

# New York State Community Toolkit

A resource guide for immigrant New Yorkers  
July/August 2022



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.

Information last updated on: 07.29.2022

## **Contents**

- Health **3**
- Immigration **5**
- Education **8**
- Democracy **10**
- Know Your Rights **11**
- Hate Crimes **12**
- NYS Resources **13**



## COVID-19 Updates

- Starting June 18, 2022, children who are 6 months and older are eligible for the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.
  - For more information and frequently asked questions about vaccines for children, [visit ny.gov/VaxforKids](https://www.ny.gov/VaxforKids)
- If you test positive for COVID-19, treatments that help prevent severe disease are available.
  - Treatments work best when you receive them as soon as possible after becoming sick, so it's important to get tested and talk to your healthcare provider right away.
  - For more information, visit [ny.gov/covidtreatment](https://www.ny.gov/covidtreatment)
- Masks are still required in healthcare facilities, nursing homes, correction facilities, domestic violence shelters, and on public transit.
- All travelers, domestic and international, should continue to follow all CDC travel requirements: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers).

## Get free at-home COVID-19 tests

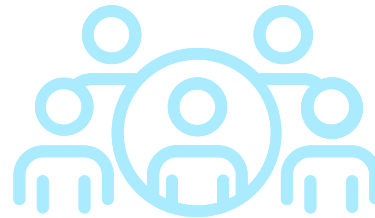
- Every household in the U.S. is eligible to get up to 12 at-home COVID-19 tests, delivered to you by the USPS. The tests are free regardless of insurance or immigration status.
  - Order your free test kits now at [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)
- Starting January 15, most people with a health plan can go online, or to a pharmacy or store to purchase at-home COVID-19 tests (up to 8 per month) at no cost, either through reimbursement or free of charge through their insurance.
  - For more information, visit [cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free](https://www.cms.gov/how-to-get-your-at-home-OTC-COVID-19-test-for-free)

## Get Vaccinated Today

- COVID-19 vaccines are widely available in New York State. Everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated and get their booster dose when eligible: [ny.gov/vaccine](https://www.ny.gov/vaccine).
- COVID-19 vaccines are FREE regardless of immigration status or insurance coverage.
- Vaccines are widely available at pharmacies, local health departments, clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other locations across New York State.
  - Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 888-720-7489) to find appointments near you.
  - Many local health departments are offering walk-in vaccine clinics or at-home vaccinations. Find contact information for your local health department at [nyscho.org/directory](https://www.nyscho.org/directory).

## Monkeypox

- Health officials in New York, the U.S., and around the world are monitoring cases of monkeypox in areas that do not usually report monkeypox infections, including in New York State.
- Monkeypox is a rare, viral infection that does not usually cause serious illness. However, it can result in painful symptoms, hospitalization, or death.
- While New Yorkers should not be alarmed, everyone should stay informed about monkeypox. This means understanding the symptoms, how it spreads, and what to do if you are exposed.
- For more information and updates, visit [health.ny.gov/monkeypox](https://www.health.ny.gov/monkeypox).



## COVID-19 Prevention Tips

- Get vaccinated and boosted
  - Any case of COVID-19 can lead to difficult symptoms, hospitalization and long-term health effects. Unvaccinated people are significantly more likely to have severe illness.
- Wear a mask
  - Consider wearing a face mask in public indoor settings where vaccine status is not known.
  - Upgrade to higher-quality masks, including KN95, KF94, N95, or a cloth mask on top of a surgical mask.
  - People who are at high risk of severe illness, who are over 65, or are unvaccinated will most benefit from this added layer of protection.
- Get tested
  - Get tested if you have symptoms or were recently exposed. People who are unvaccinated should get tested more often.
- Stay home if sick or recently exposed
  - Follow all isolation and quarantine guidance, including wearing a face mask. COVID-19 is highly contagious. You can spread COVID-19 even if you do not have symptoms.
- Wash your hands
  - Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use a hand sanitizer.



## NY HERO Act

- The New York Health and Essential Rights Act was signed into law on May 5, 2021. It requires the New York State Department of Labor to create Model Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure plans to protect employees from exposure to diseases like COVID-19.
- All private sector employers and workers are covered.
- On March 17, 2022, the designation of COVID-19 as an airborne infectious disease that presents a serious risk of harm to the public health under the HERO Act ended. Private sector employers are no longer required to implement their workforce safety plans.
- Even if there is no designation by the Commissioner of Health, employers must:
  - Create an airborne infectious disease exposure prevention plan.
  - Give a copy to employees within 30 days after creating one.
  - Give a copy to any new employees when they are hired.
  - Post the plan in each work site so employees can view it.
  - Update the plan as needed.
- Employers with 10 or more employees must permit workers to establish and administer a joint labor-management workplace safety committee.
  - Worker committees can address any workplace health and safety issue policy, not just issues concerning COVID-19.
  - Worker committees can always be created and meet whether or not a designation is in effect.
  - Workers have the right to form these committees without being fired, demoted, or any form of retaliation.
- Model plans and updates on implementation can be found at [dol.ny.gov/ny-hero-act](https://dol.ny.gov/ny-hero-act).

## New asylum regulations take effect on a limited basis

- The Biden administration's new asylum rules took effect on a limited basis on May 31. DHS will initially apply the rule to several hundred asylum seekers per month. It will only apply to those processed at one of two Texas detention centers and—if they win their cases—plan to live near one of six asylum offices, in Boston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Newark, or San Francisco.
- Under the new rule, asylum seekers who pass a “credible fear interview” will no longer be routed directly to immigration court. Instead, they will first be directed to a USCIS asylum office for an “Asylum Merits Interview,” where their credible fear interview will double as their asylum application.
- After the “Asylum Merits Interview,” which is supposed to take place within 21 to 45 days of a credible fear interview, an asylum officer will either grant or deny asylum.
  - If the officer grants asylum, then the case concludes favorably within weeks as compared to several years under the current process.
  - If the officer denies asylum, USCIS will refer the asylum seeker to an immigration court for an “expedited” process intended to decide the case within two to four months.
- Advocates warn that these timeframes will make it difficult for asylum seekers to find legal help, because there are few lawyers who can handle cases that need to be resolved in such a short time.

## Work permits for many immigrants will be automatically extended by 540 days

- Starting May 4, 2022, USCIS will automatically extend the validity of work permits for many immigrants by 540 days while they await processing of their renewals.
- This change will prevent thousands of immigrants, including asylum seekers, from losing work authorization while their renewal applications are stuck in USCIS's backlog.
- Resource from Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) explaining the new policy:
  - English: [help.asylumadvocacy.org/work-permits-extended-540-days](https://help.asylumadvocacy.org/work-permits-extended-540-days)
  - Spanish: [apoyodeasillo.org/permisos-de-trabajo-extendidos-540-dias](https://apoyodeasillo.org/permisos-de-trabajo-extendidos-540-dias)
- For more information and a complete list of the work permit categories who will receive the auto-extension, visit [uscis.gov/eadautoextend](https://uscis.gov/eadautoextend).



## Uniting for Ukraine

- On April 21, 2022, President Biden announced a program to welcome Ukrainians fleeing Russia's invasion. Uniting for Ukraine provides a pathway for Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who are outside the U.S. to come to the U.S. and stay temporarily in a two-year period of parole.
- Ukrainians participating in Uniting for Ukraine must have a supporter in the U.S. who agrees to provide them with financial support for the duration of their stay.
- For more information on the program and application process, see the DHS webpage: [dhs.gov/ukraine](https://dhs.gov/ukraine).

## DACA updates

- 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.
  - This ability is for those who currently have DACA or whose DACA expired less than a year ago.
  - More information about how to renew DACA online: [uscis.gov/humanitarian/renew-your-daca](https://uscis.gov/humanitarian/renew-your-daca)
- On July 16, 2021, Texas federal court Judge Hanen issued a decision that DACA is not a lawful program. That decision prevents DHS from approving any new first-time DACA applications. For now, DHS may continue to approve DACA renewal applications.
  - If you currently have DACA, your status is still valid.
  - If your DACA expires soon, 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.
- Litigation is ongoing, so it is possible that there will be additional changes to the program.



## Resources for Afghan refugees and parolees

- On September 30, President Biden signed into law a continuing resolution that included provisions to support Afghan refugees and parolees, including:
  - Making Afghan “humanitarian parolees” eligible to receive refugee resettlement services and benefits, such as reception and placement support and food assistance
  - Requiring the federal government to expedite consideration of Afghan parolees’ asylum applications
  - Making Afghan parolees eligible for REAL ID drivers’ licenses and identification cards
- Federal Government resources:
  - USCIS public guidance for Afghans: [uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghans](https://uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghans)
  - “Employment Information Regarding Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders and Parolees” in English, Dari, and Pashto: [justice.gov/crt/worker-information](https://justice.gov/crt/worker-information)
  - Afghan Assistance Resources across the federal government compiled by the Office of Refugee Resettlement: [acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources](https://acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/afghan-assistance-resources)
- Resettlement resources:
  - New York State – I-ARC’s Afghan Resettlement Project: [immigrantarc.org/afghanistan](https://immigrantarc.org/afghanistan)
  - New York City – including a roadmap of city services available in Dari and Pashto: [nyc.gov/afghanistanresources](https://nyc.gov/afghanistanresources)
  - Western New York – Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees: [wnyrac.org](https://wnyrac.org)
  - Albany/Capital region – Resource list: [bit.ly/3kvWRZd](https://bit.ly/3kvWRZd)
  - Ithaca/Finger Lakes region – Cornell Afghanistan Resource List: [bit.ly/3CwfFxy](https://bit.ly/3CwfFxy)
- Human Rights First Data Collection Form for identifying persons in need of evacuation from Afghanistan: [humanrightsfirst.org/afghan-evacuation](https://humanrightsfirst.org/afghan-evacuation)

## Temporary Protected Status updates

- On July 11, 2022, DHS announced the extension of Venezuela's designation for TPS for 18 months.
  - This extension will be in effect from September 10, 2022, through March 10, 2024. Only beneficiaries under Venezuela's existing designation, and who were already residing in the U.S. as of March 8, 2021, are eligible to re-register. Venezuelans who arrived in the U.S. after March 8, 2021 are not eligible for TPS.
- On June 27, 2022, the Biden administration extended and expanded Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians living in the U.S. through June 30, 2024.
  - For more information on DED, visit [uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-enforced-departure](https://uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-enforced-departure).
- On April 15, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the designation of Cameroon for TPS for 18 months.
  - The registration process begins on June 7, 2022 and runs through December 7, 2023. To be eligible, individuals must demonstrate their continuous residence in the U.S. since April 14, 2022, and continuous physical presence in the U.S. since June 7, 2022.
- On March 16, 2022, DHS announced the designation of Afghanistan for TPS for 18 months.
  - The registration process begins on May 20, 2022 and runs through November 20, 2023. To be eligible, individuals must demonstrate their continuous residence in the U.S. since March 15, 2022, and continuous physical presence in the U.S. since May 20, 2022.
- On March 3, 2022, DHS announced the designation of Ukraine for TPS for 18 months from April 19, 2022, through October 19, 2023.
- On March 2, 2022, DHS announced the designation of Sudan for TPS for 18 months.
- The Biden administration recently announced TPS for nationals of Venezuela, Burma/Myanmar, and Haiti.
  - Individuals may apply for Venezuelan TPS through September 9, 2022.
  - Individuals may apply for Burmese TPS through November 25, 2022.
  - Individuals may apply for Haitian TPS through February 3, 2023.
- DHS extended and redesignated TPS for Somalia through March 17, 2023.
- DHS extended and redesignated TPS for Yemen through March 3, 2023.
- TPS has been extended for South Sudan through November 3, 2023.
- DHS is automatically extending the validity of TPS-related documentation for beneficiaries under the TPS designations for El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Sudan, Honduras, and Nepal through December 31, 2022, from the current expiration date of October 4, 2021.
- DHS extended and redesignated TPS for Syria through September 30, 2022.
- All TPS applicants can now file Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, online at [uscis.gov/i-821](https://uscis.gov/i-821).
- Check [uscis.gov/TPS](https://uscis.gov/TPS) for the latest updates.



## School Year 2021–22

- The New York State Education Department (NYSED) announced that Regents exams will be administered in June 2022 & August 2022.
  - On May 4, 2022, NYSED announced that the June 2022 Regents exam for U.S. History and Government has been canceled, because of content in the exam that may cause trauma to students in the wake of the mass shooting in Buffalo.R
- NYSED and the Board of Regents approved COVID-19 exemptions to Regents exams in June 2020, August 2020, January 2021, June 2021, August 2021 and January 2022. If a student received a COVID-19 exam exemption, they do NOT need to take/re-take that exam to graduate. At this point, no COVID-19 exemptions have been approved for June 2022 or August 2022 exams.
  - For more details about COVID-19 exemptions, check out Advocates for Children’s “Summary of Changes to Graduation Requirements due to COVID-19.”
  - For more details about students’ Regents exam rights, see Advocates for Children’s “Regents Exam Rights.”
  - Information is available in multiple languages at [advocatesforchildren.org/get\\_help/guides\\_and\\_resources/transition](https://advocatesforchildren.org/get_help/guides_and_resources/transition)



## Resources for families of students learning English

- Being informed is critical to ensuring that English Language Learners (ELLs) are well served. The New York State Education Department has created an English Language Learner Parents’ Bill of Rights which summarizes critical rights concerning educational access and programming for ELLs and their parents: [bit.ly/3EJd0Td](https://bit.ly/3EJd0Td)
  - Information is available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, French, Haitian Creole, Karen, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Urdu.
  - You can call the ELL Parent Hotline at [800-469-8224](tel:800-469-8224) if you have questions or concerns.

## College Financial Aid and NYS DREAM Act

- Need money for college? Your first step is to fill out the federal government’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Now is the time to get started: some federal and state money is first-come, first-served. Apply at [studentaid.gov/FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/FAFSA).
- Get help at [UnderstandingFAFSA.org](https://UnderstandingFAFSA.org), a new website answering the most frequent questions of New York City high school students and families. The free FAFSA Guide for High School Students is available in ten languages.
- The Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act gives undocumented and other students access to NYS-administered grants and scholarships that support their higher education costs.
  - For more information or to apply, visit [hesc.ny.gov/dream](https://hesc.ny.gov/dream)



## College access resources for undocumented students

- Informed Immigrant's new guide provides resources and information for undocumented high school and college students, both with and without DACA, to help them make informed decisions about their futures and get the tools they need to advocate for themselves:  
[informedimmigrant.com/guides/students](https://informedimmigrant.com/guides/students)
- Best Colleges recently published a college guide for DACA and undocumented students based on the most recent updates to DACA:  
[bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students/college-guide](https://bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students/college-guide)

## Financial aid for part-time students

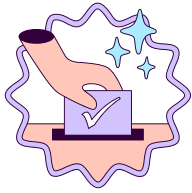
- Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is available for students attending a SUNY, CUNY, or nonprofit college on a part-time basis.
  - To be eligible, you must have been a first-time freshman in the 2006-07 academic year or later, earned 12 credits or more in each of two consecutive semesters, and maintain a "C" average.
  - For more information, visit [hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/nys-tap/part-time-tap](https://hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/nys-tap/part-time-tap)
- Part-time TAP is not the same as Aid for Part-time Study.
  - The Aid for Part-time Study (APTS) program provides grant assistance for eligible part-time students enrolled in approved undergraduate studies.
  - For more information, visit [hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/aid-for-part-time-study](https://hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/aid-for-part-time-study)

## Federal Student Loan Forgiveness

- If you work in the public or non-profit sector, you may qualify for federal student loan forgiveness.
- Because of a COVID-emergency program from the U.S. Department of Education, many federal student loans are being forgiven for government or nonprofit workers. This is an important and urgent opportunity—the program expires October 31, 2022.
- 250,000 New Yorkers working in government or nonprofits are now eligible, and 5,000 New Yorkers have already been forgiven an average of \$63,935.
- To see if you qualify, use the Help Tool at the US Department of Education website: [StudentAid.gov/PSLF](https://StudentAid.gov/PSLF).
- The [PSLF.nyc](https://PSLF.nyc) Campaign has more resources to help New Yorkers access the program, including twice weekly webinars for borrowers and employers.



# Democracy



**Due to legal challenges surrounding New York State's redistricting process, there are currently two dates for the Primary Election(s): June 28 and August 23.**

**To learn more about Primary Elections and how they work, watch our videos in:**

- **English:** [youtu.be/-F-xuJ04NpI](https://youtu.be/-F-xuJ04NpI)
- **Spanish:** [youtu.be/kkaENGIk-pY](https://youtu.be/kkaENGIk-pY)

## **Primary Election: August 23, 2022**

- The deadline to register to vote in this Primary Election is July 29, 2022.
- Vote for: State Senate, U.S. Representative.
- You can request to vote by mail electronically, by mail, by phone, by fax, or in-person. Be sure to postmark or deliver your completed ballot by August 23.
  - Electronically: your request must be received by August 8.
    - Request a ballot online at [absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov](https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov)
  - By mail, phone, or fax: your request must be received by August 8.
    - Find your county's Board of Elections at [www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html](https://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html)
  - In-person: you can go to your county's Board of Elections office to request a ballot by August 22.
    - Find your county's Board of Elections at [www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html](https://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html)
  - Find out more about absentee voting at [www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html](https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html)
- You can vote in-person early from August 13 to August 21, or on Election Day, August 23.
  - Find your poll site at [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)
  - NYC residents: [findmypollsite.vote.nyc](https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc)

## **Register to vote**

- You can register to vote if you are aged 16+, a US Citizen and a resident of NY for at least 30 days before the election.
  - If you are age 16 or 17, you can pre-register to vote but cannot vote until age 18.
  - You cannot register to vote if you are in prison for a felony conviction or are judged mentally incapable by a court.
- NYS Board of Elections: [elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html](https://elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html)
- NYC Board of Elections: [vote.nyc/page/register-vote](https://vote.nyc/page/register-vote)
- Register online (if you have a NYS Driver License, Permit or Non-Driver ID): [voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter](https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter)
- Request a paper registration form by phone (available in English or Spanish): 1-800-FOR-VOTE (1-800-367-8683)
- Unsure if you are registered to vote? Check your voter registration status at [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)

## **Your rights at the polls**

- Voters may visit ANY of the Early Voting Centers in the county where they reside, except in New York City, where voters are assigned by address to ONE early voting site.
- If you believe you are voter eligible and have registered in time to vote, but your name could not be found on the voter rolls, you may request a provisional or affidavit ballot.
- You do not have to present ID at the polls even if you are a first time voter.
- You may still vote if you are experiencing homelessness.
- In some circumstances, you may still be eligible to vote if you have been convicted of a felony.
- For more eligibility requirements: [nycfb.info/nyc-votes/how-to-vote/know-your-rights](https://nycfb.info/nyc-votes/how-to-vote/know-your-rights)
- Some employees in New York State are eligible to receive up to two hours of paid time off in order to vote. Check to see if you qualify: [www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/elections/TimeOffToVoteFAQ.pdf](https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/elections/TimeOffToVoteFAQ.pdf)

# 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](mailto: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**

- On October 27, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security issued a new policy that restricts ICE and CBP enforcement actions in or near “protected areas.”
- Examples of protected areas include, but are not limited to: schools and other educational institutions or events, healthcare facilities, places of worship, places where children gather, social services locations, disaster or emergency response centers, ceremonies such as weddings and funerals, and public demonstrations such as parades and rallies.
- In New York State, federal immigration agents cannot arrest people at, or going to or leaving from, state, city, and municipal courthouses, without a judicial warrant.

## **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).**

# Hate Crimes

**In recent months, there have been increased reports of hate crimes against members of the immigrant community.**

## **What is a hate crime?**

- A hate crime is an offense that is motivated by bias.
- A person commits a hate crime when one of a specified set of crimes is committed targeting a victim because of a perception or belief about their race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation, or when such an act is committed as a result of that type of perception or belief.
- Governor Cuomo created the Hate Crimes Task Force to fight the increase in reports of bias motivated threats, harassment and violence throughout New York State.
- When hate crimes are reported, all information regarding your experience, identity, and others remains confidential.

**If you see something or are a victim of a hate crime, report it to the police and call the NYS Division of Human Rights. Call [1-888-392-3644](tel:1-888-392-3644) or Text “HATE” to [81336](tel:81336).**

**If you or someone you know has been a victim of a crime, the NYS Office of Victim Services may be able to help with medical bills and counseling expenses, burial and funeral costs, lost wages, and other types of assistance. Call [1-800-247-8035](tel:1-800-247-8035) or visit [ovs.ny.gov](http://ovs.ny.gov).**

## **For residents of NYC and surrounding counties**

In NYC:

- Public Advocate
  - [212-669-7250](tel:212-669-7250)
- Manhattan District Attorney
  - [212-335-3100](tel:212-335-3100)
  - [manhattanda.org/victim-resources/hate-crimes](http://manhattanda.org/victim-resources/hate-crimes)
- Brooklyn District Attorney
  - [718-250-4949](tel:718-250-4949)
  - [brooklynda.org/hate-crimes-bureau](http://brooklynda.org/hate-crimes-bureau)
- Queens District Attorney
  - [718-286-6000](tel:718-286-6000)
- NYC Commission on Human Rights
  - [718-722-3131](tel:718-722-3131)
  - [nyc.gov/cchr](http://nyc.gov/cchr)
- Safe Horizon Victim Assistance
  - [1-866-689-4357](tel:1-866-689-4357)

Outside NYC:

- Nassau County District Attorney
  - [526-571-3505](tel:526-571-3505)
  - [nassauda.org](http://nassauda.org)
- Nassau County District Attorney, Office of Immigrant Affairs
  - [516-571-7756](tel:516-571-7756)
- Nassau County Executive Laura Curran
  - [516-571-3131](tel:516-571-3131)
- Suffolk County District Attorney
  - [631-853-4161](tel:631-853-4161)
  - [suffolkcountyny.gov/da](http://suffolkcountyny.gov/da)
- Suffolk County Police Department, Hate Crimes Unit
  - [631-852-6323](tel:631-852-6323)
- Suffolk County, Department of Minority Affairs
  - [631-853-4738](tel:631-853-4738)
- Westchester County, Human Rights Commission
  - [914-995-7710](tel:914-995-7710)
  - [humanrights.westchestergov.com](http://humanrights.westchestergov.com)



# Resources at-a-glance



## 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

- For the latest information on the COVID-19 pandemic, call the hotline at [1-888-364-3065](tel:1-888-364-3065) or visit [ny.gov/coronavirus](https://ny.gov/coronavirus).
- Get the facts on the COVID-19 vaccine in New York at [ny.gov/vaccine](https://ny.gov/vaccine).
- Apply for health coverage: call [1-855-355-5777](tel:1-855-355-5777) or visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](https://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](https://omh.ny.gov).
- If you are experiencing anxiety due to the coronavirus emergency, call [1-844-863-9314](tel:1-844-863-9314).
- 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).
- 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).

## 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](https://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](https://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](https://dhr.ny.gov).

## New York City COVID-19 resources

- NYC residents looking for service providers or other resources can find directories below:
  - Education: [nyc.org/covid-education-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-education-resources)
  - Employment: [nyc.org/covid-employment-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-employment-resources)
  - Financial: [nyc.org/covid-financial-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-financial-resources)
  - Food: [nyc.org/covid-food-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-food-resources)
  - Healthcare: [nyc.org/covid-healthcare-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-healthcare-resources)
  - Small business: [nyc.org/covid-small-business-resources](https://nyc.org/covid-small-business-resources)

If you have questions or comments about this toolkit or the information in it, please contact:

Bryan Lee  
blee@nyic.org

To view this document online or in other languages, visit [nyic.org/KYR](https://nyic.org/KYR) or scan this code:



The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization that represents over 200 immigrant and refugee rights groups throughout New York.

We envision a New York State that is stronger because all people are welcome, treated fairly, and given the chance to pursue their dreams. Our mission is to unite immigrants, members, and allies so all New Yorkers can thrive.



**New York Immigration Coalition**

131 W 33rd St, Ste 610  
New York, NY 10001  
212 627 2227  
nyic.org