

New York State Community Toolkit

A resource guide for immigrant New Yorkers
March 2026



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 through the ACA marketplace, the open enrollment window 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



Medicaid coverage for undocumented immigrants in New York State

- Undocumented immigrants living in New York State who are age 65 and older, and meet certain income requirements, are eligible for full Medicaid (as opposed to only emergency Medicaid)
- Undocumented children under 19 are eligible for Child Health Plus (CHP), which provides free/low-cost health insurance regardless of income or immigration status.
- 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

Nutrition and Healthy Food

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/EBT/Food Stamps)
 - SNAP provides food benefits to low-income families so that they can buy healthy food and groceries.
 - For more information on SNAP, eligibility, and to apply, visit otda.ny.gov/programs/snap
 - Work requirement updates:
 - New York will now be enforcing work requirements for SNAP recipients, both first time enrollees and renewals.
 - For more information on work requirements, visit otda.ny.gov/programs/snap/work-requirements.asp
- Food pantries
 - A food pantry is a place where people can get free food if they are having trouble buying enough food for themselves or their families.
 - For information on available food pantries throughout New York State, visit health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/hpnap/regional_foodbank_map.htm



Vaccines

- Vaccines are one of the most powerful tools to protect health and prevent serious illness. They are carefully tested, monitored, and recommended by trusted medical experts.
- New York State and the American Academy of Pediatrics have revised their recommendations and guidelines for vaccines.
- Recommended vaccines include Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Rotavirus, Influenza (flu), Meningococcal (MenACWY), HPV, and COVID-19.
 - For a list of the recommended vaccines, visit bit.ly/vaccines26
- There are no anticipated changes to insurance coverage as a result of these updates. These vaccines are expected to remain covered by insurance plans, including Medicaid, at least through the end of 2026.
- Rely on trusted sources like the New York State Department of Health, or your healthcare provider, to make the best decision for you and your family.
- 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.
 - Please consult with your doctor if you have not, or are unsure if you, received your MMR vaccine.
 - For more information, visit health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/measles
- For general information on all available vaccines, visit health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization

Immigration policy updates



New Immigration Fees

- After the federal tax and spending bill H.R. 1 was signed into law, fees for many immigration filings have changed or increased.
- These increases are in effect as early as July 22, 2025 and August 21, 2025.
- Policies for fee waivers have also been restricted in some filing processes.
- Some of the fee changes that may impact applicants are:
 - Asylum Application
 - Previous fee: \$0
 - New Fee: \$100
 - There is also a new \$100 annual 'asylum maintenance fee'.
 - There are no fee waivers allowed for this fee.
 - Asylum related Employment Authorization Documents (EAD)/Work Permits
 - Previous fee: \$0
 - New Fee: \$550 for first time applicants
 - New Fee: \$275 renewal fee
 - Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
 - Previous fee: \$50
 - New Fee: \$550
 - Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ)
 - Previous Fee: \$0
 - New Fee: \$250
 - Parole
 - Previous Fee: Various
 - New Additional Fee: \$1,000
 - This new fee is for individuals who have been granted parole and are present in the United States.
 - The fee is collected only if/when your parole is approved. Do not pay the new fee when submitting form I-131.
- For a full list of new immigration fees and comparisons to prior fees, please visit immigrantjustice.org/research/explainer-trump-and-congress-punishing-new-immigration-fees

Expanded Muslim and African Travel Ban

- On June 9, the Trump Administration implemented a travel ban that restricts travel into the United States for people from 19 countries.
- On December 16, the Trump Administration expanded its travel ban from 19 countries to 39 countries plus Palestine. The expanded Muslim and African Travel Ban limits physical entry into the U.S., as well as potential visa renewals or extensions.
- Nationals of the following countries are affected: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Burma (Myanmar), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Cuba, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Dominica, Gabon, The Gambia, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Laos, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine (Palestinian Authority Travel Document holders), Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Tonga, Togo, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Immigration applications for people from these countries are also paused.
 - The pause may impact petitions for citizenship and naturalization, work permits, spousal petitions, status adjustments, parole, and more.
 - The government will re-review approved immigration applications for people from these countries who arrived in the U.S. since 2021, including refugee status, asylum, or green cards.
- If you are affected by the Muslim and African travel ban, talk to an immigration lawyer.
- If you are from a country or territory affected by the travel ban, you should be cautious about making travel plans. Consider talking to an immigration lawyer to understand your risks before you make any plans to leave or enter the U.S.

Immigration policy updates



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:
 - homeishere.us/daca-guidance
- 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.

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.
- For specific country information, eligibility requirements, registration periods, and latest updates, check uscis.gov/TPS.
- All TPS applicants can file Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, online at uscis.gov/i-821.
- DHS' review of TPS designations may result in the revocation of TPS designations.
- Community members should continue to check on their countries' TPS designation and keep aware of their status.
- If your TPS status is ending or has ended, you should speak to an immigration attorney to figure out your options and see if you qualify for other programs.

Asylum Processing Paused

- USCIS has announced they are not making any decisions on any new or pending asylum cases as the agency undergoes a security risk assessment.
- USCIS says that they will still accept new asylum applications, conduct asylum interviews, and pending asylum applications are still maintained.
- USCIS has made clear that they will not make any final asylum decisions for any applicants, regardless of country of origin until the pause is lifted.
- It is unclear how long this pause will last.
- As of now, the pause is not expected to impact asylum applications in immigration court, but if you have concerns, you should speak to your attorney immediately.

Immigration policy updates



ICE at Immigration Courts

- Immigrants appearing for their immigration court hearings are being detained by ICE.
- In court, the government's lawyer may try to dismiss your case. If you arrived in the U.S. less than 2 years ago, and your case is dismissed, you may be at risk of being arrested by ICE and quickly deported. This process is called expedited removal.
- How to protect yourself
 - If you are able to, appear at your immigration court hearing virtually.
 - If you are eligible, make sure you have filed your asylum or other applications with the court.
 - If you are detained and afraid to return to your home country and/or another country, say this clearly to ICE and any immigration officials, you may have to do so multiple times.
 - If you had an asylum application in court when your case was dismissed, it will not protect you. You must explain your fear of persecution or torture again.
- Know Your Rights in court:
 - You have the right to object to dismissal before the judge makes their decision.
 - You can demand that the ICE attorney submit their request to dismiss the case in writing, so that you have time to explain to the judge why you want to continue your case and to seek legal assistance.
 - If the judge dismisses your case, you have the right to appeal. You can appeal this decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). Make sure to tell the immigration judge you want to appeal.
 - If you fear persecution or torture if returned to your home country and/or another country, say this to the judge at the hearing.

Pretermission

- Pretermission is when an immigration judge or government lawyer decides to deny or cancel your asylum application before you get the chance to fully explain your case or show your evidence in court.
- If the court pretermits your application, your final hearing will be canceled and the judge will issue a removal order in your case.
- The government lawyer or the immigration judge may attempt to pretermit your case if:
 - They believe that your application for asylum does not contain enough detail or show that you are eligible for asylum.
 - They believe that you are required to seek asylum in another country based on an agreement between the U.S. government and that country's government.
 - You have not paid the new fees that are required as part of your asylum application.
- A motion for pretermission can be oral or written.
 - If it is an oral motion, the government attorney may ask the judge to pretermit your asylum application while you are at a court hearing.
 - If it is a written motion, it will be sent to you by mail to the last address the court has in your file.
- If your case is pretermitted, you must respond to the motion in 10 days.
- It is important to remember:
 - If the government lawyer tries to make an oral motion to pretermit, you can ask the lawyer to submit the motion in writing so you can better understand and respond.
 - If the government lawyer says they want to deport you to a country that is not your home country, and you are afraid to go there, you can tell the judge and the government lawyer why you are scared.
- For more information on pretermission and for a template on how to respond, visit immigranthelpny.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/44001805530772-Pretermission-Resources

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 nilc.org/resources/how-to-find-a-loved-one-after-a-u-s-immigration-arrest
 - This resource is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Spanish.
- 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

Promise NYC child care assistance

- In January 2023, New York City launched Promise NYC, a new program that will provide child care subsidies for low-income families with undocumented or non-citizen children, who were previously ineligible because of their immigration status.
- The program has been renewed and will support over 1,000 children from July 2025 to June 2026.
- Families may be eligible if they:
 - Are not eligible for other forms of child care subsidies
 - Have a child ages 0-13
 - Have a household income below 300% of the federal poverty level
- Families are encouraged to apply as soon as possible with the following designated community organizations in their borough:
 - Bronx and Manhattan: Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation ([212-822-8300](tel:212-822-8300), nmic.org/promisenyc)
 - Brooklyn: Center for Family Life ([718-438-9500](tel:718-438-9500), centerforfamilylife.org)
 - Staten Island: La Colmena ([718-442-7700](tel:718-442-7700), lacolmenanyc.org)
 - Queens: Chinese-American Planning Council ([718-358-8899](tel:718-358-8899), cpc-nyc.org)
- Please note that Promise NYC seats are very limited, and we encourage families to add themselves to the waitlist in case new seats open up.



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.

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.

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](tel:718-935-2013).
 - For information on the admissions process, visit schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/new-students.
 - To find and apply to a NYC Public School, visit myschools.nyc, call [311](tel:311), or visit a Family Welcome Center for assistance. Family Welcome Center locations can be found at schools.nyc.gov/fwc.
 - Enrollment periods vary depending on different grade levels. To see the Fall 2026 Admissions Timeline, visit schools.nyc.gov/enroll.

Cell Phone Ban in Public Schools

- New York State passed a new law in May 2025 that limits student use of smartphones and internet-enabled devices during the school day.
- Students may be allowed to use devices if needed for translation, interpretation, medical purposes, or family emergencies.
- Parents will still have a way to reach their child during the day through school staff.
- The law will be adapted by each school district based on local needs and feedback from families.
 - NYC Public Schools will require students to store their phones while in school.

College Financial Aid

- The Financial Aid for College: High School Toolkit offers guidance for high schools to support students in applying for financial aid options in New York State, such as the NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), NYS DREAM Act, and Alternative Pathway that help students from low-income backgrounds and students who are not legal residents of New York obtain grants and scholarships.
 - For more information visit newyork.edtrust.org/fafsatoolkit
- 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/nystap
 - 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.
 - 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 2026

- The IRS is currently accepting and processing 2025 tax year returns.
- The deadline to file taxes is April 15, 2026.
- Most people who work in the U.S. have to file a tax return.
 - To check if you are required to file federal taxes, visit irs.gov/individuals/check-if-you-need-to-file-a-tax-return
 - To check if you are required to file NYS state taxes, visit tax.ny.gov/pit/file/do_i_need_to_file.htm
- 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 \$69,000 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 \$69,000 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 \$89,000 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

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.
- The credit for 2025 is:
 - \$1,000 per qualifying child under four years old
 - \$330 per qualifying child at least age four but less than 17 years old.
- For more information about the Empire State child credit, visit tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/empire_state_child_credit.htm.



Unemployment Insurance Benefits

- Starting on October 6, 2025, the maximum weekly benefit rate for workers who have lost their job with no fault of their own, and are ready, willing, and able to work will increase from the current \$504 to \$869.
 - The new rate will be automatically recalculated based on your previously reported earnings.
 - The increased benefit rate will start the week of October 13. You do not need to do anything to receive this increase.
 - To get an estimate of your weekly unemployment insurance benefits, visit ux.labor.ny.gov/benefit-rate-calculator
- Starting October 1, 2025, striking workers are now eligible for unemployment insurance benefits after a two-week period.
 - For additional information, visit dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2025/09/p835-ui-and-strikes-9-25.pdf
- To learn more about applying for unemployment benefits, visit ny.gov/services/get-unemployment-assistance

Democracy

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](tel: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](tel:1-800-566-7636).

Community Safety



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

Hate Crimes and Bias

- A hate crime is an offense that is motivated by bias against a person's race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation.
- New York State has a Hate Crimes Task Force to address the increase in reports of bias-motivated threats, harassment and violence.
- If you see something or are a victim of a hate crime:
 - Report it to the NYS Division of Human Rights. Call [1-888-392-3644](tel:1-888-392-3644), text "HATE" to 81336, or go to forms.ny.gov/s3/Hate-Crime-Tips. 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), mcnyy.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 of Language Access

- The NYS Office of Language Access oversees language access services for millions of New Yorkers with limited English proficiency.
- To know your rights to interpretation and translation services, visit ogs.ny.gov/know-your-rights
- To file a language access complaint, visit languageaccess.ny.gov/en-US.
- To receive a language access toolkit or request interpretation kits, submit the questionnaire for advocate organizations survey.alchemer.com/s3/8252338/OLA-Questionnaire

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 is 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 nycic.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@nycic.org

If you would like to schedule a free Know Your Rights workshop with your community group, please contact: kyr@nycic.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

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