

# NYIC NYC 2025 Summary



*New York City thrives when all residents, regardless of immigration status, have access to essential resources, economic opportunities, and political representation. The following policy recommendations address key areas impacting immigrant communities, ensuring their rights, protections, and contributions to the City are recognized and supported.*

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

- **Maintain and Expand Funding for Legal Services:**

- Invest \$60M in immigration legal services.
- Allocate \$10M for restorative justice programs.
- Increase \$34M New York Family Unit Program (NYIFUP) funding for detained individuals.
- Increase and baseline \$40M in Immigrant Opportunity Initiative (IOI) funding.
- Establish a \$25M Citywide Rapid Response fund for emergency immigration services.

- **Divest from ICE & Abolish ICE Transfers and Contracts:**

- Redirect \$10M from ICE contracts to immigrant legal services.
- Ban all city contracts related to immigration detention.
- Pass [Int. 214](#) to hold agencies accountable for ICE-related violations.
- Pass [Int. 395](#) and [396](#) to restrict ICE-NYPD and ICE-DOC transfers and communications unless a person is convicted of a violent or serious crime or a federal judge signs a warrant.
- Bar any collaboration between city agencies and federal immigration enforcement entities, including ICE, ERO, and HSI, in immigration enforcement activities.

## Ensuring Economic Justice

- **Adult Literacy:**

- Double DYCD adult literacy funding from \$12M to \$24M.
- Maintain \$7M in City Council Discretionary funding for the Adult Literacy Pilot and the Adult Literacy Initiative.

- **Universal Childcare:**

- Fund 1,000 full-day 2-Care seats (\$26M).
- Restore \$222M for 3-K and Pre-K, ensuring outreach funding.
- Make the Council's full-day, full-year 3-K, and Pre-K pilot permanent.
- Renew Promise NYC at \$25M to provide childcare support to ineligible families.

- **Street Vendors:**

- Pass [Int. 431](#), [47](#), [408](#), and [24](#) to expand street vendor licenses, reduce criminal liability, and improve vendor support and rules.
- Municipal Banking:
- Mandate transparency in city banking practices.
- Establish a task force to develop a municipal public bank.

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## Building Political Power and Guaranteed Civil Rights

- **Expand Language Access:**
  - Baseline \$10M in FY26 to sustain the NYC Community Interpreter Bank and support worker-owned language service cooperatives.
- **Increase Political Participation:**
  - Invest \$2.5M in a 2030 Census outreach campaign.
  - Allocate \$10M to sustain and expand naturalization programs.
  - Invest \$2.5M in voter education campaigns on Ranked Choice Voting.
- **Legislative Reforms:**
  - Remove citizenship and immigration status restrictions for public service roles and MWBE certification.
  - Standardize race and ethnicity data collection across city agencies.

## Creating Healthy Communities

- **Health:**
  - Renew \$4M funding for Access Health NYC.
  - Expand funding for social workers and mental health professionals to ensure trauma-informed professionals are present in shelters and comply with city codes.
  - Provide culturally appropriate food in emergency pantries.
- **Housing:**
  - Defend the right to shelter and end the Mayor's limit on shelter stays
  - Expand CityFHEPS and other housing vouchers to all residents, regardless of immigration status.

## Securing Access to Quality Education

- **Policy & Training:**
  - NYCPS must update and re-issue Immigration Guidance for Principals.
  - NYCPS must train school administrators and staff on immigrant rights and protocols.
- **Community Support:**
  - Fund CBO partnerships for Know Your Rights workshops and legal clinics.
  - Develop multilingual materials with immigration law experts.
- **Family Communication & Outreach:**
  - Invest \$4M in the Immigrant Family Communications and Outreach Initiative to improve school access information for immigrant families.

These policy recommendations outline necessary investments and legislative actions to advance immigrant rights, expand access to essential services, and build an inclusive, economically resilient, and politically empowered New York City. By implementing these initiatives, the City Council will reaffirm its commitment to immigrant communities and ensure all residents can fully participate and contribute to New York civic life.

# NYIC NYC 2025 Priorities



## Ensuring Economic Power & Good Jobs

*New immigrants are a vital economic engine, contributing significantly through their work, taxes, and life in our communities. Their presence creates jobs and stimulates business growth, helping drive local prosperity. Many of our immigrant workers are also raising the next generation of New Yorkers, and therefore, New York City must ensure not only fundamental workers' rights but also essential supports that help whole families thrive, like child care, English language education, fair working policies, and just banking practices.*

### Recommendations:

#### Invest robustly in Adult Literacy programs:

- Double the administration baseline funding for adult literacy programs funded through DYCD from **\$12 million to \$24 million.**
- Maintain the City Council Discretionary funding (i.e., the Adult Literacy Pilot and Adult Literacy Initiative funding) at **\$17 million.**

#### Guarantee Universal Care:

- Fund 1,000 full-day 2-Care seats across all five boroughs – **\$26 million.**
- **Restore \$222 million** in funding for 3-K and Pre-K, including outreach dollars.
- Make the Council's pilot for full-day, full-year 3-K, and Pre-K seats permanent and available to all children.
- **Renew the Promise NYC program at \$25M** for families who wouldn't otherwise qualify for subsidized childcare.

#### Pass the Street Vendors Package:

- Pass Intro [431](#), [47](#), [408](#), and [24](#) to ensure access to street vendor licenses and permits, reduce the criminal liability on food and merchandise vending, create a division to assist street vendors, and update the sitting rule.

#### Create a Municipal Bank in New York City:

- Mandate the City to provide regular and transparent reports on its financial dealings with commercial banks, ensuring public access to information and accountability.
- Establish a task force for creating a practical plan to implement a municipal public bank and address associated regulatory and charter requirements.

# NYIC NYC 2025 Priorities



## Securing Access to Quality Education

*New York City's children are our future. Our great City cannot allow that future to be marred by federal plots to drive our immigrant children from our schools. All children need and have a right to an education. Federal persecution has created an unprecedented amount of fear among immigrant public school families. In response, NYC Public Schools (NYCPS) has taken important initial steps and must continue to work urgently to protect students' physical and mental well-being by: investing in additional training, capacity-building, and support for schools; ensuring effective communications with immigrant families to explain protections and rights; and resourcing partnerships to bolster support during this time of crisis.*

### Recommendations:

#### **Update and re-issue training guidance in response to federal policy changes:**

- NYCPS should update and re-issue, as needed, based on changes at the federal level, Immigration Guidance for Principals and ensure that Senior Field Counsels are prepared. Updated guidance should include: information on all protections in the current guidance not controlled by the federal government; information about not collecting sensitive immigration documents at enrollment; and stock phrases for school administrators faced with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

#### **Provide training on critical protocols, policies, and supporting immigrant families:**

- NYCPS should continue to provide updated training to Superintendents, Principals, and a designated staff member at each school on protocols and policies to protect immigrant families as needed. NYCPS should also coordinate to train School Safety Agents and those contracted to run programs in our schools. Additionally, all school staff should be trained to understand the climate immigrant families face, their rights, and how to support them.

#### **Resource immigrant-serving organizations to support students and families, especially those with urgent mental health needs:**

- NYCPS should resource partnerships to offer culturally and linguistically fluent, remotely accessible mental health care, Know Your Rights workshops, legal clinics, and other programming designed to support immigrant students and families, including unaccompanied youth. NYCPS should partner with immigration law experts to provide materials that direct students and families to reliable information. Resources should be available in families' home languages.

#### **Invest \$4M in the Immigrant Family Communications and Outreach Initiative:**

- This essential funding helps NYCPS provide critical school-related information to immigrant families with varying literacy levels and access to digital media.

# NYIC NYC 2025 Priorities



## Creating Healthy Communities

*Access to quality healthcare, adequate housing, and healthy food are signs of a resilient and thriving community. Attacks to long-standing policies, including the Right to Shelter Mandate and sanctuary protections, present a direct threat to the health and well-being of our communities and go against the welcoming values of New York City. In the wake of climate change-fueled natural disasters, we are reminded of how quickly communities can face turmoil, such as displacement and loss of access to basic resources. Now more than ever, we must ensure and secure access to essential services and supports. Otherwise, any gains that we may make for New Yorkers, especially immigrants, are moot.*

### Recommendations:

#### Health:

- Renew the funding for Access Health NYC at \$4 million so that CBOs and community health centers that were on the frontlines of the pandemic response can continue to educate their communities about health access, coverage, and rights for immigrant communities, specifically our newcomers and asylum seekers.
- Ensure trauma-informed medical professionals, counselors, social workers, etc., are present to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care at shelters:
  - Address the limited capacity of social workers and other mental health professionals and allocate adequate funding to ensure City shelters are compliant with 2023 updates to the City's administrative code requiring mental health professionals in shelters. The funding would ensure the City hires, trains, and retains staff to meet the needs of families and children.
- Ensure Emergency Food Pantries provide culturally appropriate and healthy food options in order to accommodate the wide range of dietary and cultural restrictions of our communities, thereby aligning this method of food distribution with the City's 10-year Food Policy Plan.

#### Housing:

- 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 eligibility of CityFHEPS, a rental assistance supplement to help individuals and families find and keep housing, and other housing voucher programs to include families and individuals regardless of immigration status.

# NYIC NYC 2025 Priorities



## Building Political Power and Guaranteed Civil Rights

*Our City thrives when all residents, who are our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and relatives, can fully participate in civic life and interact with local government without barriers. Yet systemic inequities continue to exclude asylum-seeking and limited English-proficient communities from accessing essential resources, political representation, and economic opportunities. As federal policies threaten immigrant and individual rights and the 2030 Census approaches, the City is responsible for investing in initiatives that empower and protect all New Yorkers. We must create an inclusive and safe environment where our city's marginalized communities can fully participate, be counted, and claim their rightful place in shaping our democracy. Empowering immigrants to rise as leaders in city governance is not just a goal — it's a necessity.*

### Recommendations:

#### Expanding Language Access:

- **Baseline increased funding of \$10M** in the FY26 City Budget to sustain the development and operations of the NYC Community Interpreter Bank and to support the growth of worker-owned language service cooperatives, ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to high-quality interpretation and translation services.

#### Building Political Power:

- Invest \$2.5M in FY26 City Budget to launch a 2030 Census and engagement campaign to ensure every New Yorker is counted in the upcoming census.
- Allocate \$10M in FY26 to sustain and expand access to naturalization programs that provide free legal assistance with citizenship applications and financial counseling to all immigrant New Yorkers.
- Invest \$2.5M in FY26 to launch comprehensive voter education campaigns to inform New Yorkers about Ranked Choice Voting and ensure that every voter understands how to participate fully.
- Advance legislation 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.



# NYIC NYC 2025 Priorities



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

*Rather than fostering safety and prosperity, the federal government has undermined New York's security, economy, and well-being by implementing policies that will separate families, subject people to cruel and inhumane detention, and weaken our economy while dividing communities. In this challenging climate, New York City must meet these local and federal threats with oversight, enforcement, and innovation—implementing strong protections that defend our City's detainer laws and sanctuary policies, divesting from punitive systems, and investing in community-based solutions that uphold justice, keep families together, and affirm New York's commitment to immigrant rights.*

### Recommendations:

#### **Maintain and Expand Funding for Immigration Legal Services:**

- Invest \$60 million in funding for immigration legal services to ensure continuity of services and to help defend immigrants against ongoing aggressive, anti-immigrant policies.
- Invest \$10 million to create and expand restorative justice programs in immigrant communities, ensuring immigrant New Yorkers have access to culturally competent, non-carceral solutions that prioritize healing and harm reduction.
- Increase \$34 million in funding for the NY Immigrant Family Unity Program (NYIFUP) to sustain and support the representation of detained individuals.
- Increase and baseline \$40 million in Immigrant Opportunity Initiative (IOI) funding to meet the needs of immigrant communities.
- Establish a \$25 million Citywide Rapid Response fund to provide emergency immigration legal services, housing, and food assistance to families impacted by immigration enforcement actions.

#### **Divest from and Abolish ICE transfers and contracts:**

- Divert \$10 million from any contracts, funding, or cooperation with ICE or detention-related activities and reinvest it in immigrant legal services and advocacy.
- Ban all city contracts, including those involving local jails and detention centers, to ensure city agencies do not facilitate immigration detention or deportations.

#### **Strengthen the City's Sanctuary Policies:**

- Pass legislation to strengthen the city's detainer laws by closing loopholes to explicitly bar any transfers and communication between ICE and NYPD ([Int. 395](#)) and the Department of Correction ([Int. 396](#)) unless a person is convicted of a violent or serious crime or there is a warrant signed by a federal judge.
- Pass the NYC Trust Act, [Int. 214](#), to hold both local agencies and law enforcement accountable and empower New Yorkers who were harmed by these violations to seek justice and not hide.
- Strengthen sanctuary policies by closing loopholes to explicitly bar any collaboration between city agencies and federal immigration enforcement entities, including ICE, ERO, and HSI, in immigration enforcement activities.