

Other Services for Immigrants

Below is a list of other agencies that offer services especially for immigrants:

- Emergency Housing Hotline
 (English and Spanish).....(800) 994-6494
- New York Immigration Hotline.....(800) 566-7636
 or(212) 419-3737
- Child Abuse and Maltreatment Hotline
 (multi-languages).....(800) 342-3720
- AIDS Hotline
 (multi-languages; option 6)(800) 825-5448
- Citizenship or Legal Services:
 - Church Avenue Merchants Block Association
 Provides free immigration and other legal services
 (CAMBA)(718) 287-2600
 - New York Legal Assistance Group..(212) 750-0800
 - The Legal Aid Society(212) 577-3300
 - Safe Horizons Legal Services
 Provides free legal services to domestic
 violence victims on family and immigration
 matters(212) 577-3220 Ext. 109
 - The Door Legal Services
 Provides free legal services ages 12-21,
 including immigration issues for undocumented
 youth(212) 941-9090 Ext. 3280
 - New York Immigration Coalition
 Makes referrals for most immigration issues
(212) 627-2227

Other Useful Information

Below are some other useful pieces of information that may assist immigrants to navigate New York City's benefits and services available to themselves and their children.

- CUNY allows undocumented students who have spent at least 2 years attending a New York State high school to pay in-state tuition.
- The IRS *does not share information with USCIS*. So some immigrants may be advised to file taxes in order to prove that they are gainfully employed

if they plan to seek legal status in the future. Undocumented immigrants can obtain a tax identification (ID) number if they do not have a Social Security number, but they will not be able to take advantage of some benefits of citizen taxpayers such as receiving Social Security benefits and other tax credits.

- Immigrants over 18 who have accrued more than 180 days of unlawful presence and then leave the U.S. may be barred from re-entering the U.S. for 3 years. Those who have accrued over a year in the U.S. may be barred for 10 years.
- Undocumented children who are placed in foster care are eligible for permanent residence ("green card") status if they apply before they turn 21. The foster care agency should apply on the child's behalf. Undocumented parents who are reported for child abuse or neglect are likely to be deported. For more information, call:
 - The Children's Aid Society(212) 358-8930
 - The Door(212) 942-9090
 - ACS Children's Rights(212) 676-9421

Will undocumented persons in New York City who seek services be reported to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS, formerly INS)?

Federal law allows government workers to report undocumented immigrants to BCIS, but New York City is committed to providing the benefits and emergency and police services without regard to immigration status except for those immigrants who engage in criminal behavior.

For in-depth information, contact The Children's Aid Society at (212) 358-8930 to get a complete set of **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS** brochures and other legal advocacy publications in both English and Spanish. You may also log onto www.childrensaidsociety.org.

benefits for undocumented immigrants



Even if you are in the U.S. without proper documentation, a number of services and benefits are still available to you and your family.

An “undocumented immigrant” is a person who lacks the proper authorization to be in the United States, such as someone who entered without inspection or who violated the terms of his or her visa (including working without a permit or overstaying). The person is also referred to as an “illegal immigrant” or “illegal alien.”

Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for public assistance but may receive other benefits and services necessary for health and survival. Below is a list of resources for low-income undocumented immigrant families.

Food

Food Stamps: While undocumented immigrants are not eligible, other people in the family, including children who are born citizens, may receive this benefit. Call Food Change (formerly Community Food Resource Center) at (212) 894-8060 to determine individual eligibility.

School Breakfast and Lunch Program: Free or reduced-price meals are provided to students at public and participating private schools.

Food for Survival: This private charity operates a 24-hour call center referring hungry people to food pantries, shelters, or soup kitchens in their boroughs. They will not ask about immigration status, but clients may want to independently confirm the reporting and confidentiality policies of the resources to which they are referred. Call (866) 692-3663.

NYC Hunger Hotline: For emergency food referrals, call (866) 888-8777 (multi-languages).



Health

Emergency Medicaid: Persons who cannot pay or have no insurance (regardless of immigration status) can be treated for emergency conditions at public hospitals free of charge; they will have to fill out paperwork so that the hospital can be reimbursed by the government. Chronic (ongoing) conditions are not covered by Emergency Medicaid, which typically covers inpatient and emergency room treatment, some tests and some medications.

HHC Plus: All financially eligible undocumented adults can obtain discounted medical care, including prescriptions and mental health treatment, through the Health and Hospitals Corporation. Parents may earn up to 150% of the federal poverty level, childless adults up to 100%. Patients pay \$15 per visit and \$10 for unlimited prescriptions each visit. The HHC hospitals are Bellevue, Harlem, Metropolitan, Coney Island, Kings County, Woodhull, North Central Bronx, Lincoln, Jacobi, Queens and Elmhurst.

Medicaid/Prenatal Care Assistance Program (PCAP): Public health insurance and prenatal health insurance are available to all financially eligible *pregnant* women without regard to immigration status. Women who enroll in PCAP receive medical coverage for up to two months after the date of their delivery. Children born to PCAP mothers automatically receive one year of Medicaid coverage.

Child Health Plus (CHP): State health insurance is available to financially eligible children regardless of immigration status.

Housing

Public housing: In general, only legal immigrants are eligible. In the case of mixed families, the family may still qualify for public housing but the amount of the family’s housing subsidy will be reduced accordingly for those who decline to submit their documentary evidence. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) requires all tenants to verify citizenship or immigration status, but family members can avoid disclosure by “electing not to contend.”

Employment Benefits

Workers Compensation provides weekly cash payments and covers the cost of medical treatment, including rehabilitation, for covered employees who become disabled as a result of injury (or disease) connected with their employment. It also provides payments for qualified dependents of a worker who dies from an injury or illness. The New York State Attorney General’s Office advises that Workers Compensation benefits are available to anyone who worked including those paid in cash, paid off the books, paid as independent contractors or otherwise not reported to the government as an employee. Immigration status is irrelevant.

Domestic Violence

Undocumented immigrants who have been abused or whose children have been abused by their U.S. citizen or lawfully permanent resident status partner may be eligible for public benefits and for “green card” status. Battered undocumented immigrants may get assistance by calling one of the numbers listed below.

- Safe Horizons (multi-languages).....(800) 621-4673
- The City Bar Association(212) 382-6600
- The Children’s Aid Society.....(212) 503-6842