



New York City Council
Hon. Julie Menin, Speaker of the Council
Hon. Linda Lee, Chair, Finance Committee
Hon. Elsie Encarnación, Chair, Immigration Committee

**Report on the Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Plan and the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary
Mayor's Management Report for the Committee on Immigration**

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Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Plan

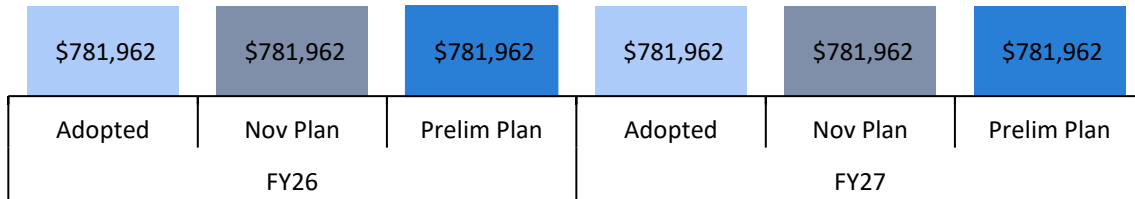
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Budget Overview

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) seeks to promote the well-being and inclusion of immigrant New Yorkers by leading and supporting a range of programs. MOIA's Charter-mandated responsibilities include advising and assisting the Mayor, Council, and other City agencies on programs and policies related to and designed for immigrant New Yorkers; tracking State and Federal laws and policies that impact immigrant New Yorkers; increasing access to city programs, benefits, and services by conducting outreach; and advising on the legal service needs of immigrants.

The Preliminary Financial Plan for Fiscal 2026-2030 (Preliminary Plan), includes proposed Fiscal 2026 and Fiscal 2027 budgets of \$781,962 for MOIA, both unchanged from the budget in the November Plan. MOIA's Fiscal 2027 budget in the Preliminary Plan is the same as the Fiscal 2026 Budget at adoption, and it largely covers the costs of five MOIA staff positions.

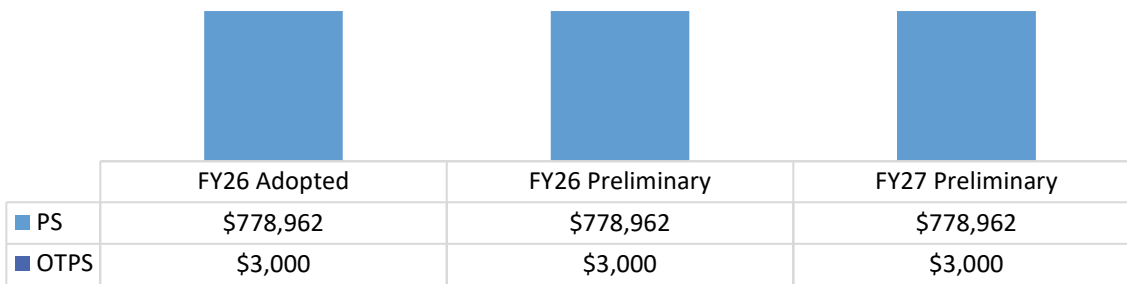
MOIA's budget under the Mayorality does not provide a full picture of its budget, as the office coordinates and collaborates with other City agencies to manage MOIA programs within their agencies, including the Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration (HRA), the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (H+H), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the City University of New York. Programs funded under several of these agencies are discussed below.

Comparison of the Last Three Financial Plans



Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

Personal Services (PS) and Other Than Personal Services (OTPS)



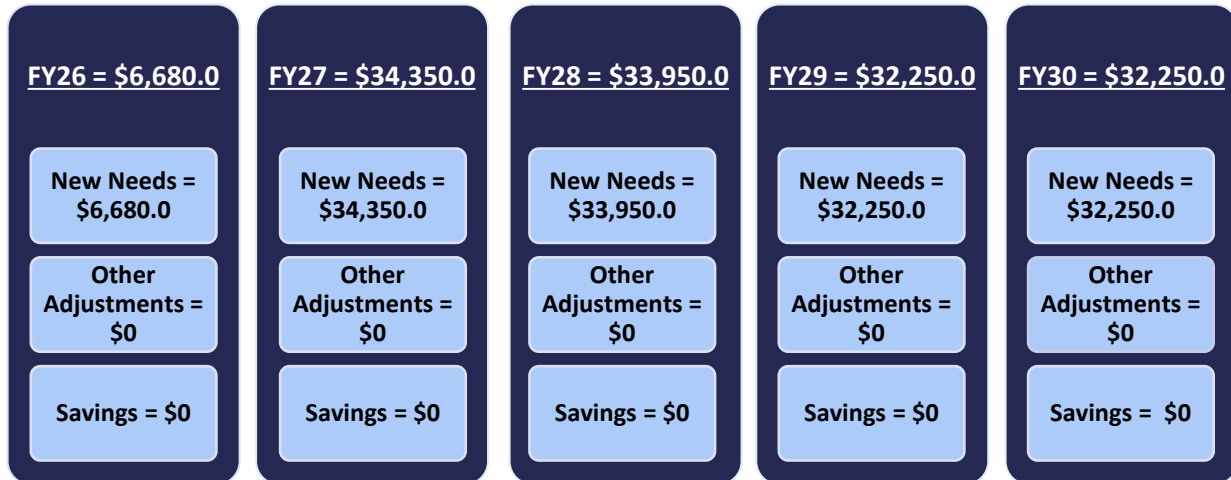
Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

MOIA Financial Plan Summary

	FY24	FY25	FY26	Preliminary Plan		*Difference
	Actual	Actual	Adopted	FY26	FY27	FY27-FY26
Spending						
Personal Services	\$746,085	\$707,979	\$778,962	\$778,962	\$778,962	\$0
Other Than Personal Services	540	746	3,000	3,000	3,000	0
Subtotal	\$746,625	\$708,725	\$781,962	\$781,962	\$781,962	\$0
Budgeted Headcount						
Full-Time Positions - Civilian	5	5	5	5	5	0
TOTAL	5	5	5	5	5	0

*The difference of Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Budget compared to Fiscal 2026 Adopted Budget.

Preliminary Plan Changes



Dollars in Thousands

Note: These changes are not within MOIA but rather are for all immigration related expenses in HRA's budget

Significant Preliminary Plan Changes for Immigration Services

The Preliminary Plan includes multiple new needs that relate to the provision of immigration services to New York City residents.

New Needs

- **Legal Support Centers.** The Preliminary Plan includes an additional \$11.6 million in baselined City funding in HRA, starting in Fiscal 2027, for the MOIA Legal Support Centers. This additional funding baselines funding that was historically added on a year-to-year basis.
- **Expansion of Immigration Legal Services.** The Preliminary Plan includes an additional \$6.7 million in City funding in Fiscal 2026, \$21.3 million in Fiscal 2027, \$20.9 million in Fiscal 2028, and \$19.2 million in Fiscals 2029 and 2030 for an expansion of immigration legal services in HRA. The additional funding is expected to be used for a combination of new pilots and an extension of existing programs related to immigration legal services, including those focused on deportation cases.
- **English Learning and Support Centers.** The Preliminary Plan includes an additional \$1.5 million in baselined City funding in HRA, starting in Fiscal 2027, for MOIA's English language learning classes and support centers held in public libraries.

Immigration Legal Services

The current Fiscal 2026 budget for legal services programs managed by MOIA and HRA totals \$52.8 million. Included in this total is \$2.3 million that the City Council allocated to support some of these programs including \$500,000 for outreach efforts for MOIA’s Hotline, \$1.7 million to cover application fees for HRA’s IOI and MOIA’s legal services programs, and \$120,000 for the Department of Education (DOE) Project Open Arms program to coordinate legal assistance for students and their families. Separately, the City Council provided \$83.0 million for immigration legal services initiatives in Fiscal 2026.

Immigration Program Funding Levels for Fiscal 2026 and Fiscal 2027

Programs and Services	Preliminary Plan		Difference
	FY26 Current	FY27 Projected	FY27 Projected - FY26 Current
IOI - Deportation Defense	\$16,981,459	\$0	(\$16,981,459)
IOI - Immigrant Opportunity Initiatives	\$10,335,532	\$0	(\$10,335,532)
Asylum Legal Services	\$7,600,000	\$0	(\$7,600,000)
MOIA Legal Support Centers	\$6,979,871	\$11,600,000	\$4,620,129
Rapid Response Legal Collaborative	\$2,245,000	\$0	(\$2,245,000)
MOIA English Learning & Support Centers	\$2,100,000	\$1,500,000	(\$600,000)
Haitian Response Initiative	\$1,633,500	\$0	(\$1,633,500)
MOIA Programs Application Fees Assistance*	\$850,000	\$0	(\$850,000)
IOI - Fee Applications*	\$850,000	\$0	(\$850,000)
MOIA Immigration Legal Support Hotline	\$632,500	\$0	(\$632,500)
MOIA Hotline Outreach Efforts*	\$500,000	\$0	(\$500,000)
ENDGBV Immigration	\$500,000	\$0	(\$500,000)
Know Your Rights	\$427,680	\$0	(\$427,680)
MOIA Legal Technical Mentorship	\$400,000	\$0	(\$400,000)
New York Citizenship	\$250,000	\$0	(\$250,000)
MOIA Central Coordination	\$223,218	\$0	(\$223,218)
DOE Program Open Arms*	\$120,000	\$0	(\$120,000)
MOIA Legal Technical Assistance	\$110,000	\$0	(\$110,000)
Dream Act App. Assistance	\$65,340	\$0	(\$65,340)
TOTAL	\$52,804,100	\$13,100,000	(\$39,704,100)

**This is funding the City Council agreed to use in supporting these efforts*

Immigrant Opportunity Initiatives (IOI) and Deportation Defense. The Preliminary Plan includes a total of approximately \$28.0 million in Fiscal 2026 to support the IOI and deportation services programs. These programs, budgeted under and managed by HRA, provide legal services related to applications for citizenship, permanent residence, deportation defense, and other immigration-related legal services.

MOIA Legal Support Centers (Formerly ActionNYC). The Preliminary Plan includes \$7.0 million in Fiscal 2026 and \$11.6 million starting in Fiscal 2027 for the MOIA Legal Support Centers, funded under HRA’s budget. This MOIA-managed program was originally launched in 2016, under the name ActionNYC, to support and expand access to immigration legal assistance through community-based outreach, legal screenings, application assistance, and referrals. Under the MOIA Legal Support Centers program, legal services providers offer direct assistance in public spaces such as community-based organizations, libraries, schools, and hospitals. During the Committee on Immigration’s oversight hearing on March 9, 2026, Commissioner Faiza Ali reported that the Legal Support Centers’ network currently consists of 35 centers across the five boroughs. MOIA’s annual report published on March 16, 2026,¹ states that in calendar year 2025, the Legal Support Centers conducted 10,965 comprehensive immigration legal screenings. Each center offers a range of services, including work authorization assistance, asylum preparation, Temporary Protection Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals filings, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for unaccompanied minors, family petitions, legal screenings, green card renewals, and know your rights education. According to MOIA, these services are culturally and linguistically responsive, and each center has a community navigator that connects individuals to non-legal services like IDNYC, health insurance enrollment, and school enrollment.

Asylum Legal Services. The Preliminary Plan includes \$7.6 million in Fiscal 2026 for various legal services for asylum seekers, including asylum and work authorization applications, change of addresses and others as determined by demand. This is funded under HRA’s budget. According to the New York City Comptroller, more than 239,200 asylum seekers entered the City’s shelter system since 2022 but as of September 28, 2025, there were only 33,300 people seeking asylum residing in City-funded shelters, a decline of 51 percent from the peak of nearly 70,000 individuals in January 2024.² This decline is likely due to the steady decrease of new arrivals to the City, as compared to the prior years’ surge, as well as increased federal immigration activities deterring immigrants from seeking this immigration status.

Asylum Seeker Legal Assistance Network (ASLAN). In the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget, \$5.0 million was provided for ASLAN, funded under HRA’s budget. In Fiscal 2026, the New York City Council restored the program with a one-time \$5.0 million to enable organizations to continue providing services to asylum seekers. Services include eligibility screenings, legal benefits, assistance with asylum applications, address changes and venue requests, TPS, and work permits. Additionally, the funding covers application fees and other operational expenses as needed. Non-profit organizations receiving this support were encouraged to accept referrals from MOIA’s Hotline during Fiscal 2026. The Plan does not include any funding for ASLAN in Fiscal 2027 or the outyears.

Haitian Response Initiative. The Preliminary Plan includes \$1.6 million in Fiscal 2026 to provide immigration legal services, wrap-around support services, case management, and know your rights information to Haitian New Yorkers in their preferred language. This is funded under HRA’s

¹ See MOIA’s “Annual Report on New York City’s Immigrant Population and Initiatives of the Office” (March 2026) published [here](#).

² See the New York City Comptroller’s Overview of Asylum Seeker Services published [here](#).

budget. For Fiscal 2026, the Council added an additional \$600,000 in discretionary funding to further support six Haitian-serving non-profit organizations.

MOIA English Learning & Support Centers (Formerly WeSpeakNYC). The Preliminary Plan includes \$2.1 million in Fiscal 2026 and baselined \$1.5 million starting in Fiscal 2027 for the MOIA English Learning and Support Centers. This is funded under HRA's budget. MOIA relaunched this program with a new name in March 2024, to assist long-standing and new immigrants in gaining English language skills and accessing city resources. These centers offer beginners and intermediates in-person English classes utilizing the "We Speak NYC" curriculum. The initiative partners with more than 60 branches of the City's libraries system. MOIA's annual report, shows that in calendar year 2025, 239 English language learning classes were held with nearly 5,000 participants.³

MOIA Immigration Legal Support Hotline. The Preliminary Plan includes \$632,500 in Fiscal 2026 for MOIA's Immigration Legal Support Hotline, funded under HRA's budget. In Fiscal 2026, the Council allocated an additional \$500,000 to further support outreach and advertisement of the hotline to Asian and African communities. The program is operated by Catholic Charities Community Services to assist eligible City residents in locating trusted immigration legal services across the five boroughs. While the hotline itself does not provide legal services or schedule appointments, it serves as a resource to help individuals connect with qualified providers. MOIA's annual report states that in calendar year 2025, the hotline answered over 25,000 calls, offered interpretation in more than 200 languages, and provided real time triage and referrals.⁴ MOIA reported the overall call volume declined compared to prior years but the average call length more than doubled to over nine minutes, reflecting the need for support on more complex legal matters.⁵ During the March 9, 2026 Committee on Immigration oversight hearing, Commissioner Ali reported that at the beginning of calendar year 2026, the hotline expanded its service hours to include an additional three hours on Monday and Wednesday as well as the last Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

MOIA Legal Technical Assistance, Mentorship Programs, and Central Coordination. The Preliminary Plan includes \$733,218 in Fiscal 2026 for the newly created MOIA Legal Technical Mentorship program, a capacity-building initiative to help smaller organizations develop the expertise to provide immigration legal services. This is funded under HRA's budget. The not-for-profits Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative (I-ARC) and Immigrant Defense Project serve as legal technical mentors to MOIA's Legal Support Center providers, with free access to online trainings and webinars, as well as access to a nationwide legal technical assistance program through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. According to MOIA, this technical support will help legal professionals maintain their ethical duties, train, and advance informed decision-making on advocacy and program operations. Providers are also connected to trainings and resources that allow them to respond appropriately to changes in federal policies.

³ See MOIA's "Annual Report on New York City's Immigrant Population and Initiatives of the Office" (March 2026) published [here](#).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

Rapid Response Legal Collaborative (or the Collaborative). The Preliminary Plan includes \$2.2 million for the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative program in Fiscal 2026, funded under HRA’s budget. The City Council also enhanced funding for this program, providing \$3.0 million for the three community-based organizations of the Collaborative in Fiscal 2026 for emergency legal services to support those who are detained or are at immediate risk of detention and deportation, particularly those who may not have the opportunity to appear before an immigration judge or are subject to expedited removal. In July 2025, with the mayoral funding of \$2.2 million, the Collaborative began an additional scope of work with the public school system, prioritizing detained students and their immediate family with a targeted process for assessment of their immigration legal needs and connecting them to services. In calendar year 2025, the Collaborative provided legal assistance to more than 250 individuals detained by ICE or at imminent risk of detention and deportation.⁶

MOIA Center for Immigration Right Education (Formerly Immigrant Rights Workshops). The Preliminary Plan includes \$427,680 in Fiscal 2026 to provide essential resources and education to immigrant communities, ensuring they understand their legal rights and are informed of available legal protections. This is funded under HRA’s budget. In Fiscal 2026, the City Council enhanced the program’s funding by allocating an additional \$850,000 to the seven community-based organizations under this program. The program offers workshops covering topics such as legal rights, pathways to citizenship, and access to city services.

Other Immigrant and Community Support Programs

DYCD Adult Literacy. DYCD’s adult literacy programs, funded at \$14.1 million in Fiscal 2026, provide contracted funding to approximately 32 providers to support community-based organizations that provide instruction in Adult Basic Education (ABE), High School Equivalency (HSE), and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Additionally, the City Council invested \$14.5 million in Fiscal 2026 towards adult literacy programming to restore funding for providers that lost full or partial DYCD RFP awards and to expand learning opportunities. This funding aims to support programs that enhance literacy skills for adults, providing them with greater opportunities for education, employment, and personal growth. This program serves all adult New Yorkers, not only immigrant populations.

DYCD Immigrant Services funding. The Preliminary Plan includes \$15.2 million in DYCD’s budget for immigrant services in Fiscal 2026 and \$10.5 million baselined starting in Fiscal 2027 to ensure that immigrant communities have access to critical support, including assistance with immigration applications such as citizenship, visa applications, permanent residency, and adjustment of status. Funding also unlocks access to government benefits applications and education on labor laws to safeguard immigrant workers rights. In addition, the funding aims to assist with foster care system application for those seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and

⁶ *Id.*

support for unaccompanied minors. Lastly, services include domestic violence prevention resources to immigrants and provides essential aid to survivors of human trafficking.

Promise NYC. The Preliminary Plan does not include any funding for Promise NYC in Fiscal 2027, however, one-time funding of \$25.0 million was added in the Fiscal 2026 Adopted Budget for this program. Promise NYC was created in Fiscal 2023 and provides childcare assistance to children who are ineligible for federally funded programs. There are four childcare providers contracted by the Administration of Children Services for this program within the five boroughs.

Municipal Identification Card (IDNYC). The Preliminary Plan includes \$12.3 million in Fiscal 2026 for IDNYC, funded under HRA’s budget. This is slightly less than in prior years, including in the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget which included \$12.9 million for IDNYC. IDNYC cards serve as an official identification card and help New Yorkers gain access to City services and buildings.

NYC Care. The Preliminary Plan includes a baseline of \$100.0 million starting in Fiscal 2026 for NYC Care, a health care access program which guarantees low and no-cost services through the New York City Health + Hospitals Corporation for New Yorkers – not specifically immigrants – who do not qualify for or cannot afford health insurance under federal guidelines. The program’s funding level has remained unchanged since it launched in Fiscal 2019.

Office of Asylum Seekers Operations (OASO). OASO was established in March 2023 in response to the influx of asylum seekers arriving to New York City to oversee and coordinate comprehensive support services for the asylum seekers and their families. OASO was disbanded in July 2025, and the Department of Homeless Services is assuming full management of the City’s asylum seeker response efforts. The Preliminary Plan does not include funding for OASO in Fiscal 2027 nor the outyears. In the Fiscal 2026 Adopted Budget, \$2.4 million was included for OASO but the actual current spending level for the office in Fiscal 2026 is \$791,112.

Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Mayor’s Management Report (PMMR)

NYC Municipal Identification. In the first four months of Fiscal 2026, 63,521 IDNYC cards were issued – a slight decrease compared to the same period in the prior year. Application timeliness for IDNYC increased by one percentage point compared to the same period in the prior year, up to 99.6 percent. IDNYC serves all City residents, including people experiencing homelessness, youth, the formerly incarcerated, and others who may have difficulty obtaining a government-issued photo ID.

Participation in Immigrant Services Programs. During the first four months of Fiscal 2026, DYCD’s immigrant services programs enrolled 941 participants, a 14 percent decrease from the same period in Fiscal 2025. The PMMR attributes this decrease to the fact that several providers withdrew from contracts, and it notes that DYCD continues to seek replacement providers to

fulfill these services. Legal services programs for immigrants were transitioned back to DYCD oversight from HRA in Fiscal 2025.

Completed Requests for Interpretation. HRA had 280,736 completed requests for interpretation in the first four months of Fiscal Year 2026. This reflects a nine percent decrease compared to the same period in Fiscal 2025. The PMMR attributes this to a decrease in demand for phone interpretation services. HRA's average in-person wait time for interpretation also increased by eight percent, to 90 minutes and 60 seconds, compared to the same period in Fiscal 2025 when the average wait time was 84 minutes and 20 seconds. The Department of Homeless Services had 56,729 completed requests for interpretation in the first four months of Fiscal Year 2026. This reflects a 21 percent increase compared to the same period in Fiscal 2025. The PMMR attributes this to an increase in the number of shelters using interpretation services.

NYC Care Enrollment. NYC Care enrollment had been growing each year since its launch in Fiscal 2020. However, enrollment in NYC Care decreased by 14 percent from 148,525 in the first four months of Fiscal 2025 to 128,157 in the first four months of Fiscal 2026. The PMMR attributes the decrease in enrollment to New York State policies expanding health insurance access as well as an increased fear amongst immigrants of accessing care. NYC Care launched a new campaign in the fall 2025 to combat stigma and encourage enrollment in the program.

Emergency Food Services. The need for food pantries has increased in recent years and it is now a vital resource for immigrants fearful of accessing federal SNAP benefits. Starting in Fiscal 2027, the Preliminary Plan includes a \$53.6 million increase to the baseline funding for the Community Food Connection (CFC) program administered by HRA, bringing the total annual budget of the program to \$74.5 million. During the first four months of Fiscal 2026, CFC, which partners with more than 700 community kitchens and food pantries citywide, distributed 14.5 million pounds of food, an increase of nearly four percent compared to the same period in the prior year.

New Metrics Recommended by the City Council

NYC Care services. The PMMR should include additional data on the top five services provided through NYC Care, and the number of enrollments by borough.

Requests for interpretation services by each City agency, disaggregated by language. Each City agency should provide data on the number of requests received and completed for interpretation services, disaggregated by language. This will help the City track demand for interpretation services and adjust the languages available, based on evolving needs.

Requests for interpretation services from DOE, NYPD, FDNY, OATH, DOHMH, HRA, ACS and DHS. The PMMR does not provide the number of interpretation requests received. Without the total number of requests, we are unable to understand how well agencies are doing in completing interpretation requests.

Indicators related to street vendor inspections. Indicators on the number of street vendors' inspections and the types of language interpretation provided during inspections should be included in the PMMR with clarity on whether they were provided in person, over the phone, or via written materials along with detailing of the specific languages provided.

Indicators related to small business inspections. Indicators on the number of small business storefront inspections and the types of language interpretation provided during inspections should be included in the PMMR with clarity on whether they were provided in person, over the phone, or via written materials along with detailing of the specific languages provided.

New York State Fiscal 2027 Executive Budget

New York State Office of New Americans (ONA). The New York State Fiscal 2027 Executive Budget includes a proposed \$73.9 million for ONA to fund immigration legal services and support immigrants and refugees. This is an increase of \$28.2 million from the Fiscal 2026 budget of \$45.7 million. ONA provides a range of services, including citizenship and legal assistance, workforce development, English language learning programs, and access to social services.

New York State Senate and Assembly One-House Budgets. The New York State Senate and Assembly proposed \$183.0 million in their one-house budgets to fund immigration legal services, championing a major push by advocates to increase state funding for these critical services at a time of increasing federal immigration enforcement across the state.

Federal and State Budget Risks

Ongoing Threats to Federal Funding. New York City is one of many jurisdictions with sanctuary policies that limit cooperation between local government and federal immigration enforcement. The courts have largely upheld the ability to limit local involvement in federal immigration enforcement, finding such policies do not violate federal law.⁷ However, the federal government has threatened to withhold funding from the City during both the first and current Trump Administrations, unless New York City repeals its sanctuary policies. On April 28, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order directing the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to identify “sanctuary jurisdictions” and potentially cut federal funding to these jurisdictions. This Executive Order was challenged by a federal judge in California and as of March 2026, the issue is tied up in the courts, leaving localities uncertain about the impending outcome of the federal administration’s efforts to cut funding.⁸

⁷ See article titled “Trump is threatening to cut funding from sanctuary cities. Here's what to know” by NPR (January 2026) published [here](#).

⁸ See article titled “Judge blocks Trump from cutting funding over 'sanctuary' policies” by NPR (August 2025) published [here](#).

Access to Healthcare. In 2026, an estimated 1.7 million New Yorkers will be impacted by changes to health insurance coverage resulting from the federal spending bill H.R.1, signed into law in July 2025. The State has estimated H.R.1 will cut \$7.5 billion in federal funding to the State’s Essential Plan and Medicaid.⁹ The Essential Plan is New York’s low-cost insurance option for adults with low incomes who do not qualify for Medicaid and those who are ineligible for Medicaid under federal guidelines. Changes to health insurance coverage from H.R. 1 will impact U.S. citizens who no longer meet the income eligibility threshold for coverage as well as approximately 730,000 lawfully present non-citizens.¹⁰ The State is determining how to mitigate the impact and as of March 2026, Governor Hochul proposed moving individuals off of coverage from the Essential Plan to the Basic Health Program, but this would still leave an estimated 450,000 New Yorkers without health insurance coverage. Changes to the Essential Plan will especially impact New York City systemwide; nearly 70 percent of patients discharged from H+H are covered by Medicaid or the Essential Plan. Looking forward, New York City should bolster its funding for the NYC Care program to ensure that individuals losing coverage through the state can still access health care through the City’s program.

Food Insecurity. Starting October 1, 2026, as a result of H.R.1, states will become responsible for a larger share of the cost for administering the SNAP food benefits program. New York State anticipates the reduction in federal funding for SNAP would increase State costs by \$204 million, annually. The State plans to provide \$36 million of this additional cost and shift the burden for the remaining \$168 million to localities, with \$111 million shifted to New York City. These changes hit New York City with an unprecedented expectation to fund the federal SNAP program. Changes from H.R.1 also eliminate SNAP benefits for most lawfully present non-citizens, which will increase demand on local food pantries and food banks at a time when federal funding for these programs has also been cut. Food insecurity continues to be an ongoing issue for both citizens and non-citizens alike. In October 2025, Governor Hochul allocated over \$100 million in State funding for emergency food assistance during the federal government shut down that threatened a lapse in SNAP benefits. The City should advocate for additional funding from the State to ensure that the most vulnerable residents have continued access to food and nutrition as food costs continue to rise.

Housing. Roughly two out of three New York City residents are renters and over half of all renters are rent burdened.¹¹ With the rising cost of living, the City’s immigrant populations are dealing with the impact of many public policies, in addition to harmful federal immigration enforcement at their doorsteps. Compounding this issue, on February 20, 2026, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published notice of proposed rulemaking that seeks to separate mixed-status families and would require immigration verification for everyone living in HUD-assisted housing.¹²

⁹ See Press Release by the New York State Department of Public Health (September 2025) published [here](#).

¹⁰ See Empire Center blog post titled “The Bottom Line of Hochul’s Essential Plan Overhaul” written by Senior Fellow for Health Policy, Bill Hammond [here](#).

¹¹ Households that spend more than 30 percent of their incomes on rent and utilities (like electricity, water, gas, and sewage) are considered to be rent burdened.

¹² See HUD’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, entitled “Housing and Community Development Act of 1980: Verification of Eligible Status” published [here](#).

Adult Literacy Programs. There are 2.2 million adults in New York City with limited English proficiency or without a high school diploma. Adult Literacy programs are critical for economic mobility and social inclusion. Nearly 25 percent of public funding for adult literacy education in New York City comes from the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II funds. Federal funding for adult literacy continues to be threatened by the federal administration and if cut, it would lead to the loss of over \$20 million provided to 35 community-based organizations, CUNY, and library adult literacy programs in New York City. The New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy proposes an investment of \$20 million for Fiscal 2027 from a new City funding stream titled Education for Integration and Equity.¹³ These funds would provide new seats and access to English language, basic education, digital literacy, high school equivalency, and civics education classes, regardless of immigration status. Another challenge related to adult literacy funding is a parity issue between the CUNY adult literacy programs and the DYCD adult literacy programs managed through contracts with community-based providers. CUNY is advocating to have its City allocation aligned with the increases in per student seats received by other adult literacy providers in Fiscal 2026, to keep funding balanced across all Adult Literacy service providers.

Building Immigration Legal Services Infrastructure to Support the Increasing Demand. In the Summer of 2025, the City Council, in partnership with MOIA, HRA and various City agencies, built the immigration legal services infrastructure with an investment of over \$120 million in immigration legal services, the highest in the City's history. This funding provides various legal assistance, wrap-around services, supports operational expenses, and covers application fees for those who cannot afford the cost. In addition, the funding allowed the City to centralize waitlists for unaccompanied minors and families as well as those who are or may be eligible for the Special Immigration Juvenile Status. Funding also covers coordination work provided by the DOE Project Open Arms to public school students and their legal guardians in need of legal support. The need for immigration legal services continues to grow in the aftermath of federal funding cuts to legal service programs and the heightened immigration enforcement in the City. Legal services providers are urging the City to maintain and expand funding for immigration legal services in Fiscal 2027.

¹³ See New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy budget proposal (March 2026) published [here](#).