



Now, more than ever, New Yorkers must stand united against fear and xenophobia, and our elected officials must stand ready to ensure every New Yorker across the state can access the essential services they need to keep their families safe and secure, regardless of legal status.

The New York Immigration Coalition, and our members, partners and allies, call on all levels of government to immediately enact these common sense measures to ensure immigrants across the state can remain safe and healthy.

We call on the Federal government to immediately:

- **Suspend all immigration enforcement activities/operations.** In this critical moment we strongly demand the Department of Homeland Security suspend all immigration enforcement activities and operations, including but not limited to:
 - Suspending all deportations, all immigration arrests, including at-large arrests and planned raids, and instructing all local law enforcement, particularly in 287(g) jurisdictions, to cease immigration enforcement
 - Guaranteeing no enforcement activities at medical facilities, shelters, clinics, schools, campuses, courthouses, places of worship, or other sensitive locations
 - Suspending Operation Palladium and recalling all BORTAC agents that have been deployed to “sanctuary” localities.
 - Releasing as many detained people as possible on recognizance/parole and/or into community based alternatives, and barring use of solitary confinement or lockdowns.
 - Stopping calendared deportation courts and/or hearings for those who choose, providing resources for virtual or telephonic ICE check-ins and/or automatically postpone ICE check-ins for the next six months, and extending indefinitely any deadlines associated with requests for evidence in asylum and other cases.
 - Making provisions for late filings, deadline extensions and rescheduling of interviews with the U.S. Citizenship Immigrant Services (USCIS) and issuing guidance regarding a temporary extension of any DACA EADs due for renewal.
- **Mitigate the risk posed by Immigration Court** by enacting policies that allow for respondents or their representatives who are sick or at risk to be granted continuances or appear via telephone on a case-by-case basis as well as cancelling all non-detained master calendar hearings and allowing representatives to appear telephonically on detained cases.
- **Clearly identify health care, nutrition and other programs responding to COVID-19 as disaster relief** to ensure they will not count toward a future public charge determination by USCIS.
- **Extend the Census by at least an additional three months** in order to ensure an accurate count, especially of hard to count communities.
- **Pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act** to ensure:
 - Free coronavirus testing for everyone who needs a test, including the uninsured.

- Paid emergency leave, with both 14 days of paid sick leave and up to three months of paid family and medical leave.
- Enhanced Unemployment Insurance, a first step that will extend protections to furloughed workers.
- Strengthened food security initiatives, including SNAP, student meals, seniors' nutrition and food banks.
- Increased federal funds for Medicaid, as states face increased costs.
- **Pass the “Resilient Elections During Quarantines and Natural Disasters Act of 2020”** to ensure all eligible New Yorkers can exercise their right to vote even in a state of emergency without risking their or others' health.

We call on New York State to immediately:

- **Ensure immigrant New Yorkers are able to effectively access care for COVID-19, including by:**
 - Ensure testing and treatment is free to the public (including undocumented immigrants). Guidance should specifically prohibit eligibility questions and/or other requirements to access relief or emergency social services and support.
 - Passing the Coverage for All Act to ensure every New Yorker has access to ongoing, adequate health care, including prevention, testing and behavioral health services.
- **Ensure constant and effective communication aimed at immigrant communities include welcoming messages for all New Yorkers to seek the care they need,** regardless of immigration status, insurance coverage or income by:
 - Opening multilingual novel coronavirus hotline through ONA to manage questions and concerns.
 - Ensuring all communications, press statements, guidance to access essential services and any other materials are accessible in multiple languages beyond the minimum number included in the state Executive Order.
 - Conducting statewide outreach to combat xenophobia and racism resulting from the fear mongering of the federal administration and others, and ensuring that victims of hate crimes can access the New York State Hate Crimes Task Force.
- **Support immigrant businesses, institutions & employees by:**
 - Ensuring paid sick leave legislation covers immigrant workers, domestic workers, and irregular or gig workers.
 - Providing a moratorium on state tax collection, and providing grants and no-interest loans to small businesses (less than 25 employees), and that documentation requirements are relaxed and language assistance provided.
 - Paying out state contracts to ensure employment rates do not drop nor that businesses or nonprofits shutter.
- **Support immigrants in courts and the justice system by:**
 - Passing the Protect Our Courts Act to ensure no ICE enforcement at sensitive locations.
 - Declaring a moratorium on arrests of individuals for low level offenses.
 - Releasing pre-trial detained individuals, low-level inmates and those over the age of 55 years old.

- Educating incarcerated people, staff, and visitors on the novel coronavirus so they can understand the risks, protect themselves, and measures they should be taking to minimize risk of contracting and spreading the virus.
- Creating plans for housing incarcerated people exposed to or infected with the virus, and ensure that any plans for lockdowns or isolation should be limited in scope and duration, and based on the best science available.
- **Support individuals who will be negatively financially impacted** (specifically because they do not qualify for paid sick leave, work in negatively impacted areas, are not able to work from home, do not have childcare, etc), by:
 - Halting non essential court proceedings (in family, housing, criminal, courts, etc.). For essential court proceedings, in particular for people who are in jail or for whom some other immediate liberty is at stake, respondent/defendant appearances should be waived at the attorney's request and motions for phone or video appearances and electronic filings should be granted in order for the case to progress.
 - Suspending mortgage, rent, and utility payments.
 - Suspending evictions and utility revocations.

We call on New York City to immediately:

- **Payout city contracts** to ensure employment rates do not drop nor that businesses or nonprofits shutter.
- **Provide waivers and flexibility around specific contract deliverables**, such as DYCD and DOE, for nonprofits to account for cancelled, postponed or limited program activities and events.
- **Provide emergency cash grants to non-traditional employees**, like independent contractors, domestic workers, and others, regardless of immigration status.
- **Provide all students, including college students, with shelter and services** regardless of immigration status.
- **Keep schools and senior citizen services open as critical community resource hubs** that provide food, medical treatment, childcare, and other crucial services.
- **Create an emergency fund for increased costs** of keeping programs open or serving communities, including: office cleaning costs, replacing quarantined staff, and increasing remote work capacity.
- **Expand New York City paid sick leave law** from the current mandatory five days to fourteen, and ensure that paid sick leave coverage extends to non profit employers whose contracts do not allow wage adjustment (i.e. paying one staff for PTO and paying another staff to cover their shift, and allow preventative isolation to be considered as paid sick leave.
- **Make city experts available to do community outreach** to provide basic health education for immigrant communities.