

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Hon. Corey Johnson
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Chair, Finance Committee

Hon. Carlos Menchaca
Chair, Immigration Committee



Report to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Immigration
On the Fiscal 2020 Executive Plan for the

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

May 13, 2019

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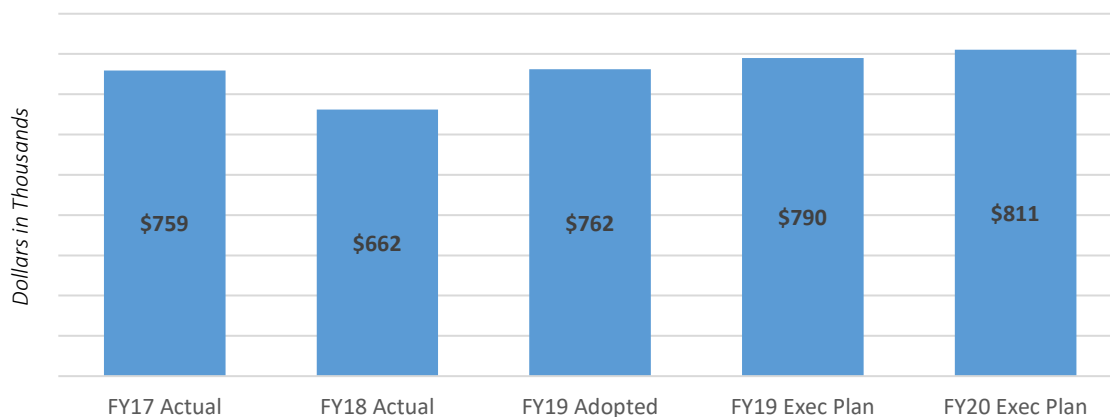
Immigrant Services Overview

This report presents a review of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs' (MOIA) Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget. The section below presents an overview of MOIA's budget and other agency programming and how it has changed during the course of Fiscal 2019. This is followed by the Council's Fiscal 2020 Budget Response proposals related to immigrant New Yorker's, report then provides a review of the significant budget actions introduced in the Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget. Major issues related to the MOIA's budget and other City agencies are then discussed.

For additional information on the budget for major immigration services and various programs, please refer to the Fiscal 2020 Preliminary Budget Report for MOIA at: <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2019/03/MOIA2020.pdf>

Below is a summary of key funding changes by agency when comparing Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget to its Fiscal 2019 Adopted Budget.

Figure 1: Funding for MOIA ('000s)



New in the Executive Budget

The Fiscal 2020 Executive Plan introduces \$28.3 million in new needs, and \$384,000 in savings in Fiscal 2020.

New Needs

- Census Outreach Funding.** The Fiscal 2020 Executive Plan includes \$250,000 in Fiscal 2019, \$25.9 million in Fiscal 2020, and \$951,250 in Fiscal 2021 to support census operation. This new funding for the census is in DYCD's budget and supports 55 positions.

This funding will support outreach staff and public awareness campaigns. This is in addition to the \$4.3 million federal funds in the Department of City Planning. It is unclear how much of the \$20 million earmarked in the New York State Fiscal 2019 -2020 Enacted Budget will be provided for New York City.

As of February 2019, the Trump Administration and several municipalities like New York have been embroiled in a legal fight over the census. The Supreme Court is expected to decide in June 2019 whether the Trump Administration can include a citizenship question on the 2020 census.

- **IDNYC.** A new need of \$2.4 million is added for Fiscal 2020 and in the outyears to fund anticipated card renewals and outreach to potential new applicants. The IDNYC program currently serves approximately 1.3 million clients. A large portion of renewals are anticipated to be issued in 2020 when the cards issued in the first year of the program will be due for renewal.

The Administration has proposed to include a financial services smart chip in municipal ID cards, in an effort to increase access to banking services. At a City Council hearing in February 2019, advocates expressed major concern over privacy issues and warned that the proposal presents massive security and privacy problems. The Administration explained that they are in the exploration phase but did not give a timeline for implementation

Savings

- **IDNYC - Savings.** A savings of \$384,000 in Fiscal 2019 and in the outyears is included in the Fiscal 2020 Executive Plan. These are administrative savings relating to technology services, maintenance, and licensing that were utilized at lower amounts than initially anticipated.

Fiscal 2020 Preliminary Budget Response

The Council's response to the Mayor's Fiscal 2020 Preliminary Budget included several recommendations for services that will positively impact the lives of all immigrant New Yorkers, outlined below. None of the Council's priorities were included in the Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget.

- **Launch a Census 2020 Campaign.** The Council called upon the Administration to provide \$40 million to maximize participation in the count. This \$40 million will be split evenly between with \$20 million to fund direct outreach effort conducted by a large mix of CBOs; and \$20 million investment to bolster direct City staff deployed to Census 2020 and launch a city-wide advertising campaign that includes social media, Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) advertisements, newspapers, TV campaign, radio, and targeted mailings. The Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget added \$26 million in Fiscal 2020 for census outreach.
- **Support the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project.** The Council called for the Administration to allocate and baseline \$16.5 million in the Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget to support the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP). The Fiscal 2020 Preliminary Budget includes \$19.6 million for the Immigration Opportunity Initiative/Deportation Defense (IOI) program, however, it is not clear within the budget how much funding is allocated specifically for removal defense work.

In March 2019, the City Council increased funding for NYIFUP by \$1.6 million, in addition to the \$10 million allocated for Fiscal 2019 in recognition of the impact of the Trump Administration's lack of prioritization for initiating deportation for immigrants considered removable. This created backlogs, with more immigrants held in detention – many for over six months – while their legal case completion timelines are extended.

- **Support Climate Refugees.** The Council called upon the Administration to provide support to climate refugees that migrate to New York City due to sudden or gradual alterations in their natural environment related to at least one of three impacts of climate change: sea-level rise,

extreme weather events, or drought and water scarcity. The City should utilize existing resources to develop a coordinated effort across DOE and the human services agencies, including HRA, DHS, DOHMH, and DFTA. This effort should include dedicated resources to provide case management services, benefits eligibility screening, and assistance with applications for public assistance or other support services.

- **Offer Translation at Poll-Sites.** The Council called for the Administration to include \$1.04 million which restores \$640,000 and add \$400,000 in Fiscal 2020 to expand the scope of the program to cover additional poll sites. In addition, the Council called on the Administration to transfer operation of the poll-site interpreters program to the Voter Assistance Advisory Committee, an independent body that specializes in voter outreach and engagement. Since the release of the Fiscal 2020 Executive Plan, the Administration has agreed to restore the \$640,000 for Fiscal 2020.
- **Create a Language Interpreter Bank.** The Council called upon the Administration to allocate \$2 million in the Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget to pilot a language interpreter bank. Language access is critical for New York City's diverse communities. Three out of every five New Yorkers are immigrants or children of immigrants, and nearly one in four New Yorkers have limited English proficiency. The Council supports the creation of a pilot worker-cooperative program in the form of a community interpreter bank to provide translation services, including sign language translation, which can be utilized by community based organizations (CBO) and City offices to provide language access services to New Yorkers.
- **Baseline Priorities.** The Council also urged the City to baseline \$10 million for two key programs that are a priority to the City Council.
 - *Adult Literacy Initiative.* The Council called for the Administration to restore and baseline \$8 million in funding to continue supporting Adult Literacy programs across the City. The Council urged the Administration to include multi-year funding as one-year funding makes it difficult for literacy providers to operate programs, retain talented teachers and threatens to interrupt student gain. The Administration agreed to restore this funding for Fiscal 2020 but it is not clear if it will be baselined.
 - *Day Laborers Initiative.* The Council called for the Administration to create a dedicated new expense funding stream of \$2 million to support the City's day laborers. Between 8,000 and 10,000 day laborers, most of whom are recently arrived immigrants, live and work in New York City. Funds should support the operation and development of day laborer centers that provide dignified physical space for day laborers to meet, referrals to jobs or support services, legal services to address issues such as wage theft, as well as workforce training and development.