

NYIC NYC 2026 Priorities



Ending City Support for Detention, Deportation, and Mass Incarceration

The federal government's mass deportation campaign has undermined New York's security, economy, and the well-being of all our people. NYC 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, turning away 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:

Baseline and Scale Up Immigration Legal Services:

- **Invest \$85M in funding for immigration legal services.** We celebrate last year's historic increase in legal services by the Council. But attacks persist. This year, additional funds will ensure the continuity of services and help defend immigrants against ongoing aggressive, anti-immigrant policies and the Trump administration's federal attacks on immigrants across the city.
- **Baseline \$40M for the Immigrant Opportunity Initiative (IOI) and \$4.5M for the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative** to meet the intensifying need of immigrant communities as NYC's population of immigrants who have been arrested, detained, or are imminently facing deportation rapidly increases.
- **Allocate \$40M in funding for the NY Immigrant Family Unity Program (NYIFUP)** to sustain and support the representation of detained individuals.
- **Establish a \$65M Citywide Family and Loved Ones Fund** to provide travel stipends and other emergency, non-legal support for individuals and families impacted by immigrant detention.
- **Invest \$15M 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.
- **Invest at \$18.5M for the Unaccompanied Minor and Families Initiative** to ensure the continuity of critical legal representation for unaccompanied children and families in removal proceedings, so they have a fair chance to remain in New York.

Pass legislation to strengthen NYC's sanctuary laws:

- **Prohibit 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 judicial warrant signed by a federal judge.
- **Pass the NYC Trust Act, [Int. 209](#)**, 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.
- **Abolish the NYPD Gang database** by passing by passing [Int. 460](#) to ensure that the city ends the use of this discriminatory dragnet tool, and prohibits the creation of future tools that disproportionately target Black and Latino youth in New York City.

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Ensuring Economic Power & Good Jobs

Immigrant New Yorkers strengthen our economy through their hard work, by launching new businesses, creating jobs, and paying millions in taxes each year. They constitute nearly half of the city's workforce and contribute to 37% of its total income. It is crucial to protect immigrant workers' rights and to provide the support all families need to thrive. This support includes access to quality childcare, English language education, safe working conditions, and equitable banking practices.

Recommendations:

Prioritize Immigrant communities in universal child care programs.

- Protect all immigrants' access to universal childcare expansion by investing \$50 million to expand ACS's Promise NYC program, and allocate \$4 million for a new Childcare Immigrant Family Outreach Initiative to help families navigate the system.

Implement the Street Vendors Reform (SVR) approved by the City Council.

- The Mayor should designate the Department of Sanitation Police as the sole agency responsible for routine street-vending enforcement. NYPD should focus solely on counterfeit merchandise.
- Allocate \$5.2 million for SVR Implementation: \$2.1million for the Department of Small Business Services to establish the Office of Street Vendor Services (Local Law 53) and \$3.1 million for the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection for license cap increase (Local Law 54).

Invest \$50 million in Adult Literacy.

- Given federal budget cuts that will reduce eligibility for workforce programs, the City Council should allocate \$20 million to the new Education for Integration and Equity program, maintain \$12 million for DYCD Adult Literacy RFP contracts, and raise total funding for adult literacy from \$14.5 million to \$18 million consolidated under the Adult Literacy Forward Initiative.

Protect Immigrant Workers.

- Invest \$15 million to establish a citywide Immigrant Workers Task Force to train and certify employers through Know Your Rights programs, uphold workplace and Fourth Amendment protections, provide rapid legal response during immigration raids, and connect immigrant workers and families with essential services.
- Invest an additional \$30M in the Department of Consumers and Workers Protection to increase enforcement of consumer protection, worker protection, and licensing laws, above the current allocation.

Create a Public Bank in New York City.

- NYC's \$100 billion-plus budget is currently managed by commercial banks that disinvest in our communities and harm the public interest. NYC has the opportunity to reinvest billions to fund housing, small businesses, immigrant communities, and a green economy. The Mayor should work with the City Council to submit a Home Rule Request to Albany, enabling NYC to operate a full-scale municipal public bank.

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Building Political Power and Guaranteed Civil Rights

New York City thrives when all residents, regardless of language, birthplace, or immigration status, can access services, participate in civic life, and shape public decision-making. In the face of federal threats to civil rights and with the 2030 Census approaching, NYC must invest in durable civic infrastructure, enforce language access as a civil right, and expand pathways to political inclusion.

Recommendations:

Reinforce Language Justice Infrastructure

- **Baseline \$5.8M in the FY27 Mayor's Executive Budget**, consisting of \$3M to sustain the development and operations of the NYC Community Interpreter Bank, and \$2.8M to support the growth of worker-owned language service cooperatives, ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to high quality interpretation and translation services.
- Establish dedicated language access budget lines within relevant agency expense budgets (including HRA, DSS, DOHMH, HPD, and DOE) to contract directly with community-based language services.

Save Lives with Linguistically Diverse Emergency Alerts

- **Baseline \$3M to fund multilingual emergency communications** tools such as Notify NYC to ensure emergency alerts are accessible across additional languages.

Build Political Power

- **Invest \$20M to launch year-round Know Your Voting Rights workshops/programs** in trusted spaces (libraries, campuses, CBOs) with stipended civic apprenticeships, multilingual outreach, and embedded voter registration drives.
- **Baseline \$2.5M for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and Multilingual Voter Education** so that New Yorkers fully understand NYC's voting systems and can participate meaningfully.
- **Invest \$60M to launch a "2030 Census City Counts"** outreach and engagement campaign to ensure every New Yorker is counted in the upcoming census.
- **Allocate \$20M to expand staffing and access to naturalization programs**, such as CUNY Citizenship Now! which provide free legal assistance with citizenship applications and financial counseling to all immigrant New Yorkers.
- **Invest an additional \$30M in the NYC Human Rights Commission above its current allocation**, to foster a city free of discrimination, by enforcing the comprehensive NYC Human Rights Law and educating the public about its mission.
- **Increase an additional \$30M for the Mayor's Office of Immigrants' Affairs** to expand its operations.

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Creating Healthy Communities

Thriving and resilient communities have access to adequate housing, quality healthcare, and healthy food. Policy changes, including attacks on the Right to Shelter, pose a direct threat to the health and well-being of our communities and run counter to the welcoming values of New York City. Immigration raids that racially profile New Yorkers lead to reduced access to food and healthcare. Now more than ever, we must ensure access to essential services to build a resilient, inclusive New York City for all.

Recommendations:

Housing:

- **The Mayor should rescind the Adams Administration's continuous shelter-related Emergency Order No. 2.16 and uphold the Right to Shelter.** The mayor has called on DHS to propose a new plan to create a more equal shelter system and to integrate people living in HERRCs and commercial hotels so they can receive necessary health and social services. Following the development of this plan, the Mayor should rescind the Adams Administration's EOs and strengthen his commitment to the principle of the Right to Shelter.
- **Improve CityFHEPS through Transparency and Expansion Enforcement.** CityFHEPS, a rental assistance supplement, helps individuals and families find and maintain housing. Now that the City Council won moderate expansion efforts, the city must ensure the program enacts those wins. Furthermore, to ensure the program is efficient and transparent, the City should address implementation issues by allowing CBOs to submit applications, extending the expiration dates of shopping letters, and ensuring that materials are available in all languages required under Local Law 30.
- **Expand CityFHEPS to all New Yorkers.** City Council, with support from the State, should introduce a bill to expand CityFHEPS to all households, regardless of immigration status. Expanding the program would lead to long-term financial benefits for the city, increased capacity in shelters, and stability for families.

Health:

- **Expand Access Health NYC funding to \$4.5 million** so that CBOs and community health centers—which are helping communities navigate eligibility changes due to HR1—can continue to educate their communities about health access, coverage, and benefits for immigrant communities; especially newcomers and asylum seekers.
- **Strengthen NYC Care by doubling its budget to \$200 million**, so that all immigrants—particularly those expected to lose Essential Plan coverage in 2026 and ACA coverage in 2027—can access healthcare services on par with their citizen counterparts.
- **Achieve a 100% staffing rate of mental health professionals within shelters**—counselors, social workers, and trauma-informed medical professionals—in order to be compliant with Local Law 035-2023.
- **Increase funding for Community Food Connection to \$100 million to ensure access to healthy produce** in order to strengthen the city's emergency food system, which is facing challenges due to federal budget cuts. This is a necessary investment that will provide life-saving support for vulnerable communities.

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Access to Quality Education

Immigrant children are New York City's fabric and future, and their success in public schools is essential to the City's growth. More than one in six NYCPS students are English Language Learners (ELLs) who strengthen school communities. Yet heightened immigration enforcement has created fear that disrupts students' sense of safety, attendance, and ability to learn. At the same time, ELLs and students from immigrant families lack consistent access to the high-quality, targeted instruction they need to succeed. Protection and quality education are inseparable. Students cannot thrive academically if they feel unsafe, and safety alone is insufficient without strong, culturally responsive instruction. New York City must advance both together.

Recommendations:

NYCPS must release additional guidance on interacting with non-local law enforcement.

- Current NYCPS guidance is limited to enforcement activity inside school buildings. Updated protocols must clearly address enforcement activity on school perimeters, during arrival and dismissal, on school transportation, during off-campus activities; and outline shelter-in-place procedures while school leadership engages with non-local law enforcement.

NYCPS must require training so every adult in every school is aware of how to respond to encounters with non-local law enforcement.

- NYCPS must develop a training curriculum aligned with the additional guidance on non-local law enforcement. The Chancellor should convene principals for centralized virtual training and require them to facilitate staff training during existing professional development time. Training must also include School Safety Officers and contracted staff who work directly with students.

Commit \$8 million to create an English Language Learner Instructional Specialist position.

- This investment would pilot the role in 50 high-need schools, where specialists would ensure access to grade-level instruction, required bilingual or ENL services, and academic interventions. The role would also strengthen family engagement by ensuring ELL families understand their children's progress and rights to language and academic support.

Fund the Support for Arts Instruction Initiative at \$6M.

- The current \$4 million allocation supports 239 schools through partnerships in visual arts, music, dance, and theater. As immigration enforcement leads to heightened stress and anxiety, arts education supports students' emotional well-being and sense of belonging. Increasing the initiative would expand access to over 350 schools.

Baseline \$4M In the Immigrant and Family Communications and Outreach Initiative.

- Currently set to expire in June 2026, this initiative strengthens communication with immigrant families through trusted CBO partnerships, multilingual materials, access to interpretation services, and targeted outreach to ensure families receive timely and accurate school information.

Direct \$800 million In the Capital Plan to address urgent health and safety hazards in school buildings with the greatest needs.

- Many schools in communities that serve Black, Latino, and immigrant students have failing facility conditions and face hazards, including asbestos, mold, and outdated or unreliable heating and cooling systems. Targeting investments in the highest-need schools will reduce absenteeism and improve learning conditions.