

New York State Community Toolkit

A resource guide for immigrant New Yorkers
March/April 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.
 - The open enrollment window for commercial health insurance is now closed.
- How to enroll
 - Get free enrollment assistance from a Navigator, in person or by phone. Find a Navigator at 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. 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 for help and additional resources.
- Find multilingual information about health coverage at 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.
- There may be changes to health coverage for DACA recipients soon. To stay updated on changes, check healthcare.gov or NYIC’s resources at nyic.org/kyr.

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 % of the Federal Poverty Line.
 - The expansion also includes Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients.
 - 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.
- To learn more about enrolling in the Essential Plan as a DACA recipient, visit 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.

Cancer Screening

- Regular cancer screenings help to find cancer early when it is easier to treat.
- Most health insurance plans cover cancer screenings.
- If you do not have insurance, NYS provides free screenings for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer.
- For more information, visit health.ny.gov/diseases/cancer/services

Health

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
 - To get the updated vaccine at a location near you, visit 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
- 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.
 - You can follow New York State flu trends on the Department's Flu Tracker at nyshe.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.

Measles Outbreak and Vaccine

- There have been multiple recent outbreaks of measles, a viral infection that's dangerous for small children.
- The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is very effective at preventing measles.
 - The MMR vaccine is given in 2 doses. The first dose is given at ages 12-15 months and the second at 4-6 years.
 - Unvaccinated children, adolescents, and adults can receive a 2 dose catch-up 4 weeks apart.
- For more information, visit cdc.gov/measles

HPV Vaccine

- HPV is a virus that can spread through skin-to-skin contact and can cause cancers such as cervical and throat cancer.
- HPV vaccination is recommended for everyone under 26 years.
 - Children ages 11-12 years should get 2 doses, given 6 to 12 months apart.
 - Individuals aged 15 through 26 years should get 3 doses, given over 6 months.
- Individuals over the age of 27 should consult their healthcare provider.
- For more information, visit cdc.gov/hpv/vaccines

Immigration policy updates

Immigrant Registration Requirement

- The U.S. federal government now requires some undocumented immigrants to register with the Department of Homeland Security.
- This new rule is in effect as of April 11, 2025.
- It says that adults and children over 14 years old who entered the U.S. without inspection and haven't had contact with immigration authorities must register.
- The government considers many groups of people to already be registered. You may not have to register under this new rule if you:
 - are a lawful permanent resident (Green Card holder)
 - are a refugee
 - came to the U.S. on a visa, even if it has expired
 - are already in immigration court proceedings
 - are granted employment authorization (work permit), even if it has expired
 - were granted parole, including advance parole, even if it has expired
 - applied for lawful permanent residence, even if the application was denied
- If you are undocumented and have not had contact with immigration authorities before, registering could have immigration and criminal consequences.
- If you are required to register but don't, you may face immigration and criminal consequences.
- If you are required to register, or have questions about the process, you should talk to a trusted immigration attorney to understand the risks involved before making any decision.
- For more information, visit: nyic.org/kyr/#14

CBP One Parole Revoked

- Under the Biden administration, immigrants could enter the U.S. using the CBP One app.
- Now, the government is revoking parole status for immigrants who entered the U.S. using the CBP One app and issuing termination notices.
- The app is now called CBP Home, and is used to encourage immigrants to self-deport.
- Many individuals who were paroled through CBP One have since applied or received other status or may have an upcoming court date.
- If you have a pending immigration application with USCIS (e.g., asylum, TPS, or adjustment of status through marriage) or an upcoming court date, you may be able to stay in the U.S. while your application is reviewed.
- You should speak to an attorney to learn your options.

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

- On March 25, 2025, DHS announced the termination of CHNV Parole. It would terminate on April 24, 2025.
- On April 14, 2025, a federal judge issued a temporary order suspending the termination.
- The judge's decision allows individuals under the CHNV parole program to stay in the U.S. and maintain their work authorizations until their current parole periods expire.



Visas Revoked

- The US government is revoking visas for many reasons. These reasons include participation in protests, being from a certain country, or having an interaction with the criminal justice system.
- For example, on April 5, 2025, the government announced that it would revoke all visas held by South Sudanese passport holders and stop new visas from being issued.
- Visa holders should monitor their visa status and consult an immigration attorney if concerned.

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, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen
- For specific country information, eligibility requirements, registration periods, and latest updates, check uscis.gov/TPS.
- All TPS applicants can now file Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, online at uscis.gov/i-821.
- TPS designations for Afghanistan, Cameroon, and South Sudan will end soon.
 - TPS for South Sudan will end May 7, 2025.
 - TPS for Afghanistan will end May 20, 2025.
 - TPS for Cameroon will end June 7, 2025.
- 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.
 - On March 31, 2025, a federal judge ordered DHS to continue TPS for Venezuelans.
 - Litigation is ongoing and Venezuelan TPS holders will still have status while the case is pending.
 - 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.



Immigration policy updates

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/

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- Right now, DACA is being decided in the courts. That means the program’s future is still uncertain.
 - For up to date information, visit:
 - unitedwedream.org/resources/the-5th-circuits-mandate-on-daca-is-expected-to-take-effect-heres-what-you-need-to-know
- On March 12, 2025, the court’s most recent decision would allow first-time DACA applications. However, there is still no updated guidance from the USCIS.
 - If you are eligible for DACA and are considering applying for the first time should consult with a trusted immigration attorney before applying.
- 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).
 - 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.



Detention resources



How to prepare for you and your family

- If you are not a U.S. Citizen and you have children, you should plan ahead in case you are ever detained by ICE, CBP or another federal agent.
- To prepare, you should:
 - Keep important documents in a safe place that other family members know about.
 - Decide who you would want to care for your children if you are not able to do so.
 - Legally designate someone to be the caretaker of your children.
 - Two of the most common ways to legally designate a caretaker are:
 - Designation of Person in Parental Relationship
 - Standby Guardianship
 - Fill out additional forms for your child, including a Travel Authorization Form or School Emergency Contact Form.
 - You may also want to consider filling out a Power of Attorney form.
- For more information, visit vlpcny.org/get-help/immigration/planning-for-immigrant-parents

How to get connected if you are detained

- If you are detained by immigration or other law enforcement, you have certain rights, including the right to communicate.
- You have the right to make a phone call, such as to your family, lawyer, or consulate.
- You can call an immigration detention hotline to get connected to resources.
 - To call the National Immigration Detention Hotline, dial 9233# from a facility phone. The hotline is free, unmonitored, and available Mon-Fri, 11am-11pm.
 - To call the Justice for Migrant Families hotline, which is available for the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility, call [716-427-4917](tel:716-427-4917), Mon-Thu, 2pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm.

How to support someone in detention

- ICE can detain non-citizens in ICE-operated facilities, local jails, and private detention centers.
- The immigration detention system can be difficult to navigate, making it hard to locate and communicate with your loved one.
- To find a person currently in ICE custody:
 - Go to locator.ice.gov and enter the person's:
 - Name, country of birth, and birth date, or
 - 9-digit A-number
 - The ICE locator should indicate where the individual is being detained, but it may take time for them to show up in this system.
 - If you think that your loved one may be detained in a specific ICE detention facility, you may also be able to find them by:
 - Searching for them at accesscorrections.com. If their name appears, they are most likely detained in the facility you selected.
 - Contacting the facility directly at ice.gov/detention-facilities
 - If you cannot find someone using these online systems, you can contact an ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) field office: ice.gov/contact/field-offices
 - For more information on finding someone in detention, visit freedomforimmigrants.org/toolkit-lost-in-detention
- To find a person's court date and location:
 - Visit acis.eoir.justice.gov and enter the person's 9-digit A-number, or
 - Call [1-800-898-7180](tel:1-800-898-7180) and follow the instructions.
- To find legal assistance:
 - To find nonprofit organizations that provide free or low-cost immigration legal services, visit immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory
 - Call Immigrant Defense Project at [212-725-6422](tel:212-725-6422)
- To get assistance with a bond payment:
 - If your loved one has been granted a bond that they cannot afford, they may be eligible for bond assistance from a bond fund.
 - For information on bonds in New York state, visit envisionfreedom.org/get-support
 - For a list of bond funds across the country, visit bit.ly/localbailfunds

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.



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 about the Empire State child credit, visit 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.

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 or call 718-935-2013.
 - For information on the admissions process, download the "2023 NYC Public Schools Admissions Guide," available in 9 languages, at schools.nyc.gov/admissions.
 - To find and apply to a NYC Public School, visit myschools.nyc, call 311, or visit a Family Welcome Center for assistance. Family Welcome Center locations can be found at schools.nyc.gov/fwc.
 - Enrollment periods vary depending on different grade levels. To see the Fall 2024 Admissions Timeline, visit schools.nyc.gov/enroll.

College Financial Aid

- Get help at UnderstandingFAFSA.org, a website that provides guides and resources for students and families seeking money for college.
 - Their free FAFSA How-To Guide for High School Students is available in ten languages.
 - The website has updated how-to pages for undocumented students and immigrant families.
- 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
 - 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 NYS Excelsior Scholarship program will open May 2025 for the 2025-26 Academic Year.
 - For more information or to apply, visit 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



Financial empowerment



Filing your taxes in 2025

- The deadline to file your tax return this year was April 15, 2025.
- If you have not filed your tax return for this year or previous years, you should do so as soon as possible.
 - If you owe taxes, you may owe a penalty for filing late and interest charges on the taxes not paid by the original due date.
 - If you do not owe taxes or you expect a refund, you may not owe a penalty. Still, it may be best to file as soon as you can to receive your refund or to ensure you don't owe a balance.
 - For more information, visit irs.gov/taxtopics/tc153
- 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
 - You can get connected to IRS-certified volunteers virtually to have your return prepared through 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
 - If your income is \$84,000 or less, you can access guided return preparation assistance.

- You can use Direct File to file your tax return.
 - If your 2024 wages were under \$200,000, you may qualify for direct file.
 - Check your eligibility at tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/direct-file/direct-file-eligibility.htm
- 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

Taxpayer Information for ITIN Filers

- In April 2025, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reached an agreement to collaborate with the Department of Homeland Security to share sensitive information on undocumented taxpayers with removal orders.
- For more information about ITINs and data privacy, visit nyc.org/resources-training/taxpayer-information-for-itin-filers

NY Minimum Wage Increase January 1st, 2025

- Starting January 1, 2025:
 - 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 \$21.44 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.
 - 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.
 - If you have questions about your registration status, contact your county Board of Elections:
www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html
 - NYC residents: visit 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
- NYC Board of Elections:
vote.nyc/page/register-vote
- Register online (if you have a NYS Driver License, Permit or Non-Driver ID):
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

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
- 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

To learn more about our election systems and how they work, watch our videos at 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. You can visit 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.
- 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 for more information.

Connecting with Community

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

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.
- 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. 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
- For help with Unemployment Insurance, call [1-888-209-8124](tel:1-888-209-8124) or visit dol.ny.gov/unemployment/unemployment-insurance-assistance.

NYS Division of Human Rights

- The Human Rights Law in New York prohibits discrimination in areas like employment, housing, credit, education, and places of public accommodations, based on age, race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, disability, military status, and other classes.
- If you feel you have been discriminated against, file a complaint at [1-888-392-3644](tel:1-888-392-3644) or visit 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.
- For information on the affordable housing lottery in New York City, call [212-863-7990](tel:212-863-7990) or visit housingconnect.nyc.gov.
- For information on tenants rights in New York State, visit 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 for more information.

To view this document online or in other languages, visit 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

If you would like to schedule a free Know Your Rights workshop with your community group, please contact: 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
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212 627 2227
nyic.org