

Zyra e Kryetarit të Bashkisë për Çështjet e Imigrantëve
משדד ראש העיר לענייני מהגרים
دفتر شهرداری برای امور مهاجران
Biuro Burmistrza ds. Imigrantów
Bureau de la mairie pour les affaires de l'immigrant
Bureau Maire o Jogiido Gede Immigration
Ofisi Alága Ilú ti Ọrò Arìnrìn-àjò
Bürgermeisteramt für Einwandererangelegenheiten
Γραφείο Μεταναστευτικών Υποθέσεων του Δημάρχου
نووسینگهی شهروکیهتی شارهوانی بو کاروباری کوچهبران
Biwo Majistra a pou Zafè Imigran
시장실 산하 이민서비스국
अपरवासी मामलों के लिए नगरपालिका कार्यालय
مكتب عمدة المدينة لشؤون المهاجرين
Ụlọ Ọrụ Meya Maa nhe Ọba Mbata na Ọpupu
Ufficio del sindaco per gli affari degli immigrati
கூட்சியைக் காரணமாகக் கொண்டு உடையகூடுகளை
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
Oficiu a Alcaldia Municipal de Asuntos de Inmigrante
Kampong Kpalan Kati
अपरवासी मामलों का मेयरको कार्यालय
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Gabinete de Assuntos de Imigração da Prefeitura
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Tanggapan ng Mga Kaugnayan sa Imigrante ng Alkalde
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Văn Phòng Các Vấn Đề Di Trú của Thị Trưởng
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WE 

IMMIGRANT NYC

NYC Mayor's Office of
Immigrant Affairs

**REPORT ON NEW YORK CITY'S
IMMIGRANT POPULATION
AND INITIATIVES OF THE OFFICE**

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2022

Eric L. Adams
Mayor

Manuel Castro
Commissioner

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ERIC ADAMS



To my fellow New Yorkers:

New York City has always been a destination for people seeking freedom, safety, and the chance of a better future. We are home to everyone, from everywhere. That is the magic of this city, people of all backgrounds living together in one place.

Immigration is core to our identity. And as we welcome thousands of asylum seekers to our city, we must remember to uphold our values of compassion, acceptance, and inclusion.

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) was there for our immigrant communities during the darkest days of the pandemic and as many arrived in our city with great uncertainty for their future. Today, New York City is back, and MOIA continues to play a critical role in addressing the needs of our immigrant brothers and sisters.

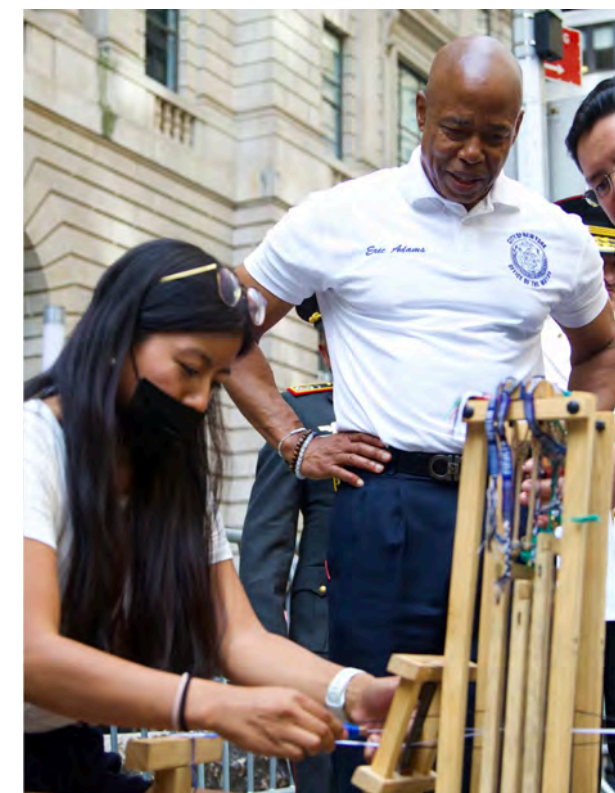
As we build a city of hope, equity, and justice, we are going to make sure that our immigrant communities can live with dignity. MOIA works tirelessly to ensure that New Yorkers can thrive, regardless of the language they speak.

Every day we are committed to protecting and fighting for our immigrant communities. Whether it is providing access to language services, to legal and health services, or combating inequalities, including discrimination, MOIA is there for you.

I want to thank Commissioner Castro and his whole team for the exceptional work they do for our immigrant communities across New York City.

We are all New Yorkers and are bound together as one. Together we are going to build a city for everyone, no matter their background. New York City remains and will always be, a city of immigrants and a beacon for all.

“Immigration is core to our identity. And as we welcome thousands of asylum seekers to our city, we must remember to uphold our values of compassion, acceptance, and inclusion.”



This page, above: Mayor Adams at MOIA's Ecuadorian flag raising ceremony.

Opposite page: Mayor Eric Adams at MOIA's Black History Month Health and Wellness Event.

MESSAGE FROM

COMMISSIONER MANUEL CASTRO



**Dear fellow
New Yorkers,**

I am proud to share the incredible work that our office and city partners accomplished in 2022 supporting immigrant New Yorkers.

At the heart of our work is the belief that the well-being of our immigrant communities make New York City stronger, vibrant, and resilient.

Our city has a long and proud history of welcoming immigrants.

For this reason, in the face of the recent arrival of tens of thousands of asylum seekers, our office

immediately organized a warm welcome.

Under the leadership of Mayor Eric Adams, the City mobilized a colossal humanitarian operation to support our newest New Yorkers. No other city in the nation has responded to this scale. The outpouring of compassion and support from New Yorkers at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, the modern-day Ellis Island, has been truly inspiring.

At the same time, MOIA worked tirelessly to support and empower diverse immigrant communities across the five boroughs. Our approach has centered on building bridges between city government and immigrant communities, ensuring they feel empowered to access city services.

As someone who immigrated to this country as a child with my mother, and grew up in New York City, I understand the critical work of this office and its importance. The success of our city depends on this.

We also recognized the incredible contributions that immigrants make to our city and our nation. We honored their sacrifices, achievements, diversity, culture, and traditions.

As we move forward, we know there will be new challenges to overcome. But we also know that we have the power to “turn pain into purpose,” as Mayor Adams often says, to transform hardship into opportunity, and to create a better future for our communities.

We will continue to work tirelessly to support and empower our immigrant communities, fight for their rights, and to build a more inclusive and equitable city for all.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and partnership in this important work.

This page, bott. right: Commissioner Castro giving remarks during the Ukrainian Response Initiative Press Conference.

Opposite page: Commissioner Manuel Castro at the Mexican flag raising ceremony.

“At the heart of our work is the belief that the well-being of our immigrant communities make New York City stronger, vibrant, and resilient.”





Top left: Cultural performance at the Mexican flag raising.
 Top right: Commissioner Castro and MOIA team at the 2022 Lunar New Year Parade in Flushing, Queens.
 Bott. left: MOIA team at their 2022 Annual retreat.
 Bott. right: Commissioner Castro, Mexican NYPD officers, and cultural dancers at the Mexican flag raising.

INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the challenges that face immigrant New Yorkers and present the robust interagency work MOIA has done in the past fiscal years to improve the wellbeing of long-term immigrant residents and our newest New Yorkers.

ABOUT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS (MOIA)

According to the 2020 Census, nearly 40 percent of New York City's population are immigrants.¹ However, this estimate may be a severe undercount considering some immigrants, particularly those who are undocumented, often live and work in the shadows. The COVID-19 pandemic may have also contributed to this undercount by exacerbating the difficulties when counting hard-to-reach communities. Therefore, it is imperative that the City Council and Mayoral agencies and offices continue to work together to bridge the gap between immigrant communities and government.

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) promotes the well-being of immigrant communities by serving as a bridge between the city's government and its immigrant communities and enhancing, assisting, and advising city offices and agencies in their efforts to serve immigrant populations.

Through its various initiatives, MOIA strives to address the unique challenges and needs of immigrant communities, including access to legal and language services, healthcare, education, and more.

This report explores the challenges the office is working to address, the strategies it uses to do so.



MOIA team member Jannet connecting with community members on immigrant resources.

“...it is imperative that the City Council and Mayoral agencies and offices continue to work together to bridge the gap between immigrant communities and government.”

¹ United States Census Bureau, New York City Population available at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/newyorkcitynewyork>



CHALLENGES MOIA IS WORKING TO ADDRESS

Immigrant communities in New York City face a range of challenges, from language barriers to workplace issues, from limited access to healthcare and education to difficulty navigating the legal system.

Immigrants who are non-citizens, particularly the undocumented population, face a multitude of complex challenges that can significantly impact their quality of life.

Some of the most significant challenges include:

- **Legal status:** Immigrants face a host of legal challenges. Undocumented immigrants, for example, may be at risk of deportation and lack access to certain social services and employment opportunities. Asylum seekers face a long and difficult legal process to obtain work permits and ultimately asylum.
- **Language barriers:** For many immigrants, language barriers can be a significant obstacle to accessing critical services such as healthcare, education, and legal assistance. In a city as diverse as New York, there are hundreds of languages and dialects spoken, and greater resources are needed to provide high-quality language services.
- **Housing:** Many immigrants, particularly those with lower incomes, struggle to find affordable and safe housing and often face discrimination. Newly arrived immigrants may not have the necessary income and documentation to rent an apartment or qualify for housing-related government programs or for public housing.
- **Worker rights:** Immigrants, particularly undocumented and informal workers, may be vulnerable to exploitation by employers who pay low wages or subject them to unsafe working conditions. In some cases, immigrants may not be aware of their rights as workers or may be afraid to report abuse for fear of retaliation and threats of deportation.
- **Healthcare:** Immigrants may face barriers to accessing healthcare, including not qualifying for health insurance due to their immigration status, lack of knowledge on how to access city-funded hospitals and healthcare programs, language barriers, and fear of immigration enforcement. Many immigrants rely on emergency rooms for medical care, which may not provide comprehensive or preventive services.
- **Education:** Immigrant children, their parents, and adult learners may face significant challenges adapting to the U.S. education system. Language barriers and social-economic issues can make it difficult for students to succeed in school, and undocumented students may face additional barriers to accessing higher education and career pathways.

Top to bottom:

MOIA team members Louis and Ahemd with Commissioner Castro, connecting with newly arrived migrants.

Deputy Commissioner Miosotis Muñoz and Assistant Commissioner Erick Salgado at the annual faith based breakfast.

Mayor Adams and Commissioner Castro announcing the Asylum Seeker Blueprint.

Legal clinic part of the Ukrainian Response Initiative.



STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

These challenges described above are complex and interrelated. Addressing them requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach that considers the unique needs and experiences of immigrant communities.

MOIA works to address these challenges through a range of programs and initiatives that aim to enhance the accessibility of services and resources, promote inclusion and empowerment, and support the integration of immigrants into the fabric of New York City.

MOIA's work is guided by three key principles: inclusion, empowerment, and innovation.

- **Inclusion** means ensuring all immigrant communities can access the services and resources they need to succeed.
- **Empowerment** means supporting immigrants in their efforts to build stable and prosperous lives in New York City.
- **Innovation** means using creative and iterative strategies to address the complex and evolving needs of immigrant communities.



“MOIA’s work is guided by three key principles: inclusion, empowerment, and innovation.”

Top right: MOIA team member Tom distributing food to recently arrived migrants at Port Authority.

Below: Community members at the annual Dominican Day parade.



In order to improve the lives of immigrants in New York City, a collaborative effort is necessary among all city offices and agencies, as well as with its nonprofit partners, and our various immigrant communities. To achieve this, MOIA works to enhance, assist, and advise city offices and agencies on fulfilling their obligations and responsibilities to support the immigrant community. This includes:

- 1. Language access:** MOIA helps city agencies provide high-quality language services to non-English speaking residents. MOIA provides guidance and resources to mayoral offices on how to provide language assistance services, translating key documents into multiple languages, and training government staff to work effectively with Limited English Proficient communities
- 2. Community outreach and engagement:** MOIA engages with immigrant communities to understand their needs, concerns, and experiences. MOIA participates in events, meetings, and forums that provide a platform for community members to voice their opinions and advocate for their rights.
- 3. Policy development:** MOIA promotes policies and practices that benefit immigrant communities, such as expanded access to affordable housing, healthcare, education, and legal services. MOIA also collaborates with other government agencies and advocacy organizations to develop and implement policies that support immigrants.
- 4. Immigrant legal services:** MOIA collaborates with legal service providers across the city to enhance access to legal services for immigrants. MOIA created ActionNYC, a program that provides free, confidential legal services to immigrants throughout the city, regardless of their status. MOIA also hosts "Know Your Rights" workshops and legal clinics to educate immigrants on their rights and help them navigate the U.S. legal system.



Top: Commissioner Castro greeting a newly arrived child at Port Authority.
 2nd from top: Commissioner Castro conducting a site visit at the Caribbean Women's Health Association.
 Left: MOIA team member Lydia at a community resource fair.



Fulfilling Obligations and Responsibilities to Support the Immigrant Community:

1. Language access
2. Community outreach and engagement
3. Policy development
4. Immigrant legal services
5. Addressing Issues that Impact the Quality of Life of Immigrant New Yorkers

- 5. Addressing Issues that Impact the Quality of Life of Immigrant New Yorkers:** MOIA works with city agencies and community partners to identify and address the issues that impact the quality of life of immigrants in New York City. This includes ensuring access to healthcare, improving educational outcomes for immigrant students, increasing access to affordable housing, supporting workforce development programs, and providing support to victims of crime.

Finally, addressing the issues that immigrant New Yorkers face requires engagement with all levels of government. In 2022, MOIA worked to coordinate the City's local, state, and national advocacy on behalf of immigrant New Yorkers, by working with local elected leaders across the nation to push for federal change, and by organizing comments, supporting legislation, and connecting with state and federal partners on a variety of topics.



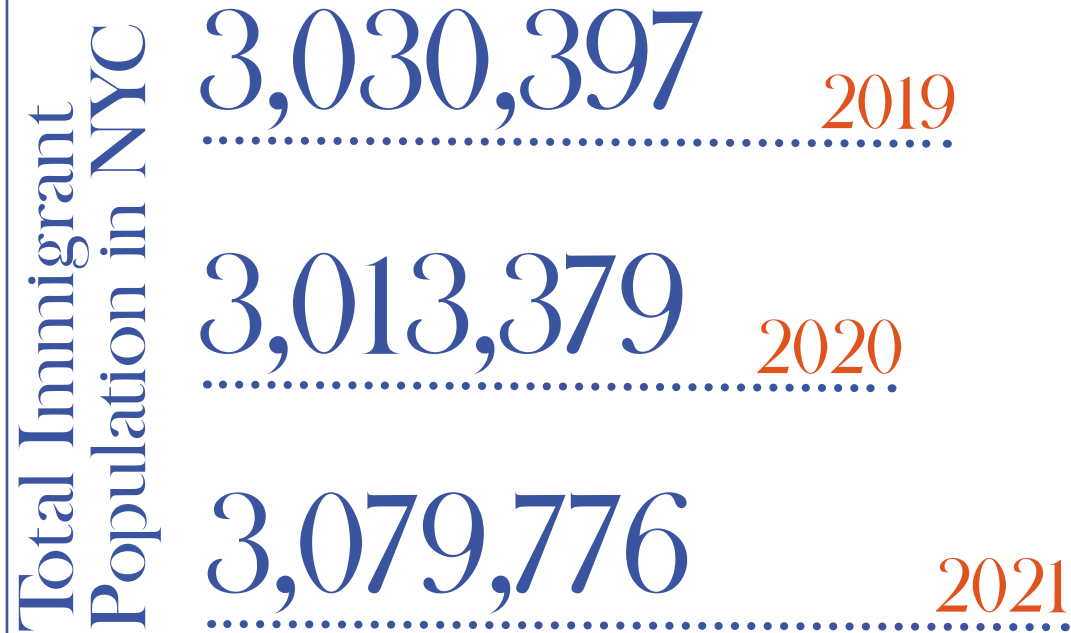
Commissioner Castro conducting a site visit at UA3 organization.

“In 2022, MOIA worked to coordinate the City's local, state, and national advocacy on behalf of immigrant New Yorkers...”

IMMIGRANT POPULATION SNAPSHOT

Overview

► After experiencing declines in the immigration population since 2016, New York City's immigrant count have steadily increased since 2019. Below is a look at the City's foreign-born population over the last 10 years:



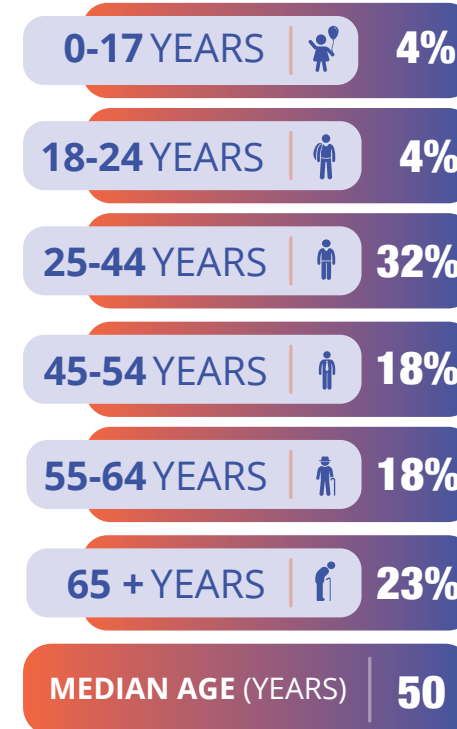
► Within this count of about 3.1 million immigrant New York City residents, approximately 1.8 million, or 59 percent, are naturalized citizens. The remaining 1.3 million, or 41 percent, are non-citizens.²



² See United States Census Bureau, B05001 | Nativity and Citizenship Status in the United States available <https://data.census.gov/table?q=Language+&g=1600000US3651000&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B05001>.

The following chart also shows a snapshot of the age of immigrant New York City residents:

Age of Foreign-Born NYC Residents



Diversity of NYC Immigrants

New Yorkers from the Dominican Republic continue to be the largest immigrant population, followed by those from China. The following chart presents a comparison from 2019 and 2021 of the top five countries of birth for New York City immigrant residents based on the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS-PUMS).³

Country of Birth for NYC Immigrants	Population in 2021	% of all Foreign-born	Population in 2019	% Change
1. Dominican Republic	420,000	14	400,000	+5
2. China	324,000	11	353,000	-8
3. Jamaica	163,000	5	170,000	-4
4. Mexico	155,000	5	153,000	+1
5. Guyana	154,000	5	126,000	+22

³ Based on the U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 and 2019 American Community Survey 1-year Public Use Microdata.

THE TOP 5 countries of birth for New York City immigrant residents

1. Dominican Republic
2. China
3. Jamaica
4. Mexico
5. Guyana

Language Access

Language access continues to be a significant barrier among the foreign-born population. Residents across the five boroughs speak more than 200 languages. Nearly three-quarters, or 75 percent, of immigrant New York City residents speak a language other than English at home.

2021 American Community Survey

The U.S. Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey (ACS) is a national survey administered every year to 3.5 million households (compared to the decennial census survey, which goes to every household/address in the U.S.) The survey is designed to produce reliable estimates on small areas and smaller population groups covering over 35 topics such as citizenship, employment, health insurance coverage, English proficiency, and place of birth, among other socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. Survey data is available at the individual response level through the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample, which compiles anonymized individualized responses to the survey questionnaire.

Data for the 2021 ACS one-year survey was released by the Census Bureau on September 15, 2022. It is this microdata that serves as the foundation for the demographic data in our annual report.

Residents across the five boroughs speak more than 200 languages. Nearly 3/4, or 75%, of immigrant New York City residents speak a language other than English at home.



Commissioner Castro and team at the African Union flag raising.

KEY FEDERAL AND STATE DEVELOPMENTS

FEDERAL

Federal Response to Populations Seeking Safety

The Biden-Harris Administration in 2022 utilized humanitarian parole in relation to populations seeking to enter the U.S. The *Uniting for Ukraine* program, described further on page 21, is an example of this.

MOIA thanks New York City congressional delegation, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries for their leadership to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and calls on the federal government to ensure immigration reform includes protecting our asylum process, the DREAM Act, and expedited work permits for the tens of thousands of asylum seekers already here.⁴

DREAM Act

In 2022, the Biden-Harris administration issued a regulation to codify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and the President urged Congress to pass immigration reform. The effort is urgent for hundreds of thousands of DREAMers whose future is in question as the DACA program moves through the courts. MOIA continues to advocate for passage of the DREAM Act in Congress.

Temporary Protected Status Designations

In 2022, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the designation, redesignation, or extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for certain countries due to conditions that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely. In certain circumstances, they also designated TPS where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals safely.⁵ MOIA has played an active role pressing the federal government for TPS designations for New York City immigrant communities impacted by natural disaster or war.



Mayor Adams and Commissioner Castro greeting newly arrived asylum seekers at Port Authority.

⁴ NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Statement from Mayor Eric Adams and Commissioner Manuel Castro on Restoring Our Asylum System by Ending Title 42, March 16, 2022, available at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/about/press-releases/statement-on-restoring-our-asylum-system-03-16-2022.page>

⁵ United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Temporary Protected Status available at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>

Public Charge

In 2022, MOIA continued to advocate for the federal government to have 'public charge' rules that are clear and fair. MOIA worked with NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H), Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), and NYC Housing of Preservation and Development (HPD) to submit two public comments on proposed federal public charge rules in 2022, providing evidence of the harms of the Trump-era version of these rules and the significant burden placed on the City as a result. On September 9, 2022, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security published a final rule that restores the historic understanding of the public charge ground of inadmissibility and provides clarity for noncitizens on how DHS will administer it.⁶ The final rule took effect on December 23, 2022. MOIA continued to share information about the rule with communities through Immigrant Rights Workshop presentations, social media, and on the MOIA website.



MOIA team member Lovely connecting with a constituent.

⁶ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, DHS Publishes Fair and Humane Public Charge Rule, September 8, 2022, available at <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/09/08/dhs-publishes-fair-and-humane-public-charge-rule>

“MOIA thanks New York City congressional delegation, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries for their leadership to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform...”

STATE

Health Care for All

New York City remains committed to accessible healthcare for all New Yorkers regardless of immigration status. In 2022, Commissioner Castro, Commissioner Ashwin Vasani, M.D., PhD from the DOHMH, and Mitchell Katz, M.D., President and CEO of H+H led the City's effort in support of the immigration-related changes to Essential Plan eligibility in the New York State Budget.⁷

We urged New York State to ask the federal government for an Affordable Care Act (ACA) Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver or "1332 Waiver" to expand New York's Essential Plan Program to cover low-income undocumented immigrants in the state. The Essential Plan Program would have also increased the financial eligibility limits for those who were already eligible to participate, using surplus funds in the State's Essential Plan Trust Fund Account to cover costs. Unfortunately, Governor Hochul Administration's proposed 1332 Waiver document in 2023 and proposed State budget language for FY 2024 excluded undocumented immigrants.⁸

New "Office of Language Access"

In October 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul launched the Office of Language Access to oversee and provide guidance on the expanded statewide language access policy, which was codified as part of the FY 2023 Enacted Budget.⁹

⁷ NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Statement from New York City Commissioners on Health Coverage for All, March 28, 2022, available at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/about/press-releases/statement-from-new-york-city-commissioners-on-health-coverage-for-all.page>

⁸ NY State of Health, "Essential Plan Expansion 1332 Waiver Submission and Review of Public Comments," <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/1332>.

⁹ New York State Office of the Governor, Governor Hochul Announces Launch of New 'Office of Language Access' to oversee codified and expanded statewide language access policy, October 3, 2022, available at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-launch-new-office-language-access-oversee-codified-and-expanded>



MOIA volunteer connecting with community members about City resources.

The new law mandates that all executive State agencies providing direct benefits or services provide interpretation services in any language, and that certain agencies must translate key agency documents into the top 12 most spoken non-English languages. This list of languages, based on Census data, currently includes Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Yiddish, Bengali, Korean, Haitian Creole, Italian, Arabic, Polish, French, and Urdu.



Mayor Adams and Commissioner Castro greeting asylum seekers.

INITIATIVES

MOIA’s role within the city is to promote opportunities so that immigrant New Yorkers can thrive. We do this through sharing best practices and developing innovative programming and policies, utilizing our role as a Mayor’s Office to engage with and assist City agencies in serving the nearly 40 percent of New Yorkers who are immigrants.



MOIA team member Lydia giving information to community members.

RAPID RESPONSE

Because MOIA prioritizes direct engagement with NYC’s immigrant communities as well as monitoring and analyzing federal policy developments, we can learn of urgent community needs as they arise, and advise the City in implementing timely, impactful responses that advance community-led work being done on the ground. In 2022, MOIA and its contracted partners undertook unprecedented efforts to welcome and support newly arrived immigrant groups, particularly when their needs were not fully met by existing federal support.

Support to Asylum Seekers

Since 2022, tens of thousands of asylum seekers — adults as well as families with children and unaccompanied minors — have fled dire conditions in their home countries and crossed the United States’ southern border in search of safety and a better life. Unlike previous migration patterns, the new arrivals were less likely to have a friend, family member, or sponsor to turn to for help in the City of New York. Many were traumatized by their journeys and arrived in this country for only a few days before being bussed to New York City with little more than the clothes on their backs.

New York City has and always will be a city of immigrants, and we were proud of our compassionate response to the sudden influx of newcomers. As the first buses from Texas arrived last year, Mayor Eric Adams and MOIA quickly mobilized multiple city agencies to provide shelter, food, healthcare and other critical services – as well as a warm welcome. However, the continuing surge of asylum seekers has strained the City’s already over-taxed shelter system, social services, and other resources to its breaking point. To address this humanitarian crisis, Mayor Adams declared a state of emergency in October of 2022. The crisis has only deepened since then.

As of December 31, 2022, over 35,200 individuals and families arrived in New York City and 24,000 were placed in emergency shelter placement (including humanitarian relief centers). Without additional support from the state and federal governments, the City will face challenges in supporting recent arrivals on top of the preexisting shelter population and citywide services.

“New York City has and always will be a city of immigrants, and we were proud of our compassionate response to the sudden influx of newcomers.”

Policy Background

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump Administration used Title 42, a provision of the 1944 Public Health Service Act, to expel migrants apprehended at the border without allowing them to apply for asylum in the interior. This policy has continued while granting exceptions to certain groups, including unaccompanied children and asylum seekers from Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba. The majority of recently arrived asylum seekers residing in New York City were authorized to enter the United States but continue to have significant needs for support given their precarious status and the lack of benefits offered through parole.

Moreover, the Migrant Protection Protocols, another Trump era policy, forced people to remain in Mexico while their asylum application was pending. While the policy was designed to restrict immigration flows, it instead created more pressure at the border and resulted in an increase in unauthorized border crossings. In the last fiscal year, the U.S. border officials recorded 2.3 million encounters with migrants. Title 42 enabled the expulsion of just over 1 million of these migrants. Additionally, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has reported a ten-year high of rescues as migrants continue to cross in remote and dangerous entry points.

The United States has also processed a record number of migrants from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, West African nations, Haiti, Ukraine, and Russia due to worsening economic conditions and deteriorating security in those countries. For example, nearly 7 million Venezuelans have fled the country since August 2022, most of whom migrated to other Latin American countries before arriving in the United States.

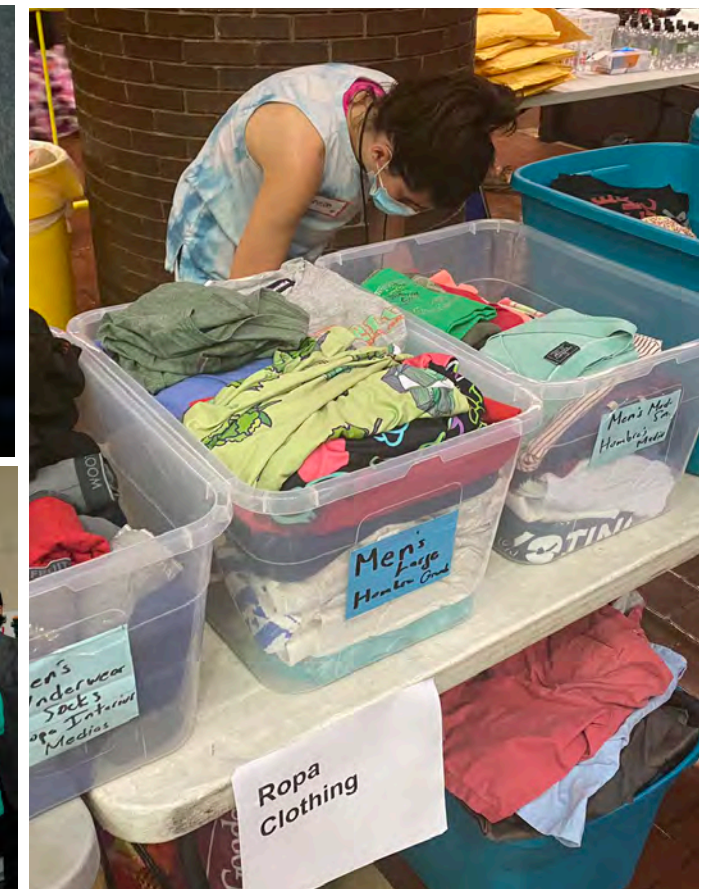
Lack of comprehensive immigration reform has exacerbated the border crisis. Overwhelmed immigration courts, limited paths to legal permanent status, unnecessary restrictions placed on employment authorization documents, and lack of a federal resettlement strategy has caused dysfunction, inefficiencies, and disorder at the border and in the interior.

Even with Title 42 in place, New York City has received a record number of asylum seekers and continues to receive a consistent stream daily into shelter.

Top left: Mayor Adams connecting with recently arrived New Yorkers.

Bott. left: Mayor Adams speaking to Masbia community organization at the Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center.

Right: Volunteer distributing clothes to recently arrived migrants at Port Authority.



Navigation Center System

The Navigation Center located in Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan was an interagency effort that MOIA led. For the first time in modern New York City history, there was a dedicated location for recently arrived immigrants to receive case management services and to connect to the most immediate city resources. Officially launched on September 15, 2022, the Navigation Center was operated by Catholic Charities of New York Community Services in collaboration with city partners, with 12 additional satellite sites operated by community-based organizations (CBO) across the five boroughs. The system served as a central location and referral network for asylum seekers to receive free and confidential assistance in navigating necessary services, including health care, Medicaid enrollment, vaccinations, school enrollment, immigration legal orientation, and IDNYC enrollment.

As of December 31, 2022, this system has served over 10,259 asylum seekers including 3,621 families.

Shelter, Food, and Clothing

The city has gone to extraordinary lengths to meet the sheltering needs of asylum seekers, in some cases opening several shelter sites a day.

As of December 31, 2022, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) opened 67 emergency shelter sites, and H+H opened 5 Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers (HERRCs) to meet the unprecedented need and provided shelter to over 35,000 individuals.

Our quick response and the scale of our operation has allowed our city to avoid mass homelessness that some border cities have recently faced. However, the resources needed to continue opening new shelters at this pace is unsustainable.

Asylum seekers in the City's care are provided food, clothing, medical care, vaccines, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), relocation services, legal information, access to translation, laundry, and more. Everyday New Yorkers have stepped up by donating food, clothing, books, and toys through a network of community-based partners. For example, over 60 houses of worship have participated in our Adopt-A-Shelter Program and provided necessities and support to asylum seekers.

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Legal Assistance

The 40,000+ asylum seekers that arrived in New York City in 2022 required information and assistance to help them understand their rights and responsibilities regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and immigration court requirements. They also needed legal screenings and assistance to help them understand their legal options and apply for immigration relief that may be available to them. This included applying for work authorization as soon as legally possible, so that they may lawfully work.

MOIA played a key role in advising and informing other City agencies regarding asylum seekers' immigration legal situations and their needs, in addition to responding immediately to serve our new neighbors.

Within the first weeks of the asylum seekers' arrival, MOIA

- Created a NYC Asylum Seeker Response webpage with information & resources.
- Joined Mayor Adams in calling upon the federal government for policy changes and funding.
- Distributed information about the immigration legal process and services to asylum seekers arriving at Port Authority Bus Terminal with attorneys on hand to answer questions, and
- Engaged in numerous fact-finding calls with immigration legal service partners to understand needs and challenges.

Through the Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center, MOIA provided legal orientation & information sessions to thousands of new arrivals using contract staff and volunteers. MOIA also provided multilingual legal information and orientation sessions at Navigation Center Satellite Sites in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island, and piloted multilingual legal information and orientation sessions at HERRCs and DHS shelters, reaching hundreds of people.

The city allocated \$5 million, along with \$3 million from the state, to provide legal support for asylum seekers. These funds, along with an existing \$67 million in immigration legal services available to all immigrant New Yorkers, will expand citywide access to legal information and assistance through presentations, online resources, training for community members, added capacity for the ActionNYC hotline and *pro se* (self-help) application assistance clinics.

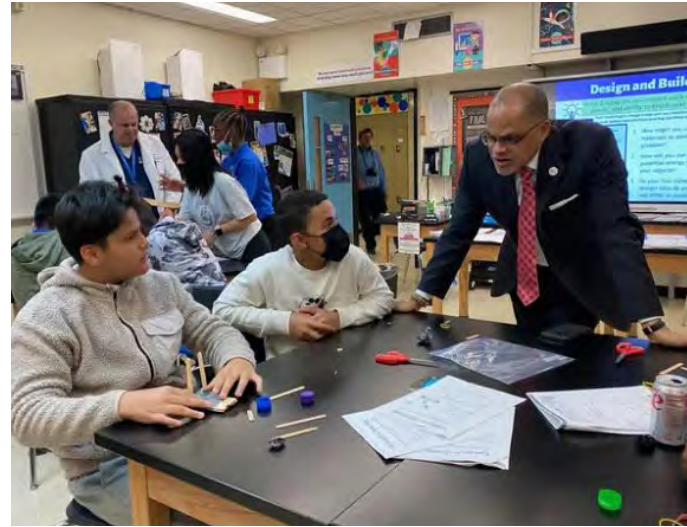
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Support for Children/Education

The New York City Department of Education (DOE) launched 'Project Open Arms' to assist more than ten thousand children of asylum seekers to enroll in public schools. At the Navigation Center and humanitarian relief centers, bilingual and multilingual enrollment counselors helped parents navigate placement options for new students, including those with special needs. Staff coordinated donations with local CBOs, individual donors, and school communities for items such as backpacks, school supplies, hygiene kits and clothing.

To support students once they were enrolled, DOE conducted assessments to determine if additional resources were needed (i.e., special education or bilingual programs). School counselors and social workers worked with asylum seeker families so that student needs, such as language instruction, were met.

In collaboration with the City Council, Mayor Adams also announced PROMISE NYC, a program which makes childcare assistance available to low-income families, including asylum seekers, whose immigration status makes them ineligible for other federally funded childcare.



Public Health and Mental Health

Asylum seekers face unique challenges that impact their health. The health system in many of their countries of origin are unstable, resulting in low levels of vaccination, screening, and treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, measles, and polio. For instance, the measles and polio vaccination rate in Venezuela — the country of origin for majority of the asylum seekers in New York City — is 37 percent and 50 percent respectively.¹⁰ Additionally, the arduous journey to the United States — averaging 2,000 to 3,000 miles — poses many risks to individuals' mental and physical health.

At the Navigation Center and in humanitarian relief centers, DOHMH and other partners enrolled people in insurance programs and made appointments with health care providers. To address the increased demand for health care services, the City worked closely to expand appointment availability for the newly arrived asylum seekers.

In 2022, H+H provided more than 2,309 vaccines to the children at the HERRCs and the Navigation Center. Children had substantial vaccination needs, including for MMR, Polio, COVID-19, Hepatitis and Varicella vaccines.

Given conditions in the countries of origin, the journey to the United States, and assimilation challenges once here, there is a high level of trauma amongst asylum seekers. The Navigation Center offered crisis counseling and psychological first aid. The HERRCs additionally had social workers on site. Those who needed additional support were connected to NYC Well and matched with a mental health provider so that they could receive crisis intervention, information, and referrals.

“ In 2022, H+H provided more than 2,309 vaccines to the children at the HERRCs and the Navigation Center. ”



Top: Chancellor David Banks speaking to recently arrived asylum seeker students.

Bott: Commissioner Castro with American Pakistani Advocacy Group at a toy drive for asylum seeker children.



Mayor Adams, Commissioner Castro and admin giving an asylum seeker update.

¹⁰ World Health Organization, Immunization Dashboard: Reported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases globally available at WHO <https://immunizationdata.who.int>

HAITIAN RESPONSE INITIATIVE (HRI)

In 2021 and 2022, significant numbers of Haitians entered the U.S. through the Southwestern U.S. border from Central and South America. Haitians migrated due to recent natural disasters, political upheaval in Haiti, and changes in Federal policy that permitted some seeking protection to enter and reside in the U.S. as they asserted their humanitarian and other claims in immigration court. Many from this group chose to settle in the City's vibrant Haitian communities in Brooklyn and Queens.

MOIA became aware of the critical survival, social, and legal needs of this arriving population through its relationships with Haitian community leaders and CBOs and responded by designing and launching the Haitian Response Initiative (HRI).

Announced in December 2021, the initiative directs \$3.15 million in new FY22-23 funding to community-based partners providing case management and immigration legal services to newly arrived Haitian New Yorkers. Partners in the initiative included Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Caribbean Women's Health Association, Diaspora Community Services, Flanbwayan Literacy Project, Haitian Americans United for Progress (HAUP), Haitian American Community Coalition (HCC), Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, and Life of Hope. The Haitian Studies Institute at CUNY Brooklyn College partnered with MOIA, and all involved in the initiative to provide services and public messages that were delivered in a culturally and linguistically responsive manner.

This investment supported community-based partners working to meet the critical survival, social, and legal needs of newly arrived Haitians, and helped the City better understand challenges faced by newly arrived Haitian New

Announced in December 2021, the initiative directs \$3.15 million in new FY22-23 funding to community-based partners providing case management and immigration legal services to newly arrived Haitian New Yorkers.



Top: Commissioner Castro and MOIA team member Lovely visiting Haitian restaurant in Brooklyn.



Bottom: Commissioner Castro and MOIA team member Lovely visiting Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees.



Commissioner Castro and MOIA team member Lovely visiting Life of Hope.

Yorkers. Over 1,800 recently arrived Haitians were screened and served by HRI's CBO case management providers in 2022. Case managers spent thousands of hours working with newly arrived Haitians to determine eligibility for benefits and connect them to resources and services, including direct cash assistance. Participants primarily lived in Brooklyn, spoke Haitian Creole, and had at least one child in the household. The top five needs addressed by HRI CBO case management providers were: immigration legal service information & referrals, food assistance, school enrollment navigation, NYC identification enrollment, healthcare, and health insurance.

The legal services provider Catholic Charities screened nearly 400 community members for immigration relief eligibility, opened more than 150 cases for assistance, and represented community members in dozens of immigration court appearances. They also planned and executed three full day EAD application assistance clinics in Brooklyn. Each clinic day was joined by MOIA's Community Outreach team and representatives from different healthcare providers to allow community members to access various services while on site. Catholic Charities' legal team also provided 9 train-the-trainer and know your rights presentations to CBO partners on topics such as "What to Expect in Removal Proceedings," "Asylum & Fear-Based Claims," "Temporary Protected Status," "The Asylum Merits Interview Process," and "Prosecutorial Discretion and its Application to the Haitian Community." Finally, Catholic Charities produced materials to advise a targeted information campaign through traditional media, social media, and ethnic media channels, on the new available resources for Haitian arrivals at CCCS and dedicated coalition partners. It also launched an anti-fraud and information messaging campaign across community and ethnic media.

Over 1,800 recently arrived Haitians were screened and served by HRI's CBO case management providers in 2022.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE INITIATIVE



Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Ukrainians fleeing violence and turmoil began arriving to the United States. In April 2022 President Biden announced Uniting for Ukraine (U4U), a new streamlined process to provide Ukrainian citizens who have fled Russia’s invasion to come to the United States through a sponsor.

Many displaced Ukrainians who fled their homeland for the United States chose to settle in New York City, in part because NYC is home to the largest vibrant Ukrainian diaspora community in the U.S. In 2022, more than 17,000 U4U applications were approved for Ukrainian nationals seeking to resettle in New York City. An unknown number of displaced Ukrainians who came to the U.S. outside of the U4U process have also resettled in New York City.

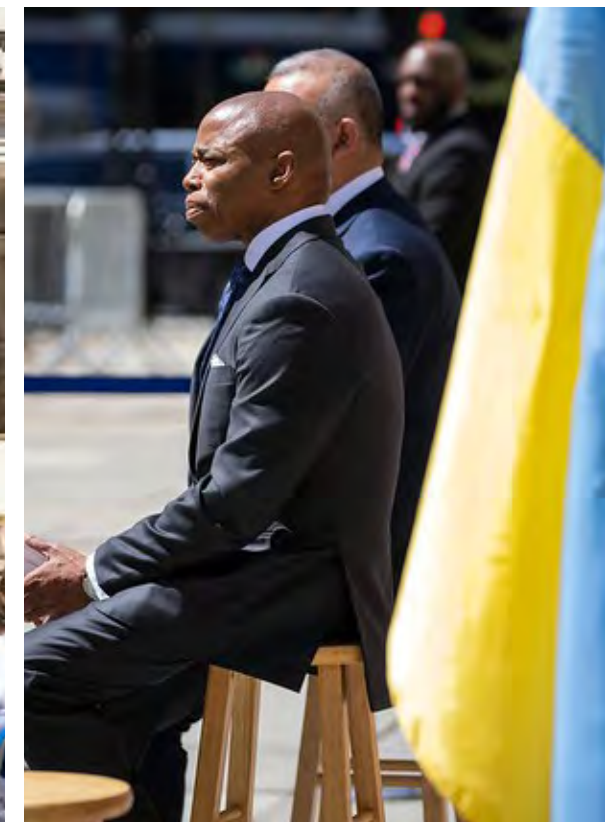
In demonstration of solidarity with the Ukrainian people and recognizing that arriving Ukrainians would need support establishing themselves and integrating into New York city, Mayor Adams and MOIA announced more than \$2.16 million in FY22-23 funding for the Ukrainian Response Initiative. Through this program, contracted non-profit organizations with longstanding ties in the Ukrainian community helped provide Ukrainian New Yorkers with access to culturally and linguistically responsive immigration legal assistance, translation services, social services, and other resources. Services were available to all New Yorkers impacted by the Russian war on Ukraine. Partners in the initiative included the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), CAMBA, Catholic Charities, Razom, Shorefront YM-YWH and New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG).

Since launch, more than 5,100 community members have been directly engaged through in-person or remote outreach. More than 2,400 displaced Ukrainians were screened for and provided with social and navigation services such as school enrollment, job services, food assistance, benefits navigation, clothing and personal care, and ESL/ESOL classes. Additionally, four video tutorials were created in Russian and Ukrainian – two about employment authorization, and two about public benefits — reaching more than 1,200 people.

More than **1,000** people were provided with immigration legal assistance, such as individual screenings, pro bono assistance accessing TPS and Employment Authorization Documents (EADs, or work permits), and legal representation in other matters.

This page: Commissioner Castro and RAZOM leader at a Ukrainian Response Initiative Event.

Opposite page: Mayor Adams, Commissioner Castro and Ukrainian community members at the announcement of the Ukrainian Response Initiative.



LEGAL INITIATIVES

Access to free, confidential immigration legal services

ActionNYC is MOIA's anchor initiative that provides access to free, confidential immigration legal services to immigrant New Yorkers in their language. The program is operated jointly by MOIA, DSS/HRA, and City University of New York (CUNY), and implemented in collaboration with over 30 CBOs and legal services providers.

Together, non-attorney community navigators and immigration attorneys provide comprehensive immigration legal screenings and legal representation in straightforward immigration matters, including but not limited to citizenship applications, green card renewals, and TPS applications. Certain ActionNYC providers also provide representation in complex cases such as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, U-Visa applications, and Asylum. For complex legal cases outside the legal team's scope of services or capacity, ActionNYC connects clients to other City-funded legal services programs administered by DSS/HRA's Office of Civil Justice, such as the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funded programs.

ActionNYC navigators also connect clients to social services as needed, including to IDNYC and health insurance enrollment. All ActionNYC organizations and community navigators receive support to obtain and maintain U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Recognition, meaning the organization has permission from DOJ to practice immigration law through Accredited Representatives before federal authorities and represent clients before United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

ActionNYC Hotline – Historical Call Volume

2020	2021	2022
February 2,859	February 2,213	February 3,977
May 1,079	May 2,651	May 2,830
August 2,477	August 2,966	August 4,972
November 1,714	November 1,553	November 2,831

Demand for ActionNYC services continued to grow in 2022, with 40,133 total calls received by the City funded immigration legal services hotline. This represents a 27 percent increase in call volume over 2021, and a 259 percent increase since year one of the hotline. In 2022, the ActionNYC hotline set new records for the highest number of calls fielded in a single month and a single year. This significant growth in call volume can be attributed to both growing awareness of services among long-residing immigrant New Yorkers, and an influx of newly arrived asylum seekers calling the hotline for information and appointments.

Demand for ActionNYC legal services consistently exceeds capacity. However, MOIA secured the allocation of \$5 million in additional funding for immigration legal services for newly arrived asylum seekers in FY23 and FY24. This funding will add capacity to the broader immigration legal services field including ActionNYC, by providing immigration legal orientation, screening, triage, referrals, and pro se (self-help) application assistance clinics citywide.

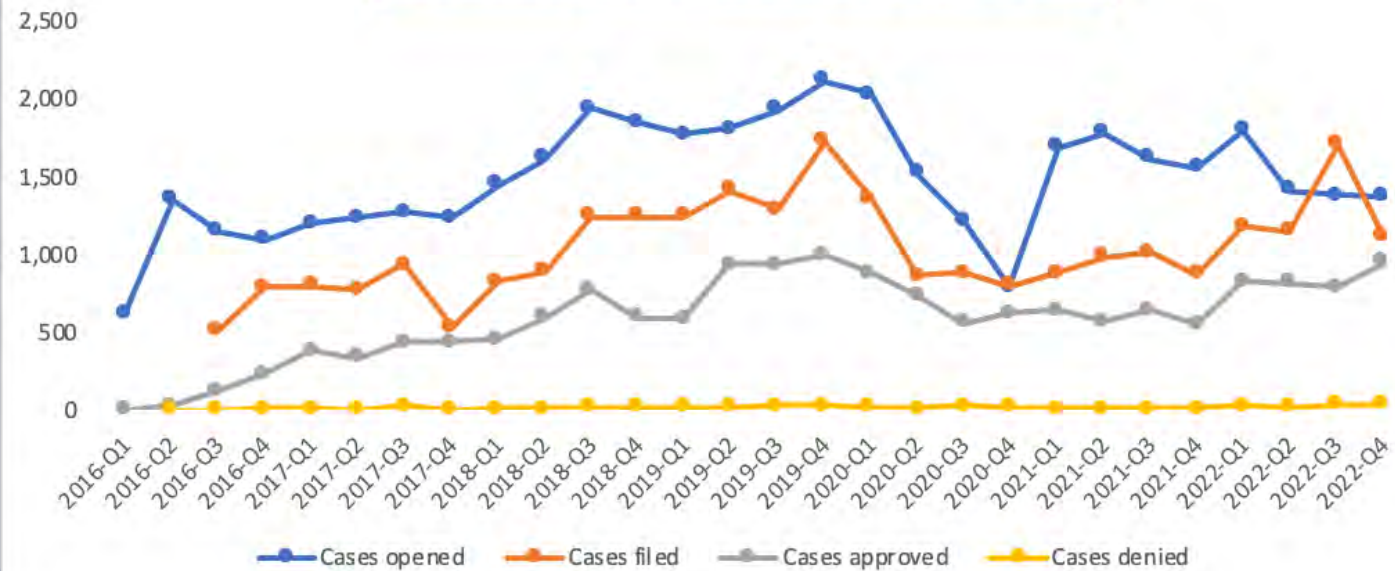
“Demand for ActionNYC services continued to grow in 2022, with 40,133 total calls received by the City funded immigration legal services hotline.”



MOIA team member Cesar connecting with non-profit partners on legal service needs.

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, ActionNYC provided in-person services across all five boroughs at 19 CBOs, dozens of DOE schools, three H+H sites, and to long-term and post - acute care H+H patients on a rotating basis. ActionNYC pivoted to fully remote service delivery in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through 2022 and presently, ActionNYC services are provided using a hybrid model in which the appointment type— remote or in-person—is determined by the community member’s preference.

ActionNYC Applications by Status



In total, ActionNYC providers conducted over 11,467 comprehensive immigration legal screenings, an increase of about 25 percent compared to 2021, and opened over 5,971 new cases, a decrease of about 2 percent compared to 2020. Of cases in which immigration authorities rendered decisions in 2022, 96 percent were approved. ActionNYC initiatives referred 3,342 cases to other legal services providers in 2022. Of these, 1,779 were referred from ActionNYC in CBOs, 906 were referred from ActionNYC sites in H+H, 137 from ActionNYC in schools, and 74 from ActionNYC in libraries.



Naturalization ceremony at City Hall.

Screenings Disaggregated by Service Type

Programs	Annual Screenings
CBOS	8398
FELLOWSHIP	1247
HOSPITALS	1523
LIBRARIES	959
SCHOOLS	1419
RRLC	95
NYCitizenship	688
GRAND TOTAL	14329

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Commissioner Castro and MOIA team at National Partnership of New Americans Naturalization Press Conference



Commissioner Castro addressing the Bronx community at Coalicion Mexicana.

CY22 Screenings
by Program

CBOs 58%

Hospitals 11%

Schools 10%

Fellowships 9%

Libraries 7%

NYCitizenship 5%

RRLC 1%

Cases Filed by Program

Programs	Cases Filed
CBOS	2804
FELLOWSHIP	404
HOSPITALS	461
LIBRARIES	112
SCHOOLS	884
NYCitizenship	497
GRAND TOTAL	5162



Commissioner Castro, Deputy Commissioner Misotis Munoz, and MOIA team member Eileen visiting an Action NYC partner, NMIC.

In addition to their work serving all immigrant New Yorkers, ActionNYC providers pivoted in 2022 to serve the specific and urgent needs of newly arrived asylum seekers. Catholic Charities Community Services and Immigrant Justice Corps agreed to redeploy their ActionNYC teams in schools and libraries to the Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center. There, they delivered group presentations orienting participants to Federal immigration processes and requirements, advising them of the 1-year asylum filing deadline, explaining how to comply with ICE, 'Alternatives to Detention' requirements, changing their address with Federal authorities, informing them of their rights, and warning them about immigration legal services fraud. Catholic Charities and Immigrant Justice Corps also provided individualized immigration legal screenings and assistance preparing and submitting Change of Address forms and Change of Venue motions.

Top: Commissioner Castro, Deputy Commissioner Munoz, and MOIA team member Eileen visiting an Action NYC partner, NMIC.

Bott.: Commissioner Castro and MOIA Team member Tom visiting I-ARC to discuss legal services for immigrant New Yorkers.



Training and Technical Assistance to CBOs

The City continues to prioritize legal service delivery in hard-to-reach and growing immigrant populations and provide support to CBOs. Launched in 2017, the ActionNYC Capacity-Building Fellowship Program serves as an incubator that provides comprehensive training and technical assistance to CBOs with small, nascent, or limited immigration legal services programs. Fellows are located within and primarily serve hard-to-reach immigrant communities. In 2022, six legal fellows conducted 1,247 comprehensive immigration legal screenings and provided full legal representation in more than 404 straightforward immigration matters.

As a result of the fellowship, partner organizations have developed, and continue developing, into full partner providers in citywide immigration legal services provision. Three former Fellows — the Caribbean Women's Health Association, the Riis Neighborhood Settlement, and the MinKwon Center for Community Action — successfully launched legal programs under the new ActionNYC contracts in 2021 and successfully provided services through 2022.

The success of these programs was determined by the increase in immigrant clients from populations that have been traditionally harder to reach for ActionNYC providers. MOIA continues to see increases in the number of Asian, African, and Caribbean community members served by ActionNYC due in large part to the efforts of the providers participating in the Capacity-Building Fellowship.

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MOIA team member Ledia connecting with New Yorkers about city services available.

Three former Fellows — the Caribbean Women's Health Association, the Riis Neighborhood Settlement, and the MinKwon Center for Community Action — successfully launched legal programs under the new ActionNYC contracts in 2021 and successfully provided services through 2022.

Legal Assistance to Individuals Detained by ICE or at Risk of Detention and Deportation

In 2022, the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative (RRLC) continued to be carried out by a coalition of immigration legal service providers including Make the Road New York, UnLocal, and the New York Legal Assistance Group.

This coalition provides legal assistance to individuals who are detained by ICE or are at imminent risk of detention and deportation. Many may not have the right to see an immigration judge or are otherwise facing a fast-track to removal. RRLC's work fills a gap in existing immigration legal services offerings for detained immigrant New Yorkers.

RRLC's efforts enables our city to continue serving individuals facing complex and high-stakes immigration legal challenges. In addition to providing legal screenings and representation, the RRLC engages in community education and legal service provider capacity building around complex legal issues. The RRLC also includes a social work component, providing client-centered support, crisis intervention, case management assistance, facilitated referrals for community-based services, letters of support and psychosocial evaluations, and/or supportive counseling, for immigrant New Yorkers and their family members. This investment also includes expanded capacity for the ActionNYC hotline operated by Catholic Charities Community Services.

In 2022, RRLC providers pivoted to respond to the needs of newly arrived asylum seekers in several ways. They drafted 'Motions to Reopen' for those who had missed their immigration court hearing due to improperly issued paperwork, lack of familiarity with immigration requirements, or problems accessing the Federal immigration court building due to overcrowding. RRLC providers also gave individuals brief advice regarding ICE check-ins. RRLC also engaged in advocacy with ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) regarding enforcement priorities, issuance of charging documents, and the check-in requirements.

“RRLC's efforts enables our city to continue serving individuals facing complex and high-stakes immigration legal challenges.”

Citizenship Application Assistance

In 2022, MOIA and DSS/HRA continued to provide access to linguistically responsive citizenship services for all immigrant New Yorkers through NYCitizenship.

NYCitizenship provides free citizenship application assistance, including screenings and both pro se and full legal representation.

Through MOIA's partnership with DSS/HRA and its unique direct mail outreach model, the program focused primarily on offering services to vulnerable populations, including seniors and those facing health issues and other disabilities.

In 2022, NYCitizenship continued to focus in part on advancing the large backlog of cases that had been stalled due to interview cancellations and USCIS closures due to COVID-19.

The program screened 688 clients and filed 497 citizenship applications. Of the applications that were adjudicated in 2022, 88 percent were approved. If eligible, individuals also received assistance with fee waiver and disability waiver applications.

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Commissioner Castro and CUNY Citizenship Now! volunteers at a Citizenship clinic.

Immigrant Rights Workshops Program

For years, MOIA's Immigrant Rights Workshops (IRW) Program has served as a dependable resource for immigrant New Yorkers. By partnering with trusted CBOs, immigrant communities received relevant and timely information through comprehensive and educational presentations.

Through the IRW program, MOIA strives to provide community partners with the necessary tools to assist, educate, and inform immigrant New Yorkers on their rights and available government services. The content focuses on federal immigration law and enforcement priorities, practices for identifying and interacting with federal immigration officers, and free and safe immigration legal services. Partners can also tailor workshops to fit the unique needs of each audience by adding additional content on topics from the following four categories:

- Available city services and resources
- State policies and programs
- Recent executive orders and changes to federal immigration policy, and
- Workers' rights and worksite enforcement actions

Starting in the second half of the calendar year to coincide with FY23, the IRW team worked to so that CBO partners prioritized reaching smaller populations that do not historically engage with government and its services by setting geographic targets for different community districts throughout New York City. After partners were confirmed through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, they were given presentation content and resources that were used to conduct IRWs. Along with these changes in FY23, four IRW partners were redeployed to assist newly arrived asylum seekers at the Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center. At the Center, IRW partners presented to asylum seekers on federal immigration processes and requirements, advised them of the 1-year asylum filing deadline, explained to them how to comply with ICE Alternatives to Detention requirements and change their address with federal authorities, informed them of their rights, and warned them about immigration legal fraud.

In 2022, the IRW Program partnered with 23 CBOs across two projects, completed 323 IRW presentations and reached 13,474 New Yorkers. The IRW presentations were facilitated in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese-Mandarin, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Nepali, and Spanish, and were interpreted in additional languages such as: Mixtec, Punjabi, and Tagalog. Participants who attended the IRW presentations also had the option to receive informational materials, ask questions, and request legal services.



Commissioner Castro and La Colmena at an Immigrant Rights Workshop.

“In 2022, the IRW Program partnered with 23 CBOs across two projects, completed 323 IRW presentations and reached 13,474 New Yorkers.”



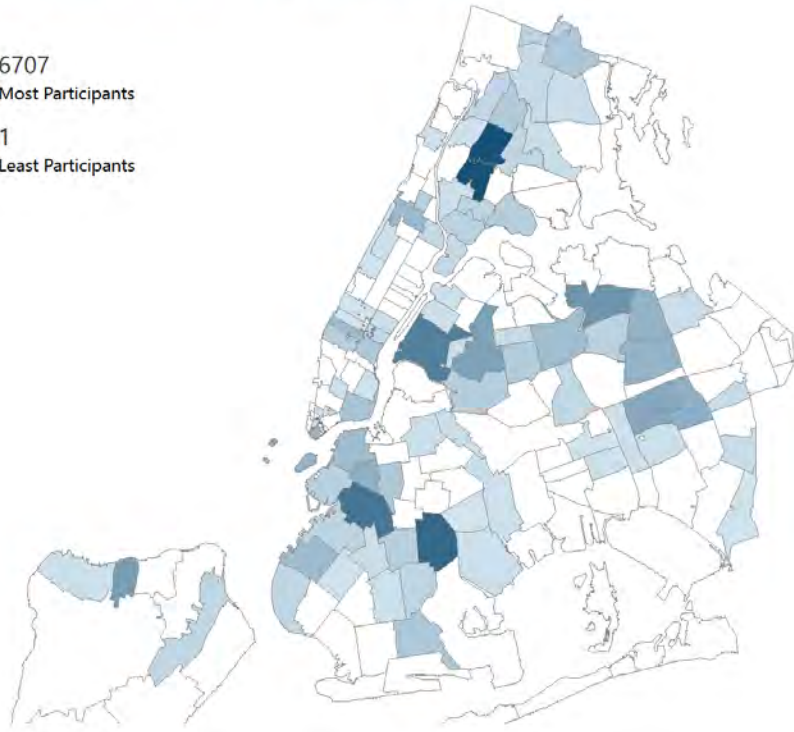
Total Engagements by Top Languages

	Interpreted	Other	Primary
English	16	36	160
Spanish	16	52	78
Haitian Creole	0	5	29
Arabic	2	17	10
Korean	0	3	23

People Reached by Zip Code

6707
Most Participants

1
Least Participants



2022 Most Reached Zip Codes

10457	5509 Participants
10456	596 Participants
11203	503 Participants
11101	407 Participants
11215	446 Participants
11101	407 Participants
11354	321 Participants
10302	288 Participants
11377	269 Participants
11432	245 Participants

Note: Zip Code 10457 had over 5,000 participants because a CBO conducted a virtual presentation that allowed listeners to call in. Because the necessary information was presented and listeners had the option to ask questions, this counted as an Immigrant Rights Workshop.

NYS DREAM Act Application Assistance Program

In February 2020, MOIA launched the New York State Dream Act Application Assistance Program (NYS DAAAP) to support students in navigating the application process for NYS financial aid programs. Following the enactment of the Senator José Peralta New York State Dream Act into law, these programs became newly available to an estimated 46,000 immigrant students. NYSDAAAP specifically focuses on aiding undocumented students who face a unique set of barriers to college, including difficulty accessing academic, financial, social, and mental health support.

In 2022, MOIA continued to partner with UnLocal to assist immigrant students in NYC throughout various stages of the application process to provide them with access to vital state resources when pursuing higher education. UnLocal disseminated information about the NYS Dream Act, conducted workshops to educate students, school staff, and parents about the application process, and created videos to share on various social media platforms. In 2022, 189 immigrant students in NYC received assistance and the NYS DREAM Act Application Assistance Program was granted baseline funding.

“In 2022, 189 immigrant students in NYC received assistance and the NYS DREAM Act Application Assistance Program was granted baseline funding.”

U & T VISAS

U and T visas promote public safety by offering protection to immigrant survivors of crime or trafficking and encouraging them to come forward and seek assistance from law enforcement. These visas, issued by the federal government, can give undocumented immigrant survivors stability, work authorization, and a potential pathway to lawful permanent residency.

An applicant for a U visa must submit a certification from a law enforcement agency. That certification is an official statement detailing that a qualifying crime has taken place and the victim has been helpful to the agency in the detection, investigation, and/or prosecution of the crime. For a T visa, a law enforcement declaration, similar to a certification, can be important evidence to include in an application, though it is not required.

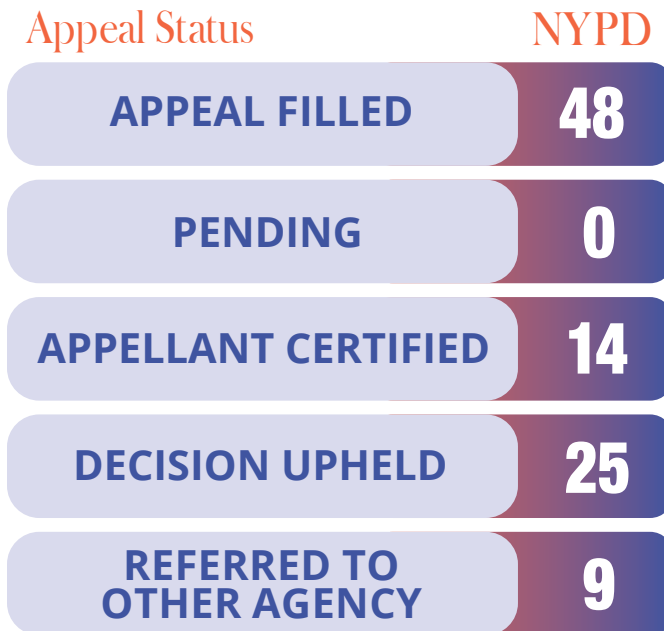
Under NYC Charter §18(d)(7), MOIA has a duty to advise City law enforcement agencies about U visa certifications and T visa declarations to address the unique needs of immigrant survivors. With the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), MOIA coordinates a working group of city agency certifiers. Through this group, the Mayor’s Office provides technical assistance and relevant policy updates while also supporting effective working relationships with legal service providers who work with immigrant survivors. The city certifiers include the NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), NYC Law Department (NYC Law), New York Police Department, City Commission of Human Rights, and Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, as well as the City’s five District Attorney’s Offices. MOIA, ENDGBV, and MOCJ also engage with advocates and legal service providers to ensure awareness of City certification policies.



Commissioner Castro with NYPD officers from their Immigrant Outreach Unit.

The following charts present annual statistics on U and T visa certifications by City agencies in calendar year 2022. The District Attorney's Offices do not publish data on U and T Visa certifications and declarations issued. Notably, in 2022, the number of requests received increased significantly, largely due to an increase in requests received by the NYPD. In 2022, NYPD received its highest recorded number of requests.

Certification Denials Appealed in CY 2022



U and T Visa Certifications in CY 2022

	ACS	NYPD	Law	CCHR	DCWP	TOTAL
Requests received total	62	1091	12	1	11	1177
U requests	61	1088	12	1	11	1173
T requests	1	3	0	0	0	4
Requests processed total	57	763	10	4	10	844
Certifications issued	57	405	10	4	5	481
U requests	56	404	10	4	5	479
T requests	1	1	0	0	0	2
Requests denied	0	254	0	0	5	259
U requests	0	252	0	0	5	257
T requests	0	2	0	0	0	2
Requests referred to other agencies	0	104	0	0	0	104
U requests	0	103	0	0	0	103
T requests	0	1	0	0	0	1

Reasons for Request Denials in CY 2022

Reasons for denials	ACS	NYPD	Law	CCHR	DCWP	TOTAL
Public safety concern	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-qualifying crime	0	240	0	0	0	240
Lack of helpfulness/cooperation (the victim has not assisted the Police Department in the investigation)	0	5	0	0	0	5
Indirect victim/witness (the individual named is not the direct or indirect victim)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of qualifying investigation	0	0	0	0	2	2
Case could not be unsealed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insufficient documentation	0	8	0	0	0	8
Statute of limitations expired	0	1	0	0	3	4
Applicant is subject of active investigation/ Respondent in Art. 10 case (must reapply after investigation/case is closed)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Certifications denied total	0	254	0	0	5	259

U and T Visa Certification Requests Processed

2020

Total referrals

65

Total denials

118

Total approvals

438

Total Requests Processed

621

2021

Total referrals

103

Total denials

158

Total approvals

641

Total Requests Processed

902

2022

Total referrals

104

Total denials

259

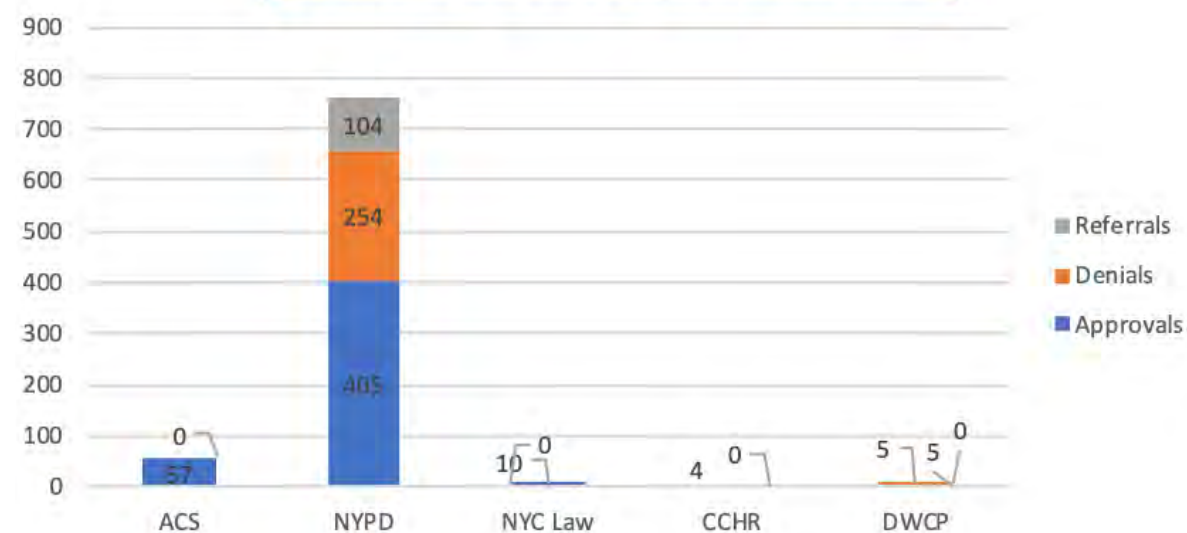
Total approvals

481

Total Requests Processed

844

CY 2022 U & T Visa Requests Processed



Anti-Fraud Work

In 2022, MOIA continued to use two key strategies to combat immigration fraud:

1. Providing free, trusted immigration legal services
2. Conducting outreach that gives immigrant communities clear, accurate, and timely information about issues impacting them and services available to them.

MOIA conducts outreach to combat fraud in several ways:

- Immigrant Rights Workshops, which contain information about fraud.
- MOIA web page, "Avoid Becoming the Victim of Immigration Fraud," with links to a flyer in 18 languages.
- Dedicated funding for combatting fraud in recent Response Initiatives.
- We Speak NYC episode, "Sonam's Mom," covering the difference between immigration assistance service providers and lawyers, and warning signs to look out for; and
- Widespread outreach about free, safe, City-funded immigration legal help through ActionNYC.

MOIA has been a member of the Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers (PINY) Taskforce since it began in 2013.

In September 2022, Commissioner Castro joined the Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers (PINY) Taskforce to share remarks and answer questions about MOIA's anti-fraud work. The PINY Task Force is made up of local, state, and federal government officials who work on issues related to fraud against immigrants, private and nonprofit legal practitioners, and community organization representatives. MOIA has been a member of the Taskforce since it began in 2013.

To help newly arrived asylum seekers avoid immigration fraud, MOIA included flyers on this topic as part of welcome packets they receive – in addition to a range of efforts to connect them with clear, accurate legal information and support.



Assistant Commissioner Salgado doing community engagement at the 62nd Precinct police station.

LANGUAGE INITIATIVES

Language Access

Twenty-two percent of New Yorkers and 47 percent of the foreign-born population in New York City are limited English proficient (LEP).¹¹ Given this, language access is essential to effective government and to advancing equity for all immigrant New Yorkers.

Language access is central to MOIA's work as our team conducts multilingual outreach through our programs, constituent services hotline, Immigrant Rights Workshops, and our Language Access Team.

MOIA's Language Access Team:

- **Develops and implements strategies and policies to embed language access into city operations** and strengthen the City's "language access infrastructure."
- **Advises agencies and other entities to help them develop the capacity to advance language access**, including providing technical assistance and oversight of Local Law 30 of 2017 (Local Law 30); and
- **Provides translation and interpretation services** to MOIA and Mayoral Offices



MOIA's language access team members providing interpretation at the Mayor's 100 Day speech.

Embedding Language Access into City Operations

In 2022, MOIA worked to further embed language access into city operations and bolster the City's language access infrastructure.¹² Internal efforts included educating city staff about language access, strengthening MOIA's internal capacity to support agencies in advancing language access and delivering multilingual communications. MOIA also worked with agency partners to improve language services procurement and advised on language access legislation.

¹¹ The 2021 ACS Survey estimates there are 1,909,069 New York City residents who speak English less than "very well." Out of the foreign-born population, 1,440,707 speak English less than "very well." See United States Census Bureau, B06007 | Place of birth by language spoken at home and ability to speak English in the United States available <https://data.census.gov/table?g=1600000US3651000>

¹² Language access infrastructure is defined as the capacity to effectively communicate with New Yorkers who speak languages other than English.

The change in Mayoral Administration and the arrival of new staff across city agencies provided an important opportunity for MOIA to educate city staff about language access. Throughout 2022, MOIA held seven interagency convenings to further integrate language access across the ways in which agencies serve New Yorkers. This work included:

- **Convening an Interagency Immigrant Task Force Meeting with agency commissioners** This included those new to the Administration, to underscore the importance of embedding language access across agency operations, Local Law 30, and the ways in which agencies must operationalize language access.
- **Co-convening with the Office of Emergency Management a second Interagency Immigrant Task Force Meeting** For the first time, MOIA brought together agency Task Force designees, agency emergency preparedness leads and language access coordinators to discuss the role of city agencies in providing language access during emergency response and the language access resources available to agencies.
- **Convening language access coordinators to share best practices on implementing language access** DSS presented on how to deliver language access trainings across an agency and ACS presented about their initiative to utilize bilingual staff more effectively by testing their language proficiency. This also included another convening where MOIA presented a roadmap for how agencies can move beyond language access legal compliance toward operationalizing "language justice."
- **Co-convening with the Mayor's Office of Contract Services a meeting with agency chief contracting officers** The meeting consisted of officers who oversee language services procurement, and agency language access coordinators, to discuss the pathways and the resources available to agencies to procure high quality language services.
- **Training MOIA and other Mayoral Office staff on the importance of language access**, Local Law 30, language access resources available to offices, and how to access them.



Graphic promoting language access rights when voting.



Graphic promoting resources for paying electricity bill in Spanish.

MOIA's Language Access Team also worked to bolster the City's infrastructure to deliver multilingual communications. In 2022, MOIA received funding to create the Language Access Hub. The Language Access Hub will aim to expand MOIA's language access work and strengthen our capacity to support agencies in advancing language access and provide culturally responsive multilingual communications.

The Hub will house a team of translators (Language Access Specialists) to provide more timely and culturally responsive translation services to MOIA, Mayoral Office and City Hall, consulting with community groups about glossaries and translations, and sharing best practices with agencies.

In 2022, MOIA also supported efforts to educate agencies to improve their ability to procure quality language services. Agencies rely on contracts with language services providers to meet the diverse language needs of New Yorkers and the huge demand for language services, including translations and interpretation.

Agencies' ability to deliver high-quality language services is thus a critical component of the City's language access infrastructure. MOIA worked extensively with the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), and the Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises to strengthen this infrastructure.



Signage for the word "identification" in different languages.

MOIA educated agencies on changes to the City's language services procurement, worked so that agencies had no gaps in language services when DCAS' language services contracts expired at the end of FY22, developed resources to aid agencies in procuring language services vendors that met their demand and delivered high quality services, and advised DCAS on the RFP it released for telephonic and video remote interpretation services.

Finally, MOIA worked with other City agencies and the City Council to strengthen language access legislation. Council passed several pieces of language access legislation at the end of 2022 on which MOIA advised. The legislation included Local Law 13 of 2023, seeking to improve language access during an emergency response, Local Law 6 of 2023, assessing the capacity of community-based organizations to provide language services and improve reporting on city language services contracting, as well as Local Laws 8, 14, and 15 of 2023, improving language access during enforcement actions and inspections.

Advising and Providing Technical Assistance to Agencies to Support Language Access

MOIA provided extensive 1:1 technical assistance to city agencies and other external partners to advance language access.

This included, but was not limited to consulting with,

- The Campaign Finance Board to advise them on language services delivery.
- The Civic Engagement Commission, the Department of Youth and Community Development and other agencies on procuring language services.
- The Taxi and Limousine Commission on multilingual signage and Local Law 30 requirements
- ENDGBV on incorporating language access into contracts and RFPs.
- The Department of Corrections and the Civilian Complaint Review Board on improving language access
- Administration for Children's Services on multilingual websites; and
- The Mayor's Office of Community and Mental Health on integrating language access into their work.

In addition, MOIA's Language Access Team consulted with several municipalities and levels of government on language access issues, such as

- Baltimore, MD regarding language access monitoring and evaluation
- Cambridge, MA on interpretation equipment
- Austin, TX regarding translation style guides
- Denver, CO on language access implementation plans
- Tulsa, OK on language access tools for city agencies; and
- The Federal Consumer Financial Protection Agency on language access best practices and multilingual websites.



Resource Navigation Center signage in top 12 languages.

Providing Language Services

MOIA's Language Services Team (LST) provides translation and interpretation services for MOIA, other Mayoral Offices, and City Hall to support engagement with New York's diverse communities. Through a combination of contracted and internal resources, the LST coordinates services to meet multilingual communication needs.

During 2022, overall demand declined for both translation (down 63 percent compared to 2021) and interpretation (down 8 percent) services. This largely mirrors the decline of COVID emergency-related requests that MOIA had been uniquely positioned to support. Conversely, demand for telephonic interpretation increased significantly (+73 percent) driven by MOIA's legal initiatives program, and the breadth of languages increased across each of the services delivered. In 2022, MOIA fielded requests for translation into 57 languages and served more than 30 Mayoral Offices and agencies.

As the COVID-19 crisis and the City's response evolved, the LST continued to provide support for citywide initiatives and targeted programs. During early 2022, the LST maintained its translation support for the Vaccine Command Center, especially multilingual flyers promoting Vaccine Buses, and the Test and Trace program. The LST also delivered multilingual communications for anti-hate crime campaigns, health insurance efforts like GetCovered NYC, and the Mayor's Office's work on emergency rental assistance and eviction protections. MOIA also helped to ensure that City agencies integrated language access into the planning and delivery of new response initiatives.

Beyond COVID-19 related initiatives, the LST helped provide translation and interpretation as part of the response to localized emergencies that devastated immigrant communities. In 2022, MOIA and other agencies delivered language services for community members recovering from the Bronx and Sunset Fire. Services were delivered in Spanish, French, Mandingo, Soninke, Pulaar, Wolof, Fulani, Bambara, Mandarin, and Cantonese. As the year unfolded, the LST provided additional support for efforts to assist refugees and asylum seekers arriving in New York in Ukrainian, Russian, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

“In 2022, MOIA fielded requests for translation into 57 languages and served more than 30 Mayoral Offices and agencies.”



Language access team providing interpretation at a Mayoral event.

increase offerings in the ten Local Law 30 languages. For example, the LST helped the Commission on Gender Equity to deliver its signature campaign, “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence,” in ten languages. LST provide extensive language support for the Districting Commission as its staff conducted public hearings across the five boroughs to determine new boundaries for City Council Districts. LST supported translation for the “Keys to the City” campaign, New York Speaks, the Civic Engagement Commission, and the Racial Justice Commission, and for citywide engagement efforts by the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice.

The LST coordinated multilingual signage and interpretation into Spanish, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, and Bengali for Mayor Adams' State of the City Address at the Kings Theatre in Brooklyn. MOIA worked to promote cultural celebrations and events with community partners be presented in many languages – from the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival (Mandarin, Cantonese) to Yemeni Cultural Day (Arabic), from the Mexican Coalition (Spanish) to the Sikh Cultural Society (Punjabi).

The LST's outputs included translations of campaign materials for IDNYC into 28 languages and presentations for Immigrants Rights Workshops (formerly “Know Your Rights”) into 12 languages. The LST also continued to deliver a multilingual MOIA website using human translation in ten languages through Smartling.

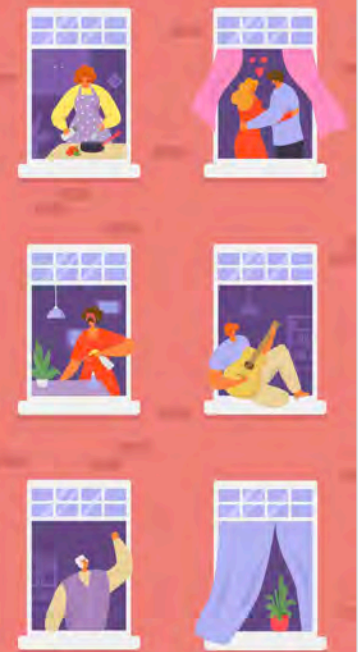
The LST continues to expand its collaboration with Mayoral Offices and City Hall to

هل لديك أسئلة حول عقد الإيجار الخاص بك؟
هل أنت متأخر في دفع الإيجار؟
هل انت في محكمة الإسكان؟

اتصل بالرقم 311 واسأل عن

"Tenant Helpline"

للحصول على مساعدة مجانية من أخصائي
دعم المستأجر من مدينة نيويورك.



Flyer on the City's tenant helpline in Arabic.

Language Services Data

Translation CY21% CY22 % Incr./Decr.

DELIVERED TRANSLATIONS 2850 1536 -46%

SOURCE DOCUMENTS 937 344 -63%

LANGUAGES 47 49 +4%

Interpretation CY21% CY22 % Incr./Decr.

TOTAL EVENTS 89 82 -8%

INTERPRETERS 197 125 -37%

LANGUAGES 14 19 +36%

Telephonic Interpretation CY21% CY22 % Incr./Decr.

TOTAL CALLS 4,108 7,106 +73%

HOURS OF INTERPRETATION 1,105.16 1,746.33 +58%

LANGUAGES 52 59 +13%

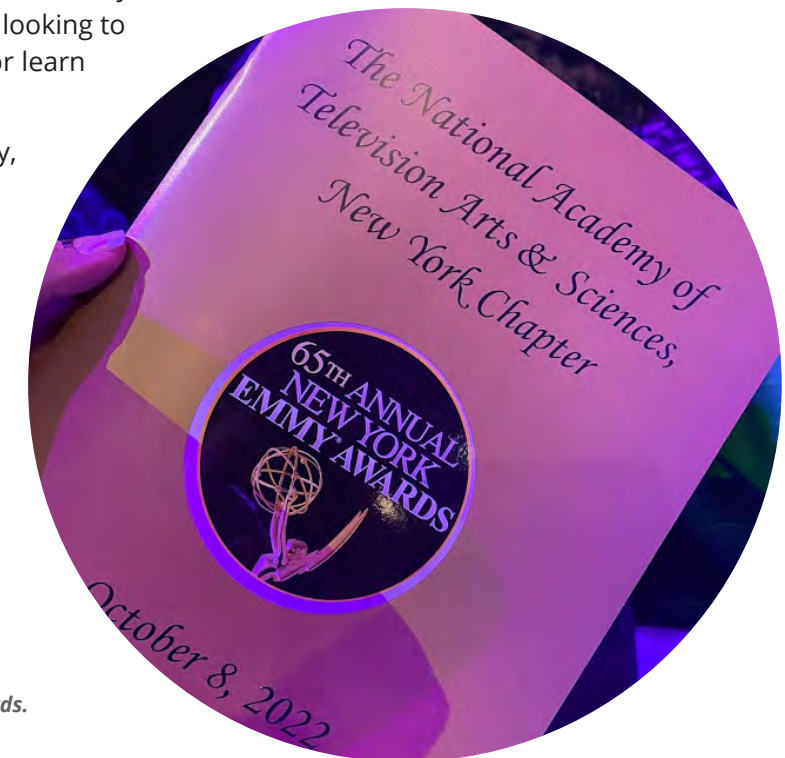
English Language Learning Program



We Speak NYC (WSNYC), delivered and administered by MOIA, is the City's supplemental English language learning and conversation program. With an eye to the lessons exacerbated by the pandemic, the program's focus for 2022 geared towards advancing equity, and accessibility.

English language proficiency is a critical factor in the ability to access education, employment, health, and social services. Recognizing the need to support and supplement existing literacy programs, We Speak NYC provides a free, in-formal, alternative to English Language Learners (ELLs). We Speak NYC caters to immigrant New Yorkers who may be waiting to join formal English classes, or learners who are looking to independently study, engage in conversational practice, or learn about City resources.

WSNYC online conversation classes can be accessed easily, with a smart phone or device anywhere throughout the day. WSNYC materials are made specifically for intermediate-level English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students. However, the program serves as an entry point into English language learning. We Speak NYC also connects ELLs to other English, community-based level appropriate, HSE-GED, and CUNY English prep courses, as well as professional development and workforce classes.



Top: MOIA's WeSpeak team members at the 2022 New York Emmy Awards.

Bott. Right: 65th Annual New York Emmy Awards booklet.

WSNYC helps immigrant New Yorkers practice their English conversation skills through narrative-based, civic-focused instructional videos and education materials, created in partnership with CUNY.

Through the program’s website, learners and educators can access all supplemental resources, expanding WSNYC’s reach to immigrant New Yorkers beyond the traditional classroom. WSNYC’s virtual model continues to bring learners and educators together to promote self-studying and communal learning through online conversation classes.

Through WSNYC’s online community courses, immigrant New Yorkers build issue-focused vocabulary. The courses are led by trained volunteers who use WSNYC’s Emmy-winning videos and materials to facilitate seven to ten-week classes.

WSNYC works with CBOs, faith-based organizations, schools, and libraries to support spaces where immigrants can practice their English, increase awareness about their rights and are empowered to better advocate for themselves and their communities.

Centered on Paulo Freire’s popular education model, WSNYC aims to elevate participants’ voices with conversations that bring their stories and experiences to the forefront of the class. Participants play a large role in how the program operates.

WSNYC utilizes thorough evaluation methodologies, which allows the program to obtain substantive cyclic feedback from learners and facilitators. This gives WSNYC an opportunity to implement changes that will directly benefit our participants. Through such feedback, WSNYC has been able to:

- Implement additional online activities in conversation courses.
- Provide more teaching support to facilitators and educators.
- Better understand the positive impacts that accessing city services have had on the lives of LEP learners.

“WSNYC works with CBOs, faith-based organizations, schools, and libraries to support spaces where immigrants can practice their English, increase awareness about their rights and are empowered to better advocate for themselves and their communities.”



Top row: WeSpeak promotional graphic, WeSpeak Graduates.
 Middle row: WeSpeak WeLead graduation ceremony, WeSpeak promotional graphic.
 Bottom: MOIA team at the 65th Annual New York Emmy Awards.

We Speak We LEAD

In 2022, We Speak NYC continued to collaborate with NYC community-based organization, *New Women New Yorkers* (NWNKY) to deliver the third year of intensive workforce development and ESOL workshops.

Known as We Speak We LEAD (WSWL), this pilot program includes 16 job readiness sessions that focus on the fundamentals of interviewing, resume building, and professional development skills, all themes featured in various WSNYC episodes.

It also gives participants space to learn about the job search process and work culture in the United States, and a safe space where they can practice their English conversation skills. Concentrating on these skills allow participants to build their confidence and successfully explore meaningful career options.

In the last cohort, participants impressively built their confidence throughout the program:

- Confidence in speaking English increased from 53 percent to 89 percent.
- Confidence in pursuing their professional goals from 37 percent to 95 percent.
- Confidence in working in a US workplace from 42 percent to 89 percent.

With a thoughtfully designed curriculum, *We Speak We LEAD* has successfully created a sense of community, cultural awareness, self-advocacy, and confidence building with each cohort.

Community Speak

As a partnership with the DOE's Division of Multilingual Learners, WSNYC expanded its outreach to connect immigrant parents to resources during the COVID-19 Pandemic. From this, WSNYC was able to disseminate over 300,000 WSNYC resources to schools in multiple languages, along with digital information and materials to principals, educators, parent coordinators, and counselors.

This strategic partnership supported educators who serve 80 percent of English language learners with English as a New Language classes and resulted in the creation of *Community Speak*.

Community Speak is a special summer cycle with community-based organizations that serve black, brown, Latin-X, and API communities, amongst whom are DOE parents. These special cycles offer case management support, helping LEP parents with children enrolled in the City's public schools to learn more about and sign up for City services like SNAP and programs supporting workforce development and access to higher education.



WeSpeak We Lead 2022 graduation ceremony.

The Best of Both Worlds: A Future of Digital & In-Person Engagement

Since the pandemic, We Speak NYC has also partnered with the Literacy Assistance Center through its Support and Technical Center, to deliver a series of webinars and digital presentations on best practices for engaging with distance learning and WSNYC multimedia tools. We Speak NYC also has presented its tools in state-wide and national conferences such as the NYS TESOL Conference, SXSW EDU, the NIIC, and International TESOL.

In 2022, WSNYC conducted webinars which have been instrumental to educators in need of digital resources that ELLs can relate to, and educators can easily adapt in their lesson plans.

In addition to supporting teachers, We Speak NYC's online conversation classes have also benefited immigrant New Yorkers who were previously unable to take classes due to their commitments and responsibilities. For instance, many mothers were able to log onto classes while they took care of their families and homes.

In 2022, We Speak NYC conducted 74 courses, reached 4,578 participants, and trained 146 volunteers online.

Other accomplishments made by We Speak NYC in 2022, include receiving 5 New York Emmy Nominations for Shola's Voice for WSNYC's latest episode on Ranked Choice Voting and Democracy. The nominations were for: Best PSA, Best Informational/ Instructional Programming, Best Talent; Actress, Best Director, and Best Photography/ Cinematography.

“ In 2022, We Speak NYC conducted 74 courses, reached 4,578 participants, and trained 146 volunteers online. ”



WeSpeak in person English class.

A-Learner Testimonials taken from post class surveys:

I loved the episodes, I loved the stories and the methodology of the class, it has been a blessing to me.

You are the best. Thank you for helping us learn English, New York city services and American culture. I am waiting for the new course of We Speak NYC.

It was the best experience of my life; it is the best way to help the community to learn English and the best is it's free!

B-Volunteer Testimonials taken from post class surveys:

This is an impressive program, and the learners seem to enjoy it and benefit from it greatly.

Thank you for creating a safe and supportive learning/ facilitating environment. This is the best, most well-organized, and easiest-to-connect-with organization I have ever volunteered with. I feel the passion you all have for serving others, and you are running an inspiring and impactful program because of it!

A shy participant in our class was able to talk a lot more fluently at the end. And a more advanced participant also said it helped him improve his English and he will come back for the next cycle.

We Speak NYC Key Performance Indicators of Online Conversation Classes: Year at a Glance

DATES	JAN-DEC 2022
ONLINE COURSES <small>ACCESSIBLE ON WSNYC SITE</small>	74
INDIVIDUAL CLASSES <small>NUMBER OF CLASSES CONDUCTED ACROSS ALL COURSE OFFERINGS PER CYCLE</small>	548
REGISTERED LEARNERS <small>NUMBER OF LEARNERS REGISTERING TO TAKE WSNYC COURSES</small>	15,252
UNIQUE LEARNERS <small>UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS PER CYCLE</small>	4578
SEATS FILLED <small>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING IN ALL CLASSES</small>	12,119
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE <small>PER CYCLE</small>	19
GRADUATES	870

We Speak NYC Key Performance Indicators of Online Conversation Classes

DATES	JAN-DEC 2022
ONLINE COURSES <small>ACCESSIBLE ON WSNYC SITE</small>	74
INDIVIDUAL CLASSES <small>NUMBER OF CLASSES CONDUCTED ACROSS ALL COURSE OFFERINGS PER CYCLE</small>	548
REGISTERED LEARNERS <small>NUMBER OF LEARNERS REGISTERING TO TAKE WSNYC COURSES</small>	15,252
UNIQUE LEARNERS <small>UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS PER CYCLE</small>	4578
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	19

We Speak NYC Key Performance Indicators of Volunteer-Facilitators Interaction in 2022

VOLUNTEERS-FACILITATORS	TOTAL
TRAINED	209
PLACED	124
HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGH WSNYC	4340

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, Commissioner Castro committed to building bridges between immigrant communities and city government. The Commissioner set a goal of personally visiting and connecting with 222 community groups. MOIA is proud to report that the Commissioner exceeded his goal and recorded 367 engagements with diverse community groups across the five boroughs. Here are some highlights:

February + March

In February, Commissioner Castro participated in Lunar New Year events across the five boroughs, including: the annual Lunar New Year parade in Flushing, Queens; the Lunar New Year Lantern Festival in Brooklyn and the Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade and Festival in Manhattan.

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine erupted in March, Commissioner joined Mayor Eric Adams in visits to the Ukrainian community, including: the Seabreeze Jewish Center and the Brighton Beach Business Improvement District. Commissioner also joined United Sherpa Association's Losar event to celebrate the Tibetan New Year.

April + May

April kicked off the beginning of Iftar events, and the Commissioner participated in 'Iftar in the City' in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn; the 'Muslim Community Forum's Ramadan Iftar' in the Bronx; and the 'Bangladeshi American Police Association Iftar' in Queens. Throughout the month of April, Commissioner also dedicated his time in visiting Chinese and Haitian organizations in Brooklyn including Parent Child Relationship Association, Brooklyn Chinese American Association, Chinese American Planning Council, Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project, Life of Hope, and Haitian American United for Progress (HAUP). Commissioner Castro also touched base with the Ukrainian community through Ukrainian Immigration Clinics and Resources fairs hosted in East Village, to better understand their evolving needs.

In May, Commissioner honored Cinco de Mayo by hosting MOIA's first Mexican Flag raising ceremony. Commissioner also visited several community groups including Instituto Poblano de Asistencia al Migrante, Migrant Center of New York, Hamilton Madison House, Chinatown Manpower Project, and more.



Commissioner Castro with community members at a Lunar New Year event

June

June was a month full of activities as MOIA celebrated National Immigrant Heritage Month. Commissioner began the month by visiting La Red de Pueblos, an indigenous immigrant community group in Manhattan and discussed language access. June also consisted of many firsts, including MOIA's first community event with an off-Broadway show, *Americano!* and MOIA's first DREAMer roundtable with Mayor Adams. Throughout the month, Commissioner continued to visit community groups and organizations to discuss immigrant issues including: MinKwon Center for Community Action, Buddhist Tzu Chi, the National Queer Theater, Operación Josué, New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), Flushing YMCA, UnLocal, Center for Family Life, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Mixteca, United Sikhs, DSI International, Dominicanos USA, the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades, and more.



Mayor Adams and Commissioner Castro hosting a roundtable discussion with New York City DACA recipients (DREAMers).

July + August

Throughout the summer, Commissioner continued to invite immigrant New Yorkers to raise their flags (read more page 55) and engaged with community groups on the ground. He toured Staten Island, visiting the African Refuge, United States Sierra Leonean Association, Staten Island Liberian Community Association, Muslim Sisters of Staten Island, El Centro del Inmigrante, Ghanaian Association of Staten Island, Masjid Rahmatillah, La Colmena, and more. He also visited several community centers in the Bronx and Manhattan, including the Burkina Faso Community Center, Belmont Islamic Center, Grand Street Settlement, UA3, Aids for Life, and Northern Manhattan Immigrant Center (NMIC). To respond to the increasing needs of Haitian New Yorkers, Commissioner Castro continued to meet with Haitian led community organizations, including Caribbean Women's Health Association, Diaspora Community Services, Haitian American Caucus-US, and the Haitian American Community Coalition. Commissioner Castro ended the month of August with a naturalization ceremony of immigrant New Yorkers at City Hall.



Mayor Adams and Commissioner Castro speaking to two asylum seekers.

September + October

During the fall, Commissioner continued to engage with New York City's growing Latino community by marching in Mexican Independence parades in Sunset Park, Staten Island, and Manhattan. He also participated in several Day of the Dead events. Commissioner also joined several 'Re-encuentros Familiares', the reunification of families that have been separated by our broken immigration system. Commissioner also continued community discussions with Making the Impossible Possible (MIPO) Inc., The Brave House, IAS Foundation, Sisi Pakari, American Chang Le Association, Venezuelan Alliance for Community, Miss Immigrant Organization, and more.

November + December

During the last two months of Commissioner's first year at MOIA, he continued to engage with immigrant New Yorkers across all corners of the City. For Veterans Day, he met with immigrant veterans to hear their stories and need for a pathway to citizenship. He also continued to participate in Day of the Dead events, including one hosted by El Diario de Los Deliveryboys en La Gran Manzana. Finally, he concluded the year with the American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) delivering hundreds of toys to asylum seeker children at MOIA's central navigation center.



MOIA's outreach team play a critical role in increasing access to City resources and services for immigrant New York City residents. MOIA's outreach team also works with CBOS so that newly arrived immigrants receive assistance by providing information for additional programs such as NYC Care, ActionNYC, IDNYC, We Speak NYC and much more. The outreach team reinforces our interagency collaboration including with the Mayoral Task Forces, the Mayor's Faith Base and Community Partnership Office.

In 2022, MOIA's Outreach Team provided services through:

- **Know Your Rights Forum:** Educating the community on how to navigate city services, Language Access programs, the City's laws and policies relating to requests from USCIS to detain certain immigrants, and the confidentiality that workers of city agencies must maintain.
- **Emergency response:** Providing information to asylum seekers, as well as responding to fires in the Bronx and Brooklyn, and other public safety matters.
- **Supporting city agencies with outreach:** Working with the Community Affairs Unit (CAU) on townhalls & parades, IDNYC Screenings, Get Covered NYC, Metro Plus, and mental health initiatives, and assisting shelters with donations and educational forums with the Mayor's Office of Faith Based and Community Partnership.
- **Participating in the Asian American Pacific Islander Taskforce:** Coordinated several joint Lunar New Year events and community roundtables.
- **Adopt-a-Shelter initiative in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Faith Based and Community Partnership:** Working to provide over 60 shelters with donations for asylum seekers including coats, shoes, school supplies and toys.



Top: Commissioner Castro at a Day of the Dead event.

Bottom: Commissioner Castro and Commissioner James Hendon of NYC Department of Veteran Services standing with immigrant veterans.

Jan-Dec 2022 Community Service Data & Volunteer Program

NUMBER OF KYRS IN PERSON 122

NUMBER OF TABLING 147

TOTAL VIRTUAL 20

HIGHLIGHTS

- Muslim outreach every Friday in Mosques across the five boroughs
- Iftar Celebration at the Albanian Islamic Cultural Foundation of America, in Staten Island
- Gurdwara Sikh Cultural Society in South Richmond Hill Queens
- Three King Day Celebration in the Bronx and Staten Island with a toy giveaway drive.
- Spanish Heritage Festival and Parade in Brooklyn, and clothing give away drive
- November Asylum Seekers Coat and Jacket Giveaway Drive
- Hosted the first Black History Month celebration with Lincoln Hospital, the theme was “Health is Wealth”

Left: Assistant Commissioner Salgado with a shipment of resources for newly arrived asylum seekers.

Top right: MOIA team member Ahmed at a Staten Island Iftar event.

Bottom right: MOIA team member Louis at a community event “Hope Day”.



The Community Services team also connects immigrant New Yorkers to a real time support system through in-person, public-facing events, convenings with key stakeholders, and the AskMOIA Hotline. In 2022, the AskMOIA Hotline and email inbox responded to about 10,643 calls and over 600 emails.

In 2022, the AskMOIA Hotline and email inbox responded to about **10,643 calls** and over **600 emails**.

Spanish	400+	Chinese	6
Haitian Creole	100+	Mandarin	5
English	307	French	3
Ukraine	60+	Arabic	3
Russian	18	Turkish	1

Total 906

Calls 10,643 Emails 600

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Our volunteer program is responsible for vetting, training New Yorkers of diverse background to best meet the needs of immigrant New Yorkers.



MOIA team member Jannet connecting with community members at an event.

22 Events (In Person)

BOROUGH	EVENTS	VOLUNTEER HRS.
BROOKLYN	18	120
MANHATTAN	13	95
QUEENS	12	84
BRONX	6	48
STATEN ISLAND	1	3
TOTAL	50	350 hrs.

Training 2022 (In Person/Virtual)

MONTH	TOTAL
JANUARY	8
FEBRUARY	1
MARCH	7
APRIL	2
MAY	7
JUNE	-
JULY	4
AUGUST	17
SEPTEMBER	-
OCTOBER	36
NOVEMBER	26
DECEMBER	-
TOTAL	108

IDNYC

In 2022, IDNYC celebrated its seventh anniversary. As New York City's official ID program, IDNYC, administered by the DSS, has maintained its goal of providing access to free municipal identification, to all New Yorkers regardless of immigration status.

IDNYC continued to seek ways to expand opportunities for enrollment, particularly for the influx of asylum seekers. On September 15, 2022, IDNYC launched a temporary enrollment center within the Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center to support newly arriving asylum seekers. IDNYC capacity at the Navigation Center was increased to two workstations remaining open for walk-in applicants Mondays through Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To further accommodate increased demand, IDNYC held pop-up enrollment events and deployed IDNYC's Mobile Command Center (MCC) to host thousands of applicants at sites across the five boroughs in partnership with the DOE, elected officials, community-based organizations, libraries, and healthcare providers.

Expanding Access to IDNYC

During 2022, IDNYC continued to expand access by adding six eligibility documents for asylum seekers to prove identity, as well as a streamlined verification process to provide identity and residency documentation for unhoused and active HRA clients who lack photo identification.

Throughout September and October of 2022, IDNYC expanded its Saturday enrollment hours at the Bronx Library Center, the Queens Public Library at Jamaica Central, and the Brooklyn Public Library in Grand Army Plaza to further accommodate recent asylum seekers.

At the end of 2022, a total of 1,526,183 cardholders have been able to enjoy the meaningful benefits of the IDNYC program. Since the launch of the IDNYC program in 2015, IDNYC has received 2,049,633 applications.



MOIA team members holding IDNYC t-shirts that they are giving out to New Yorkers.

“At the end of 2022, a total of 1,526,183 cardholders have been able to enjoy the meaningful benefits of the IDNYC program. Since the launch of the IDNYC program in 2015, IDNYC has received 2,049,633 applications.”

Pop-Up Enrollment Sites

In 2022, IDNYC continued its collaboration with elected officials and community-based organizations to host IDNYC pop-ups and participate in resource fairs and tabling events across the city. Highlighted events include Immigrant Heritage Week in April and Immigrant Heritage Month in June. Other pop-up sites were held across the city at a variety of locations, including at the Queens Borough President's Office, State Senator Jessica Ramos' office in Queens, and at the Cathedral Library in Manhattan.

The MCC was also successfully deployed for enrollments in several neighborhoods throughout 2022. Events were held with the MCC at over 30 locations, including libraries, community benefit organizations, schools, health centers, elected officials' offices, and more.

Benefits Updates and Outreach

During 2022, IDNYC cardholders continued to take advantage of the cultural, educational, and health-related opportunities that the card offers. On May 2, 2022, DSS Commissioner Gary Jenkins and Commissioner Castro kicked off a campaign at The Africa Center to promote IDNYC renewals and highlight new cultural and discount benefits, with the MCC on hand to host enrollment and provide outreach. As part of its expanded IDNYC benefits, the City was proud to announce new discount partnerships with The Africa Center, Blink Fitness, Partners Coffee, and Wollman Rink.

Following the May 2, 2022 press event, IDNYC held a Day of Action to promote its renewals campaign to encourage New Yorkers to renew their IDNYC cards or enroll for the first time. At train stations and other locations across all five boroughs, Commissioner Castro joined staff and volunteers shared information



about IDNYC's online portal, where cardholders can renew and update their cards, as well as how to make an appointment at an Enrollment Center.

Additionally, the Whitney Museum of American Art continued to welcome IDNYC cardholders to enjoy free admission. More than 30 other cultural organizations, including the American Museum of Natural History, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Bronx Museum of the Arts, Flushing Town Hall, and Staten Island Museum continued to provide free membership to cardholders.



Top: MOIA team member Lydia connecting with a community member about IDNYC.

2nd from top and bott. left: Commissioner Castro connecting with a New Yorker on IDNYC

Benefit Savings

The City's official prescription drug discount plan, Big Apple Rx, integrated into the IDNYC card to provide prescription drug discounts at more than 2,000 pharmacies citywide, has saved IDNYC cardholders over \$1,372,074 on their prescription purchases since the program's launch.

At Food Bazaar stores in Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, IDNYC cardholders have saved over \$4.7 million dollars \$4,726,416.83 in discounted grocery purchases since January 2015.

IDNYC's partnership with H+H allows cardholders to link their IDNYC cards to their H+H accounts, thereby optimizing the check-in process for subsequent appointments. Since this partnership began in May of 2016, 10,938 cardholders have linked their IDNYC cards to their H+H accounts.

Since January 2017, parents, guardians, and other individuals have been able to use their IDNYC numbers online, at My Vaccine Record, to access their or their children's official immunization records from the Citywide Immunization Registry. Parents can check which vaccinations their child still requires and can print out a vaccination history to complete medical forms for childcare, school registration, college admission, camp enrollment, and more. To date, 14,563 cardholders have accessed vaccine records using an IDNYC number.

Since IDNYC launched the Veteran Designation in July 2015, 13,097 U.S. Veterans have chosen to have this special marker on their IDNYC cards to indicate service in the U.S. Armed Services. The designation entitles veterans to exclusive benefits, better connects veterans to the services and discounts they deserve and is an expression of the City's gratitude and respect for those who have served our country.



Commissioner Castro with an IDNYC staff member.

HEALTH

NYC Care Outreach

There are over half a million uninsured individuals in New York City, with persistent disparities in health insurance coverage between citizens and non-citizen New Yorkers, including undocumented immigrants, who have the lowest rates of insurance. In August 2019, NYC Care launched as a key part of the largest and most comprehensive plan in the nation to provide uninsured New Yorkers with access to quality and affordable health care, regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.

NYC Care provides New Yorkers with affordable access to a primary care provider, specialty care, prescriptions, and a 24-hour customer service helpline through H+H, and NYC's public health system. Given the barriers to healthcare access that exist for immigrant New Yorkers, MOIA partnered with H+H to enlist the support of 22 trusted CBOs in community outreach.

As we continue to see the impact of COVID-19 new variants, the program did not want to experience a gap in services to the community. Therefore, the program extended the contracts for the CBOs in the community. Community partners continued to conduct outreach throughout the five boroughs and support current members with renewing their membership.

To make the program more accessible for the community, MOIA advocated for the six-month NYC residency requirement to be removed. This allowed for recently arrived New Yorkers to be screened for eligibility and enrolled into the program.

This past year, the top 10 languages served were Spanish, Urdu, Nepali, Punjabi, Mandarin, Bengali, French, Yoruba, Hindi, and Russian.

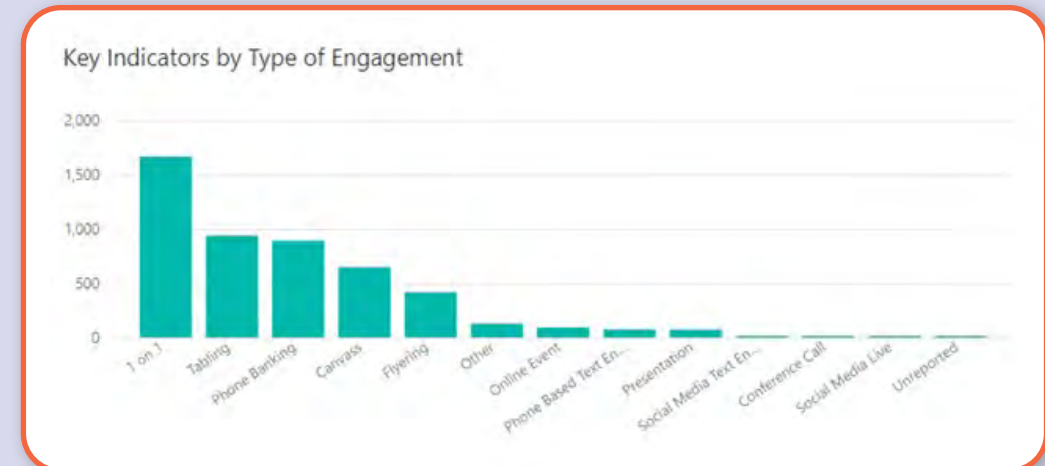
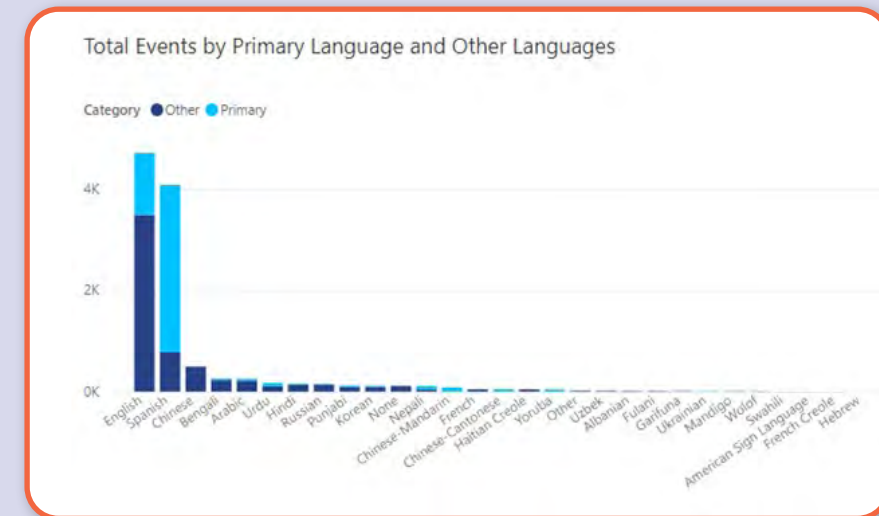
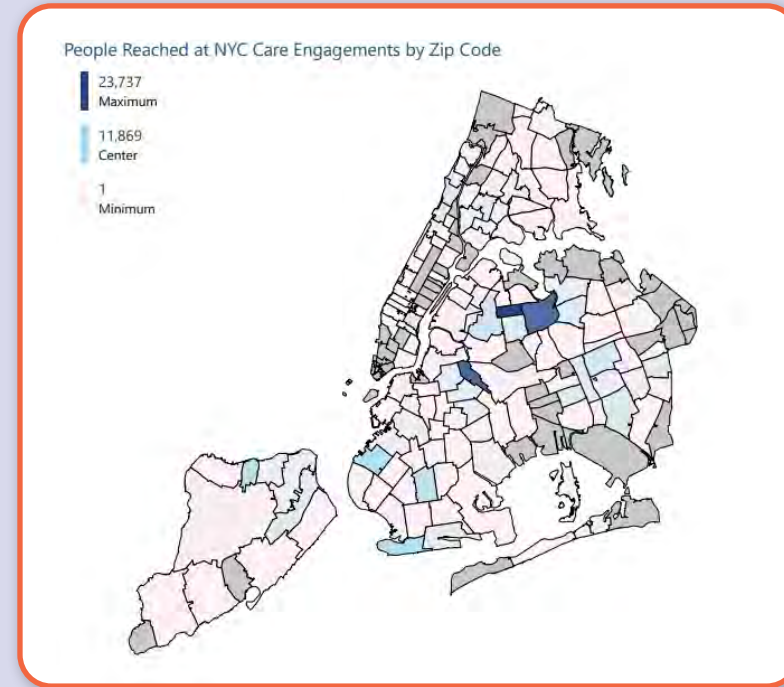


Commissioner Castro at an event with NYC Care partner Voces Latinas.



Commissioner Castro and Executive Director Jonathan Jimenez at an NYC Care immigrant media roundtable.

Since the beginning of the program, over 110,000 New Yorkers are active NYC Care members.



IMMIGRANT HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE WEEK AND MONTH

New York City has been proud to honor and celebrate the contributions of immigrant communities – both during Immigrant Heritage Week (#IHW2022) in April and during National Immigrant Heritage Month (#NationalImmigrantHeritageMonth) in June through the theme of Immigrant New York: Rebuilding Together (#RebuildTogether).

In 2022, MOIA celebrated the 18th annual Immigrant Heritage Week from Monday, April 11 through Sunday, April 17th, and National Immigrant Heritage Month from June 1st – 30th, with illustrations by New York City-based Graphic Designer, Diana Zhou (April) and award-winning illustrator Raul Colón (June).



Mayor Adams at the Turkish Day Parade.



Mayor Adams with Guyanese community members.

The week and month was comprised of, virtual and in-person events, including but not limited to:

- Art and crafts fairs at Centro Civico Cultural Dominicano
- Literary talks and poetry readings by the New York Public Library and the Museum at Eldridge Street
- Musical and theatrical performances at Lincoln Center and Repertorio Español
- Bilingual puppet shows and author talks at the Brooklyn Public Library
- A taste of Mexico with live music and art with Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders
- Play readings at the Museum of Chinese in America
- Singing bowl meditations at the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art
- Film screenings and panel discussions at the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration
- Cultural walking tours at the Tenement Museum
- Inti Raymi Sun Festival a ceremony by Abya Yala Arte y Cultura
- Educational workshops for children and adults
- A Bangladeshi concert series hosted by BIPA
- Aa What's Your (G) Status? Pop-ins with Immigrants Are US: The (G)eneration Project in Harlem
- A play reading Americana by Mixteca in Sunset Park
- Celebrating NYC Indigenous Voices with the members of Red de Pueblos Transnacionales and the Colibri Indigenous Interpreters Collective
- Taiwanese Bingo at the Taipei Economic Cultural Office in New York
- Iftar in the City to the World Literature Festival
- The Queens Memory Project and The Festival of New York
- The Criminal Queerness Festival
- The Queens Night Market and World Refugee Day

Across the city, the vibrancy, diversity and greatness of immigrant communities is evident for all to enjoy.



BIPA Presents
SITAR RECITAL & SPIRITUAL SONGS
 Sunday April 17 @ 5:00 pm
 PS 12 Auditorium
 4200 72nd Street, Woodside

Morshed Khan Apu
 Mir Naqibul Islam &
 Drama Circle singer

In collaboration with
 Drama Circle & Bangladeshi Ladies Club

This event is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council Members



Iftar in the City: Celebrating the Resiliency of Muslim Communities in NYC

Tuesday, April 12, 2022
 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Albanian Islamic Cultural Center
 307 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10301

To RSVP, please email Whassan@cchr.nyc.gov by April 8.
 To request an assistive listening device, interpretation, or another accommodation, please email crb@cchr.nyc.gov by April 5.

Wheelchair accessible entrance is located at
 307 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10301.

Co-Sponsored by:

NYC Commission on Human Rights | Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs | Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnership | Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes | Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

NYC.gov/HumanRights • #IftarInTheCity
 @NYCCHR @NYCImmigrants

Flyers for community events that took place during Immigrant Heritage Week and Immigrant Heritage Month.

In the early weeks of 2022, Commissioner Castro met with community leaders of the Bowling Green Association (BGA) in downtown Manhattan. The group manages a small, but meaningful patch of New York City space to raise international flags to commemorate events. For the first time, the MOIA and BGA would work together to raise flags to honor our city's diverse immigrant heritage.

Since then, MOIA held 17 flag raising ceremonies from African Union countries, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Barbados, and Albania. MOIA worked closely with local community, faith, cultural groups to organize these events. MOIA also worked with colleagues at the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and various consulates.

Whether it is Mariachis playing in the background or a Haitian trumpet player performing the Star-Spangled Banner, the message is clear: New York City has and will continue to be a city of immigrants.

Page 78-81:
MOIA's engagement
across immigrant
ethnic enclaves.





ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

Federal Advocacy and Coalition Building

MOIA represents the City as a founding member and current steering committee member of Cities for Action (C4A), a bipartisan coalition of U.S. cities and local governments that collectively advocate for pro-immigrant federal policies. C4A exchanges best practices on local policies and programs that advance inclusion of immigrant residents. C4A was founded in 2014 and since then has grown to nearly 200 cities and counties. The U.S. mayors and county executives that make up our coalition recognize the pivotal role that immigrants play in strengthening communities.

In 2022, the coalition identified three overarching strategic priorities to help guide C4A's federal advocacy.

The strategic priorities were:

- Support the immigrant workforce which is instrumental in local communities' economic recovery.
- Partner with local leaders to support the needs of asylum seekers, refugees, undocumented immigrants, and other vulnerable populations.
- Advocate for Immigration Enforcement Reform

With these priorities in mind, C4A released several statements and multi-city advocacy letters to encourage immigrant inclusive federal policies and programs. The letters were also instrumental in calling out policies that fall short or actively cause harm to immigrant communities.

Language Access for COVID-19 Tests

On January 26, 2022, C4A issued a statement in partnership with the Municipal Language Access Network (MLAN) applauding the Biden-Harris Administration's effort to make at-home COVID-19 tests available for free while urging that they prioritize language access in their effort to distribute at-home test kits to ensure equitable access. To further meet that obligation and ensure equity and access to testing by all Americans, C4A urged the federal government to: Expand the list of languages on the covidtests.gov website beyond Spanish and Simplified Chinese to also include other top languages spoken in the US, such as Vietnamese, Tagalog, Arabic, Korean, Russian and Haitian Creole

Ensure that the call line that is intended to assist people who are unable to access the website is at a minimum supported by live interpretation services and readily accessible.

Shortly after this statement was released the Biden-Harris Administration delivered on some requests made to assist people who are unable to access the website.

TPS Designations

On March 4, 2022, C4A released a statement applauding the Administration for extending humanitarian protections for Ukrainians and called for additional designations of TPS for all the countries outlined in a C4A multi-city advocacy letter from August 2021.

Title 42

Since its inception in March 2020, C4A denounced the Trump policy called Title 42. For the last three years, the racist and xenophobic policy denied thousands of people their right to seek asylum and expelled them under the pretext of this restrictive policy. In April 2022, the CDC declared that it would end Title 42 expulsions by May 23, 2022. C4A released a statement applauding the long overdue decision and called on the Administration to rebuild our asylum system and to ensure due process for asylum seekers subject to removal proceedings. The policy was not terminated in May as anticipated due to a federal judge in Louisiana blocking the Administration from lifting Title 42. Since then, there have been several legal challenges keeping the policy in place. C4A continued to urge the Administration to enact large scale immigration reform and address the root causes of migration.

Enhanced Child Tax Credit

At the end of Spring and Summer 2022, several coalition members were hearing that eligible constituents did not have access to the proper resources to apply for and claim the 2021 Enhanced Child Tax Credit (CTC). Many members of mixed-status immigrant households did not know that they needed an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to apply for the ECTC. Several community-based low-income tax assistance providers had reported that many parents and other caretakers of eligible children were unable to file for their ITINs before the April 2022 deadline because of misinformation in immigrant communities, pandemic-related challenges, and the lack of targeted assistance. In partnership with the City of Boston, C4A released a multi-city advocacy letter signed by 28 mayors and county executives requesting that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) extend the deadline for claiming the 2021 CTC. The IRS extended the deadline until November 17th, 2022, which was shorter than the one year extension C4A requested.

MOIA team members Cesar and Tom at Port Authority welcoming newly arrived migrants.



Resettling Refugees

On September 16th, 2022, thirty-three mayors from across the country sent a letter to President Biden today urging the President to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to resettling refugees by at least maintaining the refugee admission goal for FY 2023. Though the refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2022 was set at 125,000 – the highest refugee ceiling in almost 30 years – the actual number of refugees resettled in the U.S. was only 11, 411 due to lack of federal resources devoted to humanitarian programs. Local leaders called on the Administration to do more to strengthen the United States Refugee Admissions Program and resettle at least 125,000 refugees in 2023. After C4A advocacy, the Biden-Harris Administration issued the Memorandum on Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2023, announcing that the refugee admissions ceiling for fiscal year 2023 would once again be set at 125,000.

Asylum Seekers

In response to the inhumane actions of southern governors sending asylum seekers in buses and planes from the southern border to welcoming localities, C4A issued a statement on October 25, 2022, affirming commitment to the coalition's welcoming values and calling on the federal government to:

- Operationalize an intentional and transparent system for coordination and communication about population flows to our states and localities.
- Ensure adequate federal funding sources – beyond Federal Emergency Management Agency and Emergency Food and Shelter Program – for receiving communities to address immediate housing and health-related needs of newly arriving people.
- Expedite Employment Authorization Document processing to allow newly arrived people to become self-sufficient.

Localities across the country who have welcomed a substantial increase in new community members in the last several months are still waiting for federal action on all the above bullets.

In the absence of a coordinated federal response to support asylum seekers and receiving communities, C4A cities and counties across the country relied on each other for support. Since August 2022, C4A calls served as a space for localities to brainstorm and troubleshoot issues they were facing in resettling newly arrived communities. C4A has served as a crucial vehicle for local governments to share welcoming strategies, information, and resources with each other.

Many of the C4A cities were communities that received buses from Texas, Arizona, and Florida. C4A mayors were able to work together to push back against the anti-immigrant narrative being fueled by some Southern governors.



Volunteer groups and MOIA team at Port Authority distributing food and information to newly arrived migrants.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

In 2022, C4A remained committed to uplifting support for DREAMers including DACA recipients who deserve permanent protections now. On November 29, 2022, C4A sent a bipartisan letter, signed by over 70 mayors and county executives, urging members of Congress to enact permanent protections for DREAMers during the lame duck session. A recent Fifth Circuit Court decision declaring the DACA program unlawful brought the courts one step closer to ending the program indefinitely. Since its inception, DACA has protected more than 830,000 young people from deportation, allowing them to work and contribute to our economy. The letter underscored how ending DACA would have a devastating impact on millions of people including DACA recipients, DACA-eligible individuals, their families, friends, and communities across the U.S.

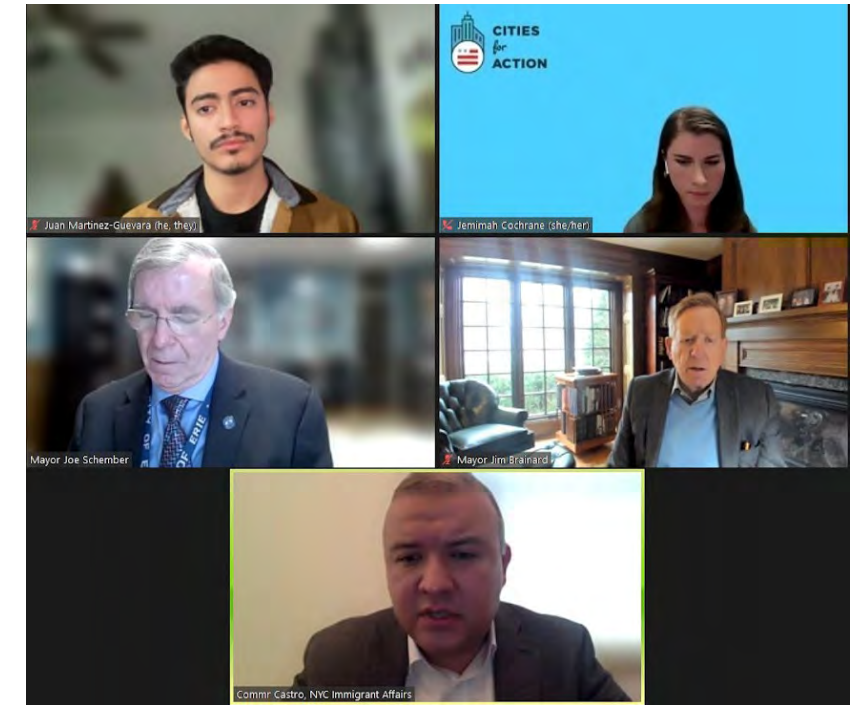
Unfortunately, in 2022, permanent protections did not pass in Congress, and C4A and MOIA continued to advocate for permanent protections for DREAMers. Hundreds of thousands of DREAMers remain in legal limbo and no new DACA applications are being accepted.

C4A Engagements

C4A hosted seven special topic calls to focus on pressing topics that our members were working to address. Topics covered included: innovative models for refugee resettlement, protections and sick leave for domestic workers, advocacy for DREAMers, briefings on asylum seeker state of play, launching municipal offices of immigrant affairs, and best practices for local governments receiving newcomers.

C4A also circulated several curated resources to keep our members informed on the rapidly changing national immigration landscape and to support local work to center and uplift the contributions of immigrant communities. These resources included:

- Nine federal policy roundups to summarize federal immigration policy developments and their implications.
- Three COVID-19-related resources focusing on immigrant inclusive initiatives, at-home test kit distribution and how to support immigrant workers in the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.
- Seven resource guides focused on centering the unique experiences of immigrant communities, honoring history and culture, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) advocacy, immigration reform advocacy, DACA advocacy social media messaging, and immigrant heritage month spotlight.



Commissioner Castro with Mayor Jim Brainard, Mayor of Carmel, IN, Mayor Joseph Schember, Mayor of Erie, PA and Juan Martinez-Guevara, DACA Recipient, United We Dream, to call on the federal government to pass a permanent solution for DACA.

CONCLUSION

MOIA has done groundbreaking work for immigrant communities. We have become a national leading office during times of crises, while continuing to care for and advocate for immigrant communities with empathy and compassion.

MOIA is a vital bridge between the city government and immigrant communities. Through its various strategies and initiatives, the office is working to enhance, assist, and advise city agencies in their work with immigrant communities.

The office addresses the range of issues that impact the quality of life of immigrants in the city and provide our new neighbors with the resources and support they need to thrive. As New York City continues to be a beacon for immigrants from around the world, the role of MOIA is more important than ever. MOIA will continue to serve as a model for other cities seeking to welcome immigrants and will lead the world to uphold our values as a nation of immigrants.

*Pages 86-91:
Mayor Adams,
Commissioner Castro
and MOIA team members
engaging with NYC's
immigrant communities.*



LOCAL LAW 185 OF 2017

This report is issued to the Mayor and the Speaker of the City Council in accordance with Local Law 185 of 2017,¹³ which mandates annual reporting on the City's immigration population and MOIA's activities during the previous calendar year. This is the sixth such report, covering calendar year 2022.

ACRONYMS

Official and Non-Official Acronym	Full Name
ACS	American Community Survey
NYC ACS	NYC Administration for Children's Services
BORTAC	U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol Tactical Unit
C4A	Cities for Action
C4C	Cities for Citizenship
CAU	NYC Mayor's Community Affairs Unit
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CCHR	NYC Commission on Human Rights
CEC	NYC Civic Engagement Commission
COVID-19	Coronavirus 2019
CUNY	The City University of New York
CY	Calendar Year
DACA	Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
DCWP	NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
District Court	U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
DOE DML	NYC Department of Education's Division of Multilingual Learners
DOF	NYC Department of Finance
DOHMH	NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
DOJ	U.S. Department of Justice

¹³ NYC Legistar, Local 185 available at <http://nyc.legistar1.com/nyc/attachments/2223517a-9360-4c5e-8ebc-511cdd8d6292.pdf>

Official and Non-Official Acronym	Full Name
DSS	NYC Department of Social Services
DVS	NYC Department of Veterans' Services
EIDL	Economic Injury Disaster Loan
ELL	English Language Learner
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
ENDGBV	NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender- Based Violence
EOIR	U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office of Immigration Review
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
FFCRA	Families First Coronavirus Response Act
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FY	Fiscal Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
H+H	NYC Health + Hospitals
HEAP	Home Energy Assistance Program
HEROES Act.	Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HPD	NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development
HRA	NYC Human Resources Administration
ICE	U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
IERF	NYC COVID-19 Immigrant Emergency Relief Fund
IHW	Immigrant Heritage Week
KYR	Know Your Rights
LAC	Literacy Assistance Center
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LL30	Local Law 30 of 2017
LRIF	Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness
LST	MOIA's Language Services Team
LWWI	Low Wage Worker Initiative
MCC	IDNYC Mobile Command

Official and Non-Official Acronym	Full Name
MOCJ	NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
MOCTO	NYC Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer
MOIA	NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
MOPT.....	NYC Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants
MWBE	Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises
NWNY	New Women New Yorkers
NYC Law	NYC Law Department
NYC Opportunity	NYC Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity
NYCHA.....	NYC Housing Authority
NYLAG	New York Legal Assistance Group
NYPD	NYC Police Department
NYS DREAM Act	New York State DREAM Act
OCME.....	NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
OPHC.....	NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes
OSF.....	Open Society Foundations
PPE.....	Personal Protective Equipment
PPP.....	Paycheck Protection Program
PSA.....	Public Service Announcement
RFP.....	Requests for Proposals
RRLC	Rapid Response Legal Collaborative
SBS.....	NYC Department of Small Business Services
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
T2.....	NYC Test and Trace Corps
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TPS.....	Temporary Protected Status
USCIS.....	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
VAWA.....	Violence Against Women Act
WSNYC.....	We Speak NYC





Report designed by Asya Blue Design.