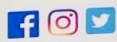


Office of the Mayor Health and Human Services

Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity | December 2021

NYC
Mayor's Office of
Immigrant Affairs



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Photo credit: Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

IDNYC

Agency: **DSS/HRA**

Context

IDNYC was launched to alleviate the difficulties of a multitude of New Yorkers, including homeless individuals without a permanent address, victims of domestic violence, and the undocumented, who struggled to attain affordable, accepted, government-issued proof of identification. Without identification, many New Yorkers could not enter their child's school, open a bank account, or provide identification when interacting with law enforcement. With the "x" gender option, IDNYC also addressed the needs of transgender and nonbinary New Yorkers who had been previously unable to mark their gender accurately on their identification. To further expand accessibility, IDNYC added Braille to the card to help IDNYC cardholders who are blind or have low vision distinguish and utilize their IDNYC cards.

Response

IDNYC was established in 2015 as a safe, secure form of identification for all New Yorkers. The

program uses a point system whereby applicants must provide three points of identity and one point of residency. IDNYC was designed to reach a broad range of New Yorkers, with enrollment centers and pop-up sites across the five boroughs. The IDNYC card has various integrations, providing New Yorkers with access to a full range of services and programs offered by the City. IDNYC cardholders also enjoy a variety of benefits and discounts offered by businesses and cultural institutions, such as Blink Fitness, KidPass, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, and Museum of Chinese in America among others.



Current IDNYC card



Current IDNYC Middle School card

Results

IDNYC has become the largest municipal identification program of its kind in the country. It has processed 1,833,234 applications, and as of September 30, 2021, it had issued 1,780,010 cards, 66,723 of which were issued to minors (individuals ages 10 to 17). Nearly 800,000 memberships with over 40 cultural institutions have been issued through the program. IDNYC cardholders have saved over \$1,268,711 on their prescription drug purchases and over \$3.9 million dollars on grocery purchases through benefits provided by BigAppleRx and Food Bazaar. Since 2016, 10,488 IDNYC cardholders have linked their IDNYC cards to their Health + Hospital (H+H accounts), facilitating the check-in process for medical appointments. Additionally, IDNYC has been a vital tool for registering for and receiving COVID-19 vaccines and care. In an evaluation from the early implementation of the IDNYC program, 77% of immigrant cardholders surveyed indicated that IDNYC had increased their sense of belonging to the City.

Beneficiary Stories

A Queens resident and mother of three was the first recipient of an IDNYC card. Before becoming an IDNYC card holder, she had lived in the U.S. for 18 years without an official U.S. government-issued I.D. Accessing the City without an I.D. had been a tremendous challenge for her: she struggled with entering her children's schools and taking them to the doctor because she did not have identification and so would be denied access. IDNYC impacted her life for the better: she felt like she finally had something that made her feel like a New Yorker, regardless of her

immigration status. In December 2019, she was happy to be among the first cardholders to renew her IDNYC.

Next Steps

As part of its mission to expand accessibility for applicants, IDNYC continues to research documents that might be added as acceptable forms of identity and residency. IDNYC also continues to explore additional integrations to increase the functionality of the card. Currently, IDNYC is working with the New York City Department of Corrections to assist the formerly incarcerated and recently released population in obtaining the needed identity documents to apply for IDNYC.

Relevant Publications

- https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/idnyc/downloads/pdf/idnyc_report_full.pdf
- <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/idnyc/downloads/pdf/quarterly-report-20211004.pdf>