

MOIA Update

April 12, 2021

Contact: Mediabox@moia.nyc.gov

Dear Member of the Media,

Today, April 12, marks the start of Immigrant Heritage Week (IHW), an annual NYC Mayor's Office celebration of the many contributions of immigrants to New York City. Established in 2004, IHW pays homage to the legacy of April 17, 1907, the day in NYC history when 11,000 immigrants—the largest number in history—entered the U.S. through Ellis Island. Immigrants have defined our city throughout its history and have been the engine of our culture and our economy.

This has never been more apparent than during the COVID-19 pandemic, when immigrant New Yorkers have played critical roles in supporting the health and well-being of our communities as essential workers and volunteers. That is why this year's Immigrant Heritage Week, and the below poster designed by Brooklyn-based South Korean illustrator Jason Raish, pays homage to the ways immigrant New Yorkers have helped our communities remain resilient in the face of the pandemic. [Download the poster here.](#)



This year's celebration features an exciting roster of virtual events designed by the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) and community partners that build cross-cultural understanding between New Yorkers, celebrate immigrant culture and the arts, and highlight our collective work with NYC's diverse immigrant population. RSVP and keep up to date with the full schedule of events at on.nyc.gov/IHWEvents.

We also invite you to share on social media about the week. See our graphics, posting text, videos, and more at: on.nyc.gov/IHW2021Toolkit. Follow MOIA on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to see and share video profiles of immigrant New Yorkers who stepped up to support their communities during their moments of greatest need.

Please also share the following **COVID-19 and Citywide Updates** and **Immigration Policy Developments** with your network.

As a reminder, many [City services](#) are available for all New Yorkers. Immigration status does not matter. Download and print a quick and easy road map of city services:

[English](#) | [shqip](#) | [العربية](#) | [বাঙালি](#) | [简化字](#) | [正體字](#) | [فارسی](#) | [Français](#) | [Fulani \(Fulfulde\)](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) | [Hausa](#) | [हिंदी](#) | [日本語](#) | [한국어](#) | [Lingala](#) | [Maninka](#) | [नेपाली](#) | [Polskie](#) | [Português](#) | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#) | [русский](#) | [Español](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [தமிழ்](#) | [Twi \(Akan\)](#) | [اردو](#) | [o'zbek](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [Wolof](#) | [יידיש](#)

COVID-19 and Citywide Updates

Free Halal Meals for Ramadan at NYC Department of Education Meal Hubs

During Ramadan, from April 12 to May 12, the free Grab and Go meals at some NYC Department of Education school sites in communities with high populations of halal-observant New Yorkers will include additional halal meat options. New Yorkers can visit the [NYC Department of Education Community Meals website](#) to find these locations. As always, a halal vegetarian option will also be available at all sites citywide.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

As of April 6, all New Yorkers over 16 years of age and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Visit nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution for the full eligibility list, and schedule a vaccination appointment at vax4nyc.nyc.gov or call 877-VAX-4NYC.

New York City launched an NYC Mobile Vaccination Bus to help vaccinate some of the hardest-to-reach New Yorkers. This past week, the bus visited Sunset Park to vaccinate restaurant workers and restaurant delivery workers. The bus will visit neighborhoods across the five boroughs distributing between 150 and 200 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccines each day. If you are a restaurant worker, appointments

can be scheduled by emailing vaccbus@roarnewyork.org or by calling 1-833-ROAR-NYC (1-833-762-7692). Walk-up appointments will also be accepted when available.

New Yorkers ages 75 and older can walk into more vaccine sites. No appointment is needed. To see the clinics in your area, please go to vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or call 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692).

Although the vaccines were developed very quickly, this does not mean that any corners were cut during their development. NYC's Commissioner of Health, Dr. Chokshi, recently joined the President of the United States' Chief Medical Advisor, Dr. Anthony Fauci, for a conversation correcting common misconceptions about the COVID-19 virus vaccines. [Watch and share this clip](#) of their discussion to help New Yorkers understand why the COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and important for everyone.

Watch & Share: MOIA hosts multilingual virtual community town halls to share the latest information about COVID-19 resources and address misconceptions. [Share videos](#) in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Arabic, Bangla, Urdu, Nepali, and Russian to help our communities stay informed about their rights and resources.

[Download](#) and share messaging and graphics available in 29 languages—including Tibetan, Punjabi, Farsi, Hausa, and Wolof—that address community members' hesitancy to get the vaccine. Translated messages include:

- The COVID-19 vaccines are FREE for every New Yorker.
- Getting vaccinated will not impact your immigration status.
- New Yorkers can use IDNYC to prove age and residency for COVID-19 vaccine eligibility.
- New Yorkers with underlying conditions do not need a doctor's note or medical records to get the vaccine.

Graphics: What to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines (PNG)

[Shqip](#) | [العَرَبِيَّة](#) | [বাংলা](#) | [English](#) | [فارسی](#) | [Français](#) | [Kreyòl ayisyen](#) | [Hausa \(هَرْشَن\)](#) | [हिन्दी](#) | [Italiano](#) | [한국어](#) | [नेपाली](#) | [Polski](#) | [Português](#) | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#) | [پنجابی](#) | [Русский](#) | [简体中文](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [Español](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [ไทย](#) | [বাংলা](#) | [أردو](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [Wolof](#) | [יידיש](#)

Additional resources with information about the COVID-19 vaccine are available in multiple languages. Go to nyc.gov/covidvaccine, scroll down to “Additional Resources” and click “Download/Read.”

Palm Card: What New Yorkers Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines (PDF)

[English](#) | [Español](#) | [Русский](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Kreyòl ayisyen](#) | [한국어](#) | [বাংলা](#) |

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NYC Stands Against Hate

The City of New York stands firmly with our AAPI communities against all forms of hate, harassment, discrimination, and violence. As we come together to eradicate hate in our communities and build a stronger, more compassionate city, every New Yorker can play a role in protecting and supporting our Asian communities. Learn more at nyc.gov/stopasianhate and contact trainings@cchr.nyc.gov to request a bystander intervention training for your organization.

What is a hate crime? The NYC Mayor’s Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes has created a fact sheet that details what a hate crime is and what one should do if you encounter a hate crime. View the fact sheet in: [English](#) | [Español \(Spanish\)](#) | [عربي \(Arabic\)](#) | [اردو \(Urdu\)](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen \(Haitian Creole\)](#) | [한국어 \(Korean\)](#) | [বাংলা \(Bengali\)](#) | [русский \(Russian\)](#) | [Français \(French\)](#) | [Polskie \(Polish\)](#) | [简体中文 \(Chinese - Simplified\)](#) | [繁體中文 \(Chinese - Traditional\)](#)

As a reminder, if you are a victim of or witness a hate crime, call 911. When you call, say the name of your language if you need interpretation services. NYPD officers are not allowed to ask about your immigration status.

If you or someone you know has faced harassment or discrimination in any public place, in housing, or at work, contact the NYC Commission on Human Rights by calling 212-416-0197 or by reporting it online at nyc.gov/reportdiscrimination. Reports can be filed anonymously. Discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, national origin, age, and disability (including having or being perceived to be exposed to COVID-19) is illegal under the New York City Human Rights Law.

If you are feeling stressed or anxious, NYC Well can connect you with confidential support and mental health care resources in your community and in your language. Call 888-NYC-WELL, text “WELL” to 65173, or chat online at nyc.gov/nycwell.

Ranked Choice Voting is Here!

On June 22, millions of New Yorkers citywide will use Ranked Choice Voting in the upcoming Primary Elections. Ranked Choice Voting is a new system of voting in which you can rank up to five candidates in order of preference, which will now be used in all primary and special elections in NYC. With so much at stake in local elections and the implementation of a new system of voting, public education is even more important than ever this year.

Help prepare NYC for our first citywide Ranked Choice Voting primary elections by sharing the resources in this [multilingual toolkit](#) with your networks and on social media, and learn more about Ranked Choice Voting on the [NYC Campaign Finance Board website](#).

Graphics, videos, and social media posts are available in **Spanish, Chinese, Bangla, and Korean**, with additional resources in 12 languages.

[English](#) | [Shqip](#) | [العربية](#) | [বাংলা](#) | [中文](#) | [Français](#) | [λληνικά](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) | [Italiano](#) | [한국어](#) | [Polskie](#) | [русский](#) | [Español](#) | [עברית](#) | [اردو](#)

New Yorkers are also invited to join a panel discussion, **Local Elections: How and Why to Vote**, hosted by DemocracyNYC, Women Creating Change, and the NYC Civic Engagement Commission on **April 14 at 1pm**. The event will feature MOIA Commissioner Bitta Mostofi, A Better New York (ABNY) CEO Melva Miller, Roshni Ahmed of Women for Afghan Women, and Lurie Daniel Favors of the City University of New York Medgar Evers College. Join for a celebration of women in civic leadership and a discussion on Ranked Choice Voting, local elections, and voting rights. Register today at on.nyc.gov/LocalElectionsPanel, and help promote the event with [these graphics](#).

Eviction Restrictions Protect Most Tenants from Eviction Through May 1

Under the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act, **some New Yorkers can be protected from evictions until at least May 1, 2021 if:**

- You have lost income during the COVID-19 pandemic or you are unable to find work
- You have had increased expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Moving from your home would pose a hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic

To be protected under this law, you must sign a “Hardship Declaration” and deliver it to your landlord. If you do this, you cannot be evicted from your primary residence. Additionally, your landlord may not file a new case to evict you from your primary residence, unless you are causing a nuisance condition for other tenants or danger to the safety of others. You may proactively complete a Hardship Declaration even if there is no case pending against you. [The Hardship Declaration form is available in English and Spanish here](#).

For more information about how to access free legal services for tenants in New York City, or about your rights after May 1, contact the City's Tenant Helpline by calling 311 and saying "Tenant Helpline" or visit HRA's Office of Civil Justice's website at nyc.gov/civiljustice.

How New Yorkers Can Apply for FEMA Funeral Assistance

[FEMA](#) has announced it will begin accepting applications for a new funeral assistance program starting on April 12 through their dedicated call center.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number: 844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

To be eligible for funeral assistance: the death must have occurred in the United States; the death certificate must indicate the death was caused by COVID-19; and the person applying for funeral assistance must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified immigrant who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020. There is no immigration status restriction on the deceased person — you can seek support for funeral assistance for an undocumented family member so long as you meet the eligibility criteria.

View the FEMA webpage in: [中文](#) | [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) | [한국어](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [Français](#) | [عربي](#) | [हिन्दी](#) | [Português](#) | [Русский](#) | [Tagalog](#)

Applications Open for Shuttered Venue Operators Grants

New financial support has arrived for the operators of venues that have had to close during the pandemic. As of April 8, applications are now open for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant.

Eligible applicants may qualify for grants equal to 45% of their gross earned revenue, up to \$10 million. Eligible New Yorkers are urged to apply as soon as possible. [Submit your application here.](#)

The City also offers application assistance for business owners that need support. Request assistance, learn about upcoming webinars, and more at nyc.gov/curtainsupnyc.

Job Alert: Apply for City Cleanup Corps, Vaccine Corps & Other Positions

New jobs with the City are opening for New Yorkers, including thousands of positions with the recently launched City Cleanup Corps, the Vaccine for All Corps, and other agencies.

The City Cleanup Corps is hiring 10,000 New Yorkers for beautification across the city: wiping away graffiti, power washing sidewalks, creating community murals, tending to community gardens, beautifying public spaces, and working with community organizations to clean their neighborhoods. Visit nyc.gov/ccs to learn more and apply today.

The City also aims to hire 2,000 New Yorkers to work on City-run vaccination efforts as part of the Vaccine for All Corps. No healthcare experience is required for many positions, which include roles in site management, operations, and client services, in addition to clinical roles. To learn more and apply, please visit nyc.gov/vaccinejobs.

For more information on employment opportunities, visit working.nyc.gov.

We Speak NYC's Sixth Cycle of Online Classes Start May 2

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs' [We Speak NYC](#) program, a free English language learning program, is continuing to offer online conversation classes. The next cycle of classes begins on May 2, and New Yorkers can sign up at nyc.gov/learnenglish.

Classes are led by trained facilitators and encourage learner participation, providing a safe space for participants to practice their English conversation skills and make mistakes, be part of an online community and safely meet new people, and learn about NYC resources. Classes are intended for intermediate English language learners. New Yorkers can sign up for a class, get reminders, and other educational materials at nyc.gov/learnenglish.

Download We Speak NYC flyers: [English](#) | [العربية](#) | [বাঙালি](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Français](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) | [Español](#)

Immigration Policy Developments

Progress on New Immigration Legislation, But No New Applications Yet

There's been exciting news in national immigration policy: the House of Representatives recently passed two major bills that would expand pathways to legal status and citizenship for millions of immigrants across the country, and has introduced several other major bills; and the Department of Homeland Security designated new countries for Temporary Protected Status.

First, the House passed the **American Dream and Promise Act**, which would create pathways to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS and DED recipients (~4.4 million people).

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Bitta Mostofi *said*: "This critical legislation will help make families whole and provide the protection and stability that they need to fully participate in their communities — which in turn will help ensure a complete recovery from the pandemic. While we applaud the House on this important victory, we also recognize this is a first step. Congress

must continue this work to create truly just and inclusive pathways to citizenship for all immigrants, including those who have been marginalized by an unfair criminal legal system."

As DACA recipients eagerly await updates on the new federal bills working their way through Congress that could grant them permanent status, now is the time to show our support for Dreamers and urge Congress to pass these important protections.

DACA recipients strengthen the social and institutional fabric of our cities. Cities for Action, which represents nearly 200 U.S. mayors and county executives who advocate for pro-immigrant and inclusive policies and programs that strengthen communities and families, has created a new [#CitiesForDACA video series](#) with interviews and testimony from DACA recipients across the country making positive changes in their community. Learn more and share the videos on social media: citiesforaction.us/citiesfordaca.

The House also passed the **Farm Workforce Modernization Act**, which would create pathways to legal status and offer new protections for immigrant agricultural workers (~1 million people). Now, these bills must be taken up and passed by the Senate before the President can sign them into law.

Additionally, there are several other important immigration bills in the works:

The **New Deal for New Americans Act** would reduce barriers to naturalization and better coordinate the integration of immigrants into civic life across all levels of government.

The **Citizenship for Essential Workers Act** would recognize the critical role immigrants have played as essential workers during the pandemic by creating a pathway to citizenship for approximately 5 million undocumented immigrants working in essential roles.

The **U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021** would reform the immigration system to be fairer and more humane, including creating a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants (approximately 11 million), most of whom have been long-standing, essential members of our communities. This comprehensive bill also includes key provisions of the **New Deal for New Americans Act** and the **No Ban Act**, a bill that would closing the gap in existing laws that allowed for the Trump administration's racist Muslim and African travel ban.

Finally, this past month the **Department of Homeland Security** [designated](#) **Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status for 18 months** (effective March 9, 2021 through September 9, 2022), and also [designated](#) **Myanmar (Burma) for Temporary**

Protected Status for 18 months (effective March 11, 2021 through September 12, 2021). [English language flyer](#), [Spanish language flyer](#), and [Spanish language graphics](#) are available for promoting the change to Venezuela’s status. [English language graphics](#) promoting both Myanmar (Burma) and Venezuela are also available.

While MOIA, alongside cities and counties across the country through [Cities for Action](#), celebrates the unveiling of several new and re-introduced federal immigration bills that build towards inclusive and humane immigration reform, **it’s important for immigrant communities to know: there has not yet been any change in law, which means there is no new visa or application to fill out.**

[Read and share MOIA Commissioner Bitta Mostofi’s recent column with this message translated into 10 languages.](#)

To connect with City-funded, free and safe immigration legal help and to learn more, New Yorkers can call ActionNYC at 1-800-354-0365, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Beware of scams. To report immigration fraud, call the New York State Office for New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636.

[Learn more](#) about how you can avoid being a victim of immigration fraud in:

[English](#) | [العربية](#) | [বাঙালি](#) | [简体中文](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [فار](#) | [Français](#) | [Kreyòl Ayisyen](#) | [한국어](#) | [नेपाली](#) | [Polskie](#) | [Português](#) | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#) | [Русский](#) | [Español](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [தமிழ்](#) | [اردو](#)

The Trump Administration’s Public Charge Rule Has Ended

Last month, immigrant New Yorkers and immigrant communities across the country won a major victory. As of March 9, 2021, the Trump administration’s public charge rule — a policy which made immigrants question their use of public benefits due to immigration concerns — is over. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has [stopped](#) the Trump administration’s public charge rule permanently and will follow the policies previously in place.

New Yorkers should continue to get the care and support they need without fear. Many city services and public services are available to all New Yorkers no matter their immigration status. Call ActionNYC at 1-800-354-0365 and say “public charge” if you have questions about the end of public charge and what it means for you. For more information, visit nyc.gov/immigrant.

Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Bitta Mostofi [said](#): “The Biden administration rightly recognized the devastating impact of this unconscionable Trump

administration policy on immigrant communities, perpetuating fear and confusion throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We commend the incredible efforts taken by coalitions of advocates, local governments, and community partners alike in this fight to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all our families.”

Help share this exciting news with your networks. [Download translated graphics and copy:](#) [English](#) | [العربية](#) | [বাঙালি](#) | [简体中文](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [Français](#) | [Kreyòl ayisyen](#) | [한국어](#) | [नेपाली](#) | [Polskie](#) | [بنجالی](#) | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#) | [Русский](#) | [Español](#) | [اردو](#)

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