conflicts or natural disasters to stay in the U.S.
- DED is not a specific immigration status but a temporary relief that is granted at discretion of the U.S. President.
- Countries and regions currently designated for DED:
  - Liberia: Effective October 2007, through June 30, 2026
  - Hong Kong: Effective August 2021, through February 5, 2025
  - Palestine: Effective February 2024, through August 13, 2025.
  - Lebanon: Effective July 26, 2024, through January 25, 2026.
- If a DED designation includes work authorization, individuals may apply for an Employment Authorization Document from DHS.
- For more information, visit [uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-enforced-departure](https://uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-enforced-departure).

## 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 within the next six months, 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](https://uscis.gov/DACA).

# Recent arrivals and asylum seekers

## New Executive Proclamation

- On September 30, 2024 President Biden issued an update to his June 4 proclamation to temporarily suspend the entry of certain noncitizens at the southern border.
  - Individuals will now be stopped from entering the U.S. at the southern border when there has been a 28 day average of 1,500 border encounters or more.
    - When calculating the number of encounters at the border, unaccompanied children will now be included.
- DHS also issued a rule that restricts asylum eligibility and increases the possibility of immigration consequences at the border.
- For more information about the executive proclamation and its possible consequences or exceptions visit [immigrantjustice.org/staff/blog/new-biden-executive-action-further-eviscerates-right-seek-asylum-frequently-asked](https://immigrantjustice.org/staff/blog/new-biden-executive-action-further-eviscerates-right-seek-asylum-frequently-asked)



## NYC Right to Shelter Rules

- Newly arrived families and single adults who entered the U.S. after March 15, 2022 can apply for shelter placement at the Roosevelt Hotel, 45 E 45th St, New York, NY 10017.
  - The arrival center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
  - Placements may not be immediate, so families should go as soon as possible to apply.
  - For more information and assistance in applying for shelter placement, visit: [nyc.gov/site/asylumseekers/resources/additional-resources.page](https://nyc.gov/site/asylumseekers/resources/additional-resources.page)
- Staying at a shelter is time-limited depending on if you are a part of a family or are a single adult.
  - Families with minor children who enter shelters are limited to 60-day shelter stays. Every 60 days, families will have to reapply for a placement in the shelter system.
    - These rules now apply to all shelters, including those run by the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers.
    - DHS shelters will start enforcing these rules with the families who have been in these shelters the longest.
  - Single migrants and adult migrant families who enter shelters are limited to a single 60- or 30-day shelter stay based on their age group.
    - Single migrants aged 18-23 are limited to a 60-day shelter stay.
    - Single migrant adults over the age of 23 are limited to a 30-day shelter stay.
    - The City may extend shelter stays beyond 30 or 60 days for single adults on a case-by-case basis.
    - Adults with disabilities will be offered extended placement beyond 30 or 60 days, in accordance with federal, state, and local laws.
- Migrants will have the right to counsel in their home language to assist them in finding more permanent housing. Once individuals meet their stay limit, they must make efforts to find a place to stay outside of the shelter system.

# Recent arrivals and asylum seekers

## Change of Address and Change of Venue

- If you have a current immigration case, you are legally required to update your address with the U.S. government within 5 or 10 days of moving, depending on which agency is handling your case.
- By changing your address with the correct agencies, you will make sure to receive important documents in the mail like hearing or interview notices.
- To change your address with USCIS, submit a Change of Address form online or by mail.
  - To change your address online, create an account at [myaccount.uscis.gov](https://myaccount.uscis.gov) or submit an online form at [uscis.gov/COA](https://uscis.gov/COA)
  - To change your address by mail, complete Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card, and mail it to the address found on Page 2 of the form at [uscis.gov/ar-11](https://uscis.gov/ar-11).
  - Note: You must submit a separate form for each family member who is included in your asylum application.
- If you are in removal proceedings, you must change your address with either the Immigration Court (IC) or the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).
  - If you are unsure of which agency your case is with, you can check the EOIR website: [acis.eoir.justice.gov](https://acis.eoir.justice.gov).
  - To change your address online, submit Form EOIR-33/IC or EOIR-33/BIA at [respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov](https://respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov).
  - To change your address in-person or by mail, follow instructions on page 2 of Form EOIR-33.
  - Note: You will also be required to send a copy of your change of address form to DHS OPLA following the instructions on the form.
- You can find the forms at: [justice.gov/eoir/eoir-forms](https://justice.gov/eoir/eoir-forms).
  - Translations are available in Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Punjabi, Spanish, and Russian.

- If you are not able to go to your hearings because your current Immigration Court is too far away and there is a different Immigration Court that is closer to your new address, you can submit a Motion to Change Venue.
  - Note: A Motion to Change Venue is a special request and is more complicated than a Change of Address form. It is suggested that you have a lawyer help you.
- For more information about moving, Change of Address, and Change of Venue, visit:
  - [help.asylumadvocacy.org/faqs-moving-traveling](https://help.asylumadvocacy.org/faqs-moving-traveling)



## Immigration Check-ins

- 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.
  - If you are required to check in, it is important to show up to your appointment. If you miss your appointment, this may be considered a violation and can have consequences in your immigration case.
- If you are unsure whether you have a check-in with ICE, need to schedule or reschedule a check-in, or have questions about changing your address, go to [ice.gov/check-in](https://ice.gov/check-in).
- For more information on the check-in process, visit:
  - [help.asylumadvocacy.org/faqs-ice-isap](https://help.asylumadvocacy.org/faqs-ice-isap)



# Family resources



## New York State Paid Prenatal Leave

- Starting January 1, 2025, New York State is introducing Paid Prenatal Leave.
- Any privately employed New Yorker who is pregnant will be able to receive an additional 20 hours of paid sick leave for prenatal care.
- Prenatal care is in addition to employees existing sick leave and does not need to be accrued. It is available as soon as an employee starts work.
  - Paid Prenatal Leave is separate from New York State Sick Leave or any other leave policies or benefits.
  - Employers cannot force employees to exhaust other leave types before using Paid Prenatal Leave or choose one leave over another.
- Employees can use this leave for multiple pregnancies in a year but are limited to 20 hours within a 52-week period.
- Paid Prenatal Leave applies to all private-sector employees, regardless of occupation, industry, or part-time or overtime-exempt status.
- Prenatal care includes fertility treatments such as in vitro fertilization and end-of-pregnancy care.
- For more information, visit [ny.gov/prenatal](https://ny.gov/prenatal).

## Empire State child credit expansion

- All tax-filing families with children under the age of 17 are eligible for the the Empire State child credit, New York State's supplement to the federal Child Tax Credit.
- If you have a child dependent under the age of 17, file taxes, and live in New York State full-time (or are married to someone who is a full-time resident) 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).
  - For more information on applying for an ITIN, visit our Financial Empowerment page.
- For more information about the Empire State child credit, visit [tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/empire\\_state\\_child\\_credit.htm](https://tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/empire_state_child_credit.htm).

## Child Care Assistance Program

- Families are now eligible for child care assistance if they make 85% of the state median income or less.
  - A family will be eligible if they have an annual income of no more than:
    - \$73,869.56 for a family of 2
    - \$91,250.63 for a family of 3
    - \$108,631.70 for a family of 4
    - \$126,012.77 for a family of 5
    - \$143,393.84 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 is 80.
- For more information and to see if you may be able to get child care at low or no cost, visit [ocfs.ny.gov/ccap](https://ocfs.ny.gov/ccap).

# Schools and education

## 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](https://schools.nyc.gov/hello) or call [718-935-2013](tel: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](https://schools.nyc.gov/admissions).
  - To find and apply to a NYC Public School, visit [myschools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc), call [311](tel:311), or visit a Family Welcome Center for assistance. Family Welcome Center locations can be found at [schools.nyc.gov/fwc](https://schools.nyc.gov/fwc).
  - Enrollment periods vary depending on different grade levels. To see the Fall 2024 Admissions Timeline, visit [schools.nyc.gov/enroll](https://schools.nyc.gov/enroll).

## College Financial Aid

- 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.
- New York State financial aid programs
  - Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) helps eligible New York residents pay tuition at approved schools in NYS.
    - An annual TAP award can be up to \$5,665. Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back.
    - For more information or to apply, visit [hesc.ny.gov/tap](https://hesc.ny.gov/tap)
  - Excelsior Scholarship
    - The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free.
    - Students whose families have an annual income of \$125,000 or less are eligible to apply.
    - The Excelsior Scholarship opened in December 2024 for the Spring 2024-2025 Academic Term.
    - For more information or to apply, visit [hesc.ny.gov/excelsior](https://hesc.ny.gov/excelsior)
  - 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)



# Financial empowerment

## NY Minimum Wage Increase January 1st, 2025

- Starting January 1, 2025, New York State will raise the minimum wage.
  - In New York state, minimum wage will be \$15.50.
  - In New York City, Long Island, and Westchester, minimum wage will be \$16.50.

## New minimum pay rate for NYC food delivery workers

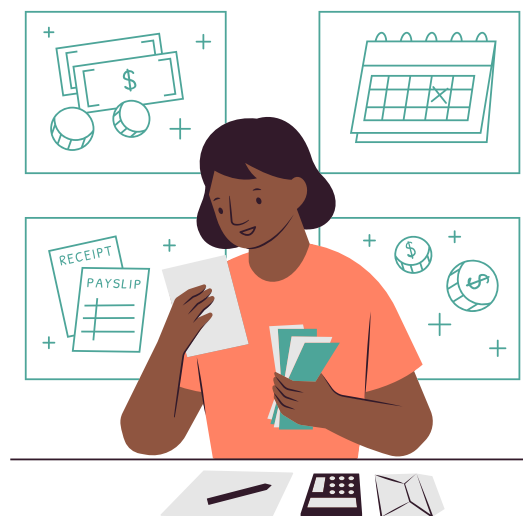
- If you do restaurant deliveries for an app in New York City, you have rights regardless of your immigration status.
- Your app must pay you at least \$19.56 per hour (not including tips) for time you spend making deliveries.
  - This minimum will increase on April 1 each year.
  - Apps must follow additional rules that increase pay.
- For more information about minimum pay and workers' rights, visit [nyc.gov/DeliveryApps](https://nyc.gov/DeliveryApps).
  - Info is available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian, and Urdu.

## 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](tel:800-339-1759), or visit [dfs.ny.gov/recovery](https://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](tel:800-566-7636) between 9:00am and 8:00pm, Monday through Friday. Hotline assistance is available in over 200 languages.

## Applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number

- The 2025 tax season will begin in January 2025.
- If you plan on filing taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), you can apply for an ITIN now.
- 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 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)



# Democracy

To learn more about our election systems and how they work, watch our videos at [nycic.me/civics](https://nycic.me/civics)



## 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)



# 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](tel:212-725-6422) or email [info@immdefense.org](mailto: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](tel:1-800-566-7636).**

# Community Safety



**Everyone, regardless of immigration status or identity, deserves to be safe in their community.**

## Hate Crimes and Bias

- A hate crime is an offense that is motivated by bias against a person's race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation.
- New York State has a Hate Crimes Task Force to address the increase in reports of bias-motivated threats, harassment and violence.
- If you see something or are a victim of a hate crime:
  - Report it to the NYS Division of Human Rights. Call [1-888-392-3644](tel:1-888-392-3644), text "HATE" to 81336, or go to [forms.ny.gov/s3/Hate-Crime-Tips](https://forms.ny.gov/s3/Hate-Crime-Tips). You can visit [dhr.ny.gov](https://dhr.ny.gov) for more information.
  - To report a hate crime in progress or any emergency, call 911 immediately.
- When hate crimes are reported, all information regarding your experience, identity, and others remains confidential.
- You can report a hate crime and receive services regardless of your immigration status.

## Community Resources

- The New York City Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes offers services, resources, and support to community members and organizations. Resources are available in multiple languages. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/stophate](https://nyc.gov/stophate).
- The Center for Anti-Violence Education works to prevent, disrupt, and heal from hate violence in New York communities. They have education programs on self-defense, bystander workshops, and youth empowerment. Call [1-718-788-1775](tel:1-718-788-1775) or visit [caeny.org](https://caeny.org) for more information.

## Connecting with Community

- AAPI
  - Asian Americans for Equality: [212-979-8381](tel:212-979-8381), [aafe.org](https://aafe.org)
  - Chhaya for South-Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities: [718-478-3848](tel:718-478-3848), [chhayacdc.org](https://chhayacdc.org)
  - Korean Family Service Center: [718-460-3800](tel:718-460-3800), [kafsc.org](https://kafsc.org)
  - MinKwon Center for Community Action: [718-460-5600](tel:718-460-5600), [minkwon.org](https://minkwon.org)
  - National Federation of Filipino American Associations New York: [212-684-0542](tel:212-684-0542), [naffaa.org](https://naffaa.org)
  - Sikh Coalition: [516-930-0302](tel:516-930-0302), [sikhcoalition.org](https://sikhcoalition.org)
- African
  - African Communities Together: [347-746-2281](tel:347-746-2281), [africans.us](https://africans.us)
  - African Services Committee: [212-222-3882](tel:212-222-3882), [africanservices.org](https://africanservices.org)
  - Sauti Yetu Center For African Women: [718-665-2486](tel:718-665-2486), [sautiyetu.us](https://sautiyetu.us)
- Arab/Muslim
  - Arab American Association of New York: [718-745-3523](tel:718-745-3523), [arabamericanny.org](https://arabamericanny.org)
  - Council on American-Islamic Relations of New York: [646-665-7599](tel:646-665-7599), [cair-ny.org](https://cair-ny.org)
  - Muslim Community Network: [347-519-2755](tel:347-519-2755), [mcnny.org](https://mcnny.org)
- Disability
  - Center for Disability Rights: [585-546-7510](tel:585-546-7510), [cdrnys.org](https://cdrnys.org)
  - Disability Rights New York: [518-432-7861](tel:518-432-7861), [drny.org](https://drny.org)
- Hispanic/Latino
  - Hispanic Federation: [866-432-9832](tel:866-432-9832), [hispanicfederation.org](https://hispanicfederation.org)
  - Latino Commission on AIDS: [212-584-9325](tel:212-584-9325), [latinoaids.org](https://latinoaids.org)
  - Mixteca: [718-965-4795](tel:718-965-4795), [mixteca.org](https://mixteca.org)
  - TransLatinx: [646-882-2000](tel:646-882-2000), [translatinxnetwork.org](https://translatinxnetwork.org)
- LGBTQ+
  - Caribbean Equality Project: [347-709-3179](tel:347-709-3179), [caribbeanequalityproject.org](https://caribbeanequalityproject.org)
  - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center: [212-620-7310](tel:212-620-7310), [gaycenter.org](https://gaycenter.org)
  - New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project: [212-714-1141](tel:212-714-1141), [avp.org](https://avp.org)
- Native American and Alaska Native
  - American Indian Community House: [646-575-3638](tel:646-575-3638), [aich.org](https://aich.org)
  - North American Indigenous Center of New York: [516-930-0302](tel:516-930-0302), [naicny.org](https://naicny.org)

# NYS Resources



## 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

- Apply for health coverage: call [1-855-355-5777](tel:1-855-355-5777) or visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://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](http://omh.ny.gov).
- 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).

## NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

- If you or someone else is in a relationship 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).
- To speak with an advocate online, visit [opdv.ny.gov](http://opdv.ny.gov). Available 24/7 in most languages.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://dhr.ny.gov).

## NYS Housing

- For help with finding affordable housing, call [1-877-428-8844](tel:1-877-428-8844) or visit [nyhousingsearch.gov](http://nyhousingsearch.gov).
- For information on the affordable housing lottery in New York City, call [212-863-7990](tel:212-863-7990) or visit [housingconnect.nyc.gov](http://housingconnect.nyc.gov).
- For information on tenants rights in New York State, visit [ag.ny.gov/publications/residential-tenants-rights-guide](http://ag.ny.gov/publications/residential-tenants-rights-guide).

## NYS Office of Victim Services

- If you or someone you know has experienced a hate 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](tel:1-800-247-8035) or visit [ovs.ny.gov](http://ovs.ny.gov) for more information.

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

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)