

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Summary of Programs

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) promotes the well-being of immigrant communities. In the de Blasio administration, we have prioritized three broad goals:

1) To enhance the economic, civic, and social integration of immigrant New Yorkers through the following MOIA programs:

- **IDNYC** – IDNYC is the largest municipal ID program in the country. As one of the lead agencies for the program, MOIA's objective is to make IDNYC's implementation as effective and inclusive as possible. IDNYC benefits every city resident, including the most vulnerable communities—undocumented immigrants, the homeless, youth, the elderly, formerly incarcerated individuals and others who may have difficulty obtaining a government-issued ID. As of January 2016, over 730,000 New Yorkers have an IDNYC. MOIA's dedicated multi-lingual outreach team plays a crucial role in reaching New Yorkers across the five boroughs, connecting them to enrollment centers so they can easily obtain their own ID and access City services.
- **Language Access Initiatives** - Federal, state, and NYC laws mandate that City Agencies communicate effectively with 1.8 million New Yorkers who have a limited ability to understand English. MOIA develops policy, and monitors and coordinates with 75 City agencies to ensure effective translation, interpretation, and "plain language" practices.
- **"We are New York" (WANY)** - MOIA facilitates WANY, an Emmy-Award winning educational television series to help immigrant New Yorkers practice English while providing useful information on essential City services. MOIA recruits and trains volunteers to facilitate 10-week conversational classes at libraries, community organizations, and government agencies.
- **Advancing Priority Immigrant Integration Issues:** MOIA is a member of the Mayor's Immigrant Health Care Task Force that is charged with increasing access to health care services among immigrant New Yorkers. We are launching a new health initiative to provide reliable and coordinated access to affordable care for immigrants who are excluded from federal and state support. MOIA also advocates in support of the particular needs of immigrant workers, many of whom are low-income, who face specific challenges in navigating workplace conditions, labor law, or simply attaining the skills training they need to advance. In response to the recent child migrants crisis, MOIA co-convened a Mayoral task force to address needs faced by recent child migrants arriving in NYC, and established a precedent-setting collaboration with NY Immigration Court to station education and health officials at the courts to provide services to those children.
- **Policy and Community Engagement:** MOIA provides legal, programmatic, and policy guidance throughout local government on issues relevant to immigrant communities. In some instances, the team implements signature policy initiatives. For example, MOIA led the development of legislation restricting the City's response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer requests, except in situations involving risks to public safety, and continues to work closely with stakeholders to ensure public safety is upheld without undermining immigrant well-being and trust in City services and benefits. MOIA also serves as

a central point of coordination and information among NYC immigrant residents, immigrant-serving organizations, NYC agencies, and other governmental offices on current and emerging issues that affect immigrant communities.

- **Supporting Immigrant Community Leadership:** MOIA recently launched the first-ever “Immigrant Women Leaders Fellowship” program. The Fellowship addresses some of society’s most pressing issues affecting women and the impact on their leadership and communities. The first cohort is forming MOIA’s first Women’s Cabinet, which will advise, inform, and partner with MOIA on its policy initiatives.

2) To facilitate access to justice for immigrant New Yorkers, MOIA leads on:

- **Citizenship:** Features citizenship support services, such as the “New American Corners” at the City’s 217 public library branches. The Corners are a partnership between the City of New York, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the City’s public libraries to provide information on citizenship and other immigration issues. NYCitizenship, a new and expanded citizenship application assistance program, will launch in the spring of 2016.
- **ActionNYC:** ActionNYC is a community-based model for immigration legal services resulting from the largest investment made by a municipality in response to executive action and the need for comprehensive immigration reform. Every immigrant New Yorker who is served by ActionNYC will receive a safe and secure consultation of their immigration legal options, direct legal services, and connections to key city social services programs.
- **Protection from Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law (UPIL):** The Mayor and the NYS Attorney General have formed a task force to combat fraudulent activity by unscrupulous practitioners of immigration law. MOIA partners with the Department of Consumer Affairs to bring renewed focus to this issue.

3) To advocate for continued immigration reforms at all levels of government in order to eliminate inequities that impact New York’s immigrant communities, MOIA is part of:

- **Cities for Citizenship:** Co-founded with Mayors from Chicago and Los Angeles, Mayor de Blasio launched this program as a national initiative aimed at increasing citizenship among eligible U.S. permanent residents and encouraging cities across the country to invest in citizenship programs.
- **Cities for Action (C4A):** Co-founded by Mayor de Blasio, MOIA staffs CUIA, a coalition of nearly 100 mayors and municipalities that use their voices to advocate for immigration reforms. Locally, MOIA also convenes an organizing table consisting of community, service, faith, and labor organizations. This collaboration serves as a model of how progressive administrations and local organizations can join forces to move the needle on immigration reform efforts nationally, and encourages other cities through CUIA network to do the same in their localities.