



New York City Council
Hon. Adrienne Adams, Speaker of the Council
Hon. Alexa Avilés, Chair, Immigration Committee

**Report on the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Plan,
and the Fiscal 2025 Preliminary Mayor’s Management Report for
the Committee on Immigration**

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Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Plan

Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs

FY25

FY26

No Change since Adopt.

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No Change since Nov.

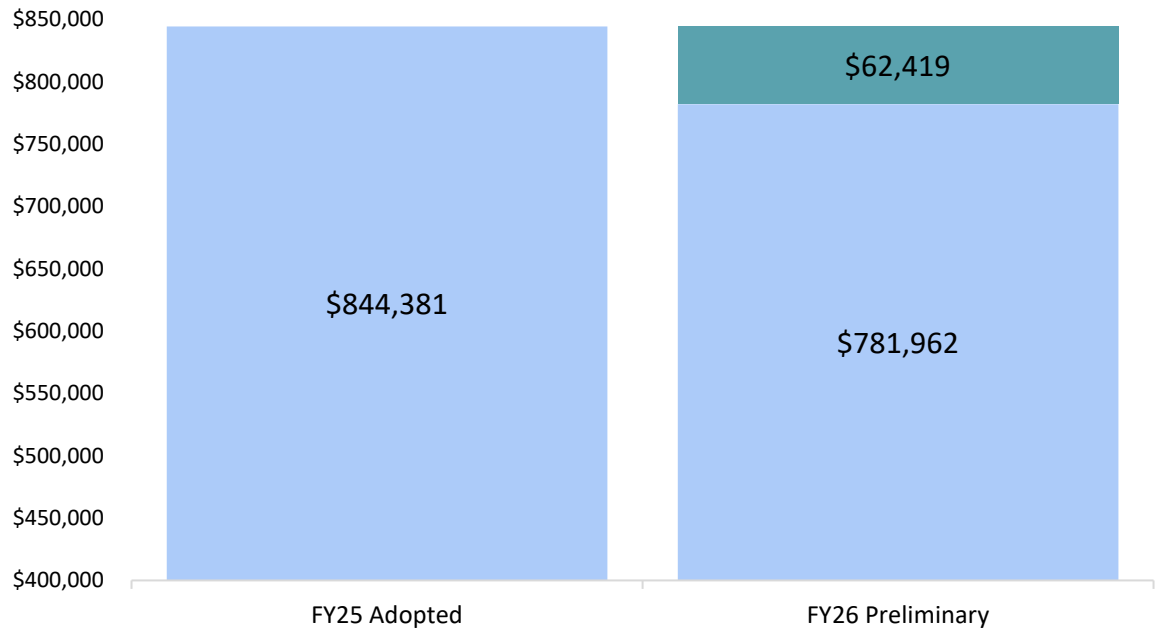
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The Preliminary Financial Plan for Fiscal 2025-2029 (Preliminary Plan), includes a proposed Fiscal 2026 Budget of \$781,962 for the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA). MOIA’s Fiscal 2026 Budget in the Preliminary Plan remains the same as the Fiscal 2026 Budget in the November Financial Plan. The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget is \$62,419 less than the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. MOIA’s budget in the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget mainly covers personal services for five positions.

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

Difference between FY25 Adopted and FY26 Preliminary



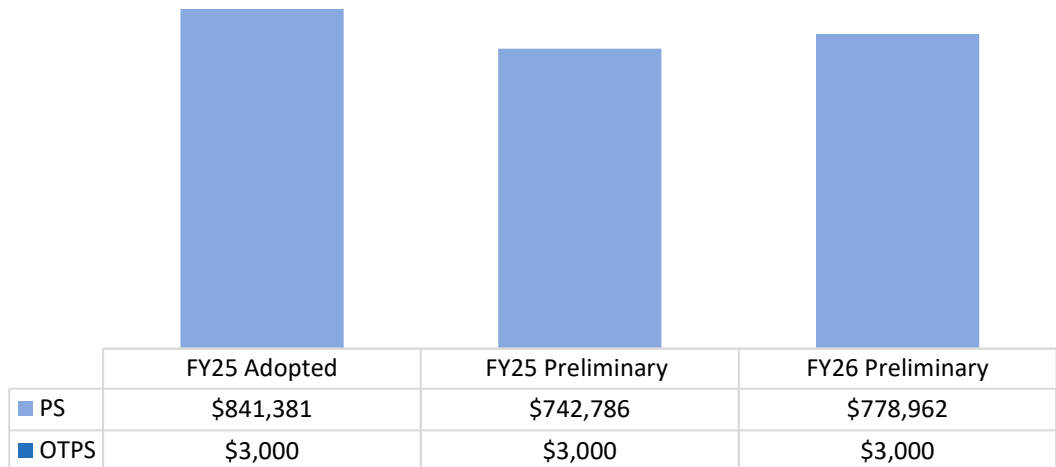
Dollars in Thousands

Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

PS and OTPS:

PS:
\$778,962

OTPS:
\$3,000



Source: New York City Office of Management and Budget

Immigration Legal Services

The Preliminary Plan includes nearly \$41.0 million in HRA's budget for immigration legal services in Fiscal 2026, which represents an increase of \$7.8 million compared to the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget amount of \$33.1 million. The increase is primarily due to additional investments for the ActionNYC program. In addition, with the influx of asylum seekers into the City and the growing need for legal assistance, an additional \$3.4 million was added for asylum legal services in Fiscal 2026.

	FY25 Adopted	Preliminary Plan		Difference
		FY25	FY26	FY26 Prelim - FY25 Adopted
IOI-Immigrant Opportunity Initiatives	\$6,597,212	\$5,937,691	\$6,597,212	\$0
Deportation Defense	14,143,999	\$13,728,064	14,143,999	0
Action NYC	7,993,291	\$7,900,391	12,393,291	4,400,000
Asylum Legal Services	4,400,000	4,442,000	7,800,000	3,400,000
TOTAL	\$33,134,502	\$32,008,146	\$40,934,502	7,800,000

Immigrant Opportunity Initiatives (IOI) and Deportation Defense. The Preliminary Plan includes a total of \$20.7 million in Fiscal 2026 to support the IOI and deportation services programs. The funding has remained unchanged compared to the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. These programs provide legal services related to applications for citizenship, permanent residence, deportation defense, and many other immigration-related legal services.

ActionNYC Program. The Preliminary Plan includes \$12.4 million in Fiscal 2026, \$4.4 million more than included in the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. ActionNYC was launched in 2016 to support and expand access to immigration legal assistance through community-based outreach, legal screenings, application assistance, and referrals. Under the ActionNYC program, legal services providers offer direct assistance in public spaces such as libraries, schools and hospitals. The program's name was recently changed from ActionNYC to MOIA Immigration Legal Support Centers.

Asylum Legal Services. The Preliminary Plan includes \$7.8 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. The Fiscal 2026 funding of \$7.8 million is \$3.4 million greater than the amount allocated in the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. This additional funding is due to the increasing need for asylum legal assistance.

MOIA's Immigration Programs

MOIA manages eight immigrant programs funded in HRA's budget, listed below. The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget includes a total of \$14.2 million in HRA's budget to support various immigrant services, \$7.1 million less than the total funding in the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.

<i>Program Areas</i>	FY25 Adopted	FY26 Preliminary	Difference FY26 - FY25
MOIA's Legal Support Center (Replacing Action NYC)	\$7,900,390	\$12,393,291	\$4,492,901
Asylum Seekers Legal Assistance Network	5,000,000	0	(5,000,000)
Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center	2,800,000	0	(2,800,000)
MOIA's English Support Center (WeSpeakNYC)	1,743,000	617,665	(1,125,335)
Haitian Response Initiative	1,633,500	0	(1,633,500)
MOIA's Support Legal Hotline	1,329,170	283,998	(1,045,172)
Rapid Response Legal Collaborative	500,000	500,000	0
Immigrant Rights Workshop	443,600	443,600	0
TOTAL	\$21,349,660	\$14,238,554	(\$7,111,106)

Asylum Seeker Legal Assistance Network (ASLAN). The Preliminary Plan does not include any funding for the ASLAN program in Fiscal 2026, although the program was funded at \$5.0 million in the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. ASLAN is a partnership between MOIA, seven local community-based organizations, and CUNY to provide critical legal services to immigrants who arrived in the United States on or after January 1, 2022.

Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Centers. The Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Plan does not include any funding for the Navigation Centers, compared to the \$2.8 million included in the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget last year. Currently there are fourteen Navigation Centers managed by Catholic Charities of New York, throughout the five boroughs. The Navigation Center system acts as a central hub, offering free and confidential guidance to help asylum seekers access essential services such as health care, Medicaid enrollment, vaccinations, school registration, immigration legal orientation, and IDNYC enrollment.

MOIA English Learning & Support Centers (formerly known as WeSpeakNYC). The Preliminary Plan includes \$617,665 in Fiscal 2026 for this program, which represents a \$1.1 million reduction when compared to the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. MOIA launched the English Learning and Support Centers in March 2024, to assist both long-standing and newly arrived immigrant New Yorkers in acquiring English language skills and accessing city resources. These centers offer beginner and intermediate in-person English classes utilizing the "We Speak NYC" curriculum, which not only teaches language proficiency but also educates participants about available city services. The initiative partners with ten community-based organizations, including Life of Hope, Mexican Coalition, and Muslim Community Network, and extends to more than 60 branches of the Queens Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and New York Public Library.

Haitian Response Initiative. The Preliminary Plan includes \$1.6 million in Fiscal 2025 only to provide support to the Haitian migrant population in New York City. Funding supports partnerships with eight nonprofit organizations specializing in immigrant services, as well as culturally competent outreach efforts to facilitate smoother integration.

MOIA Immigration Legal Support Hotline. The Preliminary Plan includes \$283,998 in Fiscal 2026, a decrease of \$1.0 million compared to the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget. The program provides assistance to eligible New York 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.

	<p>Rapid Response Legal Collaborative. The Preliminary Plan includes \$500,000 in Fiscal 2026 for the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative program, unchanged compared to the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget amount. This initiative offers legal support to individuals 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. The program bridges a gap in existing immigration legal services by addressing urgent legal needs in these situations. Given the significant demands for deportation related legal services, the Council, for the first time, allocated \$1.2 million for the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative program in Fiscal 2025 to enhance service providers’ capacity to provide urgent legal assistance to individuals facing detention and deportation.</p> <p>Immigrant Rights Workshop. The Preliminary Plan includes \$443,600 in Fiscal 2026 to provide essential resources and education to immigrant communities, ensuring they understand their rights and available protections. The program offers workshops covering topics such as legal rights, pathways to citizenship, and access to city services. The funding remains unchanged compared to the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget.</p>
<p>Funding for Immigrant & Community Support Programs</p>	<p>Office of Asylum Seekers Operations (OASO). The Preliminary Plan includes \$3.2 million in HRA’s budget in Fiscal 2025 for the Office of Asylum Seekers Operations. However, funding is not included in Fiscal 2026 nor the outyears. Established in March 2023, OASO is responsible for overseeing and coordinating comprehensive support services for asylum seekers and their families.</p> <p>DYCD Adult Literacy. DYCD’s adult literacy programs support community-based organizations that provide instruction in Adult Basic Education (ABE), High School Equivalency (HSE), and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). In Fiscal 2025, DYCD issued a request for proposal for an adult literacy program, and awarded contracts valued at \$12 million to 29 Adult Literacy programs. The Preliminary Plan does not include any additional funding for this program. For Fiscal 2025, the City Council has invested \$14.1 million towards the adult literacy initiative program. This funding aims to support programs that enhance literacy skills for adults, providing them with greater opportunities for education, employment, and personal growth.</p> <p>Other DYCD funded Immigrant Services. The Preliminary Plan includes \$4.2 million in DYCD’s budget for immigrant services in Fiscal 2026, unchanged from the amount included in Fiscal 2025 at adoption. The funding ensures that immigrant communities have access to critical support, including assistance with immigration applications such as citizenship, visa applications, permanent residency, and adjustment of status. It also provides help with 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 support for unaccompanied minors. Lastly, services also include domestic violence prevention resources to immigrants and provides essential aid to survivors of human trafficking.</p> <p>NYC Care. The Preliminary Plan includes \$100.0 million in Fiscal 2026 for NYC Care, a health care access program which guarantees low and no-cost services through NYC Health + Hospitals for New Yorkers 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 calendar year 2019.</p>

	<p>Municipal Identification Card (IDNYC). The Preliminary Plan includes \$12.2 million in Fiscal 2026, \$575,000 than the \$12.9 million in the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget due to a contract reduction.</p> <p>Promise NYC: The Preliminary Plan does not include any funding for Promise NYC, however, \$25.0 million was added in the Fiscal 2025 Adopted Budget, which represented a significant increase of \$15.0 million compared to the Fiscal 2024 funding level. Promise NYC, which was initiated in Fiscal 2023, provides childcare assistance to undocumented 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.</p>
<p>Preliminary Mayor’s Management Report</p>	<p>NYC Municipal Identification. A total of 64,265 IDNYC cards were issued in the first four months of Fiscal 2025, a 14 percent increase when compared to the same time period in Fiscal 2024. IDNYC provides official identification to all NYC residents, including vulnerable populations, and grants access to City services, buildings, and cultural institutions.</p> <p>Participants in Immigrant services programs. During the first four months of Fiscal 2025, DYCD’s immigrant services programs enrolled 1,095 participants, marking a 47 percent increase from the same period in Fiscal 2024. Legal services programs for immigrants are transitioning back to DYCD oversight from the Human Resources Administration.</p> <p>Completed requests for interpretation. The Department for Homeless Services has completed a total of 46,802 requests for interpretation in the first four months of Fiscal 2025. This represents a 43 percent increase when compared to the same period in Fiscal 2024. Conversely, the Human Resources Administration saw a 4.9 percent decrease in completed requests for interpretation in the first four months of Fiscal 2025.</p> <p>NYC Care. Since its launch in Fiscal Year 2020, NYC Care enrollment has grown consistently. In the first four months for Fiscal 2025 enrollments are 22 percent greater than in the same period during Fiscal 2024. This upward trend has been driven by ongoing community outreach. However, with more health insurance options now available for undocumented New Yorkers, many individuals are beginning to shift from NYC Care to other covered plans.</p> <p><u>New Metrics Recommendation</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Interpretation requested and completed by each City agency, by language. Each City agency should provide data on the number of requests and completed requests for interpretation broken down by language.</p> <p>Street vendor inspections. 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.</p> <p>Requests for interpretation services from DOE, NYPD, FDNY, OATH, DOHMH, HRA, ACS and DHS. The PMMR does not provide any information for the number of interpretation requests submitted. Without the number of requests, we are not able to understand how well agencies are doing completing interpretation services.</p>

	<p>Promise NYC Enrollment (ACS). An indicator should be added to track enrollment in Promise NYC. The Fiscal 2025 Adopted Plan included \$25.0 million for Promise NYC, an increase of \$10 million from Fiscal 2024. Given this notable increase, the Administration of Children Services’ PMMR should include an indicator that outlines the breakdown of children served by borough to assess the program’s reach and impact and inform on areas with greater needs for the program.</p>
<p>Budget Issues and Concerns</p>	<p>DYCD Adult Literacy Funding. The latest Request for Proposal (RFP) for adult literacy programs released by DYCD in January 2024 presents several challenges that could limit its effectiveness in addressing the needs of New York’s limited English proficiency (LEP) population. The student reimbursement rate of \$1,300 remains too low compared to what the City Council and the New York City Coalition for Adult Literacy have advocated for, restricting provider’s ability to offer high quality instruction and support services. Additionally, the Neighborhood Tabulation Area policy in the current RFP creates further barriers by capping the number of programs, which has led to service gaps in high-need areas, particularly in Queens (25.5 percent LEP), Brooklyn (21.9 percent LEP), and the Bronx (14.1 percent LEP). These constraints are especially concerning given that the majority of LEP individuals are over 45 years old, a demographic that faces additional challenges such as digital illiteracy and work or family obligations. Without adjustments to reimbursement rates and program distribution, the RFP could fail to adequately serve the communities that need adult literacy programs the most, limiting access to education, employment opportunities, and civic engagement.</p> <p>Shortage of Immigration Lawyers. The immigration legal services advocates are urging the City and State to build a robust legal services infrastructure by passing the Access to Representation Act. Advocates are lobbying for the State to provide \$165 million for various types of legal assistance. As asylum seekers continue to arrive, the cost for legal representation has escalated. Legal professionals are urging the City and the State to increase and baseline funding for full representation as immigration cases can take up to seven years to complete and require more litigators to handle the continuing surge in cases.</p>
<p>Federal and State Budget Risks</p>	<p>Protecting NYC’s Immigrant Services. New York City is facing significant budget challenges, with potential federal funding cuts threatening essential services for immigrant communities. The City’s social services, including legal aid, housing assistance, and language access programs, rely heavily on federal and State funding. If these funds are reduced or eliminated, nonprofits and community organizations that support immigrants could struggle to meet growing demands. Federal and State support are essential to prevent service disruptions and ensure that vulnerable populations continue to receive necessary assistance.</p> <p>Legal Services for Unaccompanied Minors. The federal government’s threat to suspend legal aid for unaccompanied minors poses significant challenges for the City. The Trump Administration had abruptly halted legal aid services for thousands of unaccompanied immigrant children, forcing government-funded attorneys to stop their work immediately. This decision sparked concerns among advocacy organizations about the heightened risks these children face, including trafficking and other forms of exploitation. While the freeze has now been lifted, the ongoing threat of losing these critical legal services continues to create uncertainty and serious challenges for vulnerable children in the immigration system.</p>

	<p>Refugee Resettlement. Due to a recent order from the Trump Administration halting federal funding for resettlement agencies, many newly arrived refugees could be left without essential aid for housing, food, and other basic needs. The suspension includes withholding reimbursements for already incurred costs.</p> <p>Sanctuary Cities Federal Aid. The Department of Justice has been instructed to suspend all federal financial assistance to sanctuary cities. This measure specifically targets areas that restrict collaboration with federal immigration authorities and seeks to impose stricter immigration regulations. The directive also mandates a 60-day assessment of current funding agreements, with the possibility of terminating those that do not comply with federal law.</p>
Fiscal 2026 NYS Executive Budget	<p>Office of New Americans (ONA). The New York State Fiscal 2026 Executive Budget includes \$45.7 million to support immigrants and refugees as they integrate into American society. ONA provides a range of services, including citizenship and legal assistance, workforce development, English language learning programs, and access to social services.</p> <p>Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA). The New York State Fiscal 2026 Executive Budget includes \$8.5 million to administer various programs to support refugee resettlement and assistance. In 2024, OTDA issued a Request for Proposals for the Shelter Exit Services program, targeting assistance to Office of Refugee Resettlement eligible households residing in public shelters to secure permanent, affordable housing. The anticipated contract for this initiative is set to begin in June 2025. OTDA anticipates distributing up to \$10,000,000 in funds for 18-month contracts.</p>