

# New York State Community Toolkit

A resource guide for immigrant New Yorkers  
January/February 2025



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.

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# 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.
- The expanded health coverage includes the Essential Plan and other Qualified Health Plans.
  - If you qualify for Medicaid, the Essential Plan, or Child Health Plus, enrollment is open all year.
- To enroll visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov).

## 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.



## Safe and Effective COVID-19, Flu, and RSV

### Vaccines Available

- An updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine is now available.
  - The updated COVID vaccine covers most of the current viral strains that are seen in New York and the U.S.
  - 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://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)
- The 2024-2025 Flu Vaccine is now available.
  - The updated flu vaccine protects against three strains of the flu.
  - The CDC recommends the flu vaccine for everyone aged 6 months and older.
  - Individuals aged 65 years and older, people with certain chronic medical conditions, young children and infants, and pregnant people are at higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu.

- Members of the public can follow the latest New York State flu trends on the Department's Flu Tracker at [nysdc.health.ny.gov/web/nyapd/new-york-state-flu-tracker](https://nysdc.health.ny.gov/web/nyapd/new-york-state-flu-tracker).
- The vaccine for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is now available.
  - The vaccine can help prevent lower respiratory tract illnesses caused by RSV.
  - The vaccine is recommended for individuals based on their age and other risk factors.
    - Individuals who are 75 years and older are recommended to get vaccinated.
    - Individuals who are 60 to 74 years of age should talk with their health care providers to ask if they are at higher risk of severe RSV.
    - People who are pregnant can protect their infant from RSV by getting a maternal vaccine. Pregnant people should contact their obstetrician/gynecologist for more information.
  - There is also a vaccine available for newborns and young infants called nirsevimab.
    - Newborns can receive this in the hospital after birth, and infants under 8 months can get it from their pediatrician.

### 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/mpox](https://cdc.gov/mpox)
- For more information visit [nyic.org/resources-training/kyr/#16](https://nyic.org/resources-training/kyr/#16)



# Immigration policy updates



## Immigration Enforcement in Sensitive Locations

- In January 2025, the Trump administration cancelled a longstanding policy that directs ICE and CBP to avoid immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations” or “protected areas.”
  - Previously, the policy provided some protections for locations such as schools, healthcare facilities, and places of worship, as well as funerals, weddings, and public demonstrations, from immigration enforcement.
  - Now, ICE and other agencies are no longer restricted from carrying out enforcement actions at and near these locations.
  - The Trump administration also issued a directive allowing enforcement at courthouses.
- New Yorkers still have some protections in these spaces
  - A 2018 New York State Executive Order prohibits immigration enforcement at New York state facilities such as a public school or hospital unless ICE has a judicial warrant.
  - The Protect Our Courts Act protects New Yorkers from arrest at state, city, and municipal courts without a judicial warrant.
  - ICE and other agents cannot enter “private spaces” of a workplace without a judicial warrant or consent of the owner or manager of the workplace.
- For more information, visit [nyic.org/2025/02/fact-sheet-trumps-expansion-of-enforcement-in-communities-and-how-sensitive-locations-can-prepare](https://nyic.org/2025/02/fact-sheet-trumps-expansion-of-enforcement-in-communities-and-how-sensitive-locations-can-prepare)

## Laken Riley Act

- The Laken Riley Act was signed into law January 29, 2025. Under this new law, certain immigrants who are accused of certain crimes can be detained by ICE without an opportunity to seek release on bond while their case is pending.
  - Note: A person does not have to be convicted of any crimes to be forced into mandatory detention.
- Crimes that can lead to detention include burglary, theft or larceny, shoplifting, assault of a law enforcement officer, and any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person.
- If an undocumented immigrant is arrested for any of the crimes under the act, they are at risk of remaining detained throughout their immigration case.
- The Laken Riley Act will primarily impact undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. by crossing the border between ports of entry.
- The law does not apply to:
  - People who are Green Card holders (lawful permanent residents)
  - People who were granted refugee status outside of the U.S. and entered through that status
  - People who entered the U.S. on a visa, even if they have overstayed their visa.
  - People in “expedited removal”
- For more information, visit [nlpnl.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/2025\\_NIPNLG-Laken-Riley.pdf](https://nlpnl.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/2025_NIPNLG-Laken-Riley.pdf)

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

- On January 20, 2025, an executive order stated that USCIS would pause acceptance of Form I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support for new applications of parole.
- Individuals in parole status are encouraged to talk to an immigration attorney about their options in applying for other forms of humanitarian relief.

# 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).
- The DHS designations made by the Biden administration are being reviewed. DHS' review of TPS designations may result in the revocation of TPS designations.
  - On February 1, 2025, DHS revoked TPS for Venezuelans who received TPS on October 3, 2023.
    - These individuals will lose status and work authorization on April 7, 2025.
    - This termination does not apply to Venezuelan nationals who applied for and received TPS under the 2021 designation, which will remain in effect until September 10, 2025.

- On February 20, 2025, DHS partially revoked TPS for Haitians.
  - The period of extension and redesignation of Haiti for TPS was cut from 18 months to 12 months, with a new end date of August 3, 2025. The initial registration period for new applicants will also end on August 3, 2025.
- Individuals with TPS from Venezuela and Haiti should speak to an immigration attorney to see if they qualify for other programs.
- Community members should continue to check on their countries' TPS designation and keep aware of their status.

## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- On January 17, 2025, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision upholding that the Biden Administration's 2022 DACA regulation providing employment authorization benefits to DACA recipients was unlawful.
  - The decision continues to block the government from approving new DACA applications, but DACA renewals may continue for now.
- 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

## Expansion of Expedited Removal Beyond the Border

- As of January 21, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security expanded its use of a process called “expedited removal.”
- Expedited removal allows the government to quickly deport someone they believe to be undocumented, without appearing in front of an immigration judge.
  - The only exception to expedited removal is if a person claims they are scared to go back to their country and passes a fear screening interview. This could allow them to apply for asylum.
- Previously, ICE and CBP only used expedited removal against people within 100 miles of the border and within 14 days of their arrival.
- Now, the government has announced that it will use expedited removal on any undocumented person in the country who can’t prove they have been in the U.S. continuously for at least two years before the arrest.
- Individuals should know their rights and follow steps to protect themselves and their families.
- For more information, visit [nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-expedited-removal-expansion/](https://nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-expedited-removal-expansion/)



## 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.
  - There is a risk of being taken into ICE custody at these appointments. Individuals should make a plan and prepare before their appointment.
- 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.
  - 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, 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



## Filing your taxes in 2025

- The 2025 tax season has begun!
- The IRS is accepting and processing 2024 tax year returns, and the deadline to file is Tuesday, April 15, 2025.
- 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 \$67,000 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 \$67,000 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 \$84,000 or less, you can access guided return preparation assistance.
- 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)

## Applying for 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.
- Data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), including information about ITIN tax-filers, is protected by law, and should not be used for immigration enforcement.
- 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)

## 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.

# Democracy

## June 2025 Mayoral Primaries

- The mayoral primaries for NYC, Albany, and Buffalo are June 24th, 2025.
- To participate in a primary election in New York State, you must be registered to a party holding an election.
- The last day to register to vote in this primary election, or to change your address, is June 14, 2025.
- 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)

## 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)

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





# 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**

- In January 2025, the Trump administration cancelled a longstanding policy that directs ICE and CBP to avoid immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations” or “protected areas” such as schools, healthcare facilities, and places of worship.
- Despite these changes, New Yorkers still have some protections in these locations.
- A 2018 New York State Executive Order prohibits immigration enforcement at New York state facilities such as a public school or hospital unless ICE has a judicial warrant.
- The Protect Our Courts Act protects New Yorkers from arrest at state, city, and municipal courts without a judicial warrant.
- ICE and other agents cannot enter “private spaces” without a judicial warrant or consent of the owner.

## **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.**

# 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), [arabamericannny.org](https://arabamericannny.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)