

# COVID-19 IMMIGRANT RESOURCE GUIDE

**Immigrant Justice Project**

City Bar Justice Center  
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# Introduction

The City Bar Justice Center (CBJC) increases access to justice by leveraging the resources of the New York City legal community. Drawing upon our relationship with the New York City Bar, the Justice Center provides legal assistance to those in need; mobilizes lawyers, law firms, corporate legal departments, and other legal institutions to provide pro bono legal services.

The Immigrant Justice Project (IJP) is one of the Justice Center’s core initiatives, offering free legal assistance to asylum seekers and immigrant survivors of violent crimes, including domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse, as well as individuals seeking humanitarian protection and other forms of relief.

IJP is committed to serving immigrant communities during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We have put together this list of resources to help immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, receive the care and necessities they need. It is only by protecting the health and well-being of every one of us, particularly those most vulnerable, that we will all get through this crisis together.

We will continue to update this as the situation develops. We welcome your feedback, updates, and experiences using this guide. You can email us at [rap@nycbar.org](mailto:rap@nycbar.org).

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# Financial Assistance

Many have struggled with loss of employment and income in the midst of COVID-19. The following resources provide recommendations and instructions on how to deal with the financial impact of COVID-19, file for unemployment, apply for public benefits, and resources to cover your utilities.

## [City Bar Justice Center Guide: Dealing with the Financial Impact of Coronavirus](#)

Useful tips and resources for individuals seeking benefits regarding loss of income, sick leave, health benefits and insurance, as well as resources for renters and homeowners.

## [Access NYC](#)

Portal for NYC residents to determine their eligibility for over 30 economic opportunity programs and benefits. It also includes a regularly updated list of COVID-19 response resources.

- [New York State Paid Family and Sick Leave for COVID-19](#). Depending on the type, size, and income of your employer, you may qualify for additional paid sick days or paid leave. If you or your child are quarantined due to a government order (and you cannot work remotely), you may qualify for paid leave. If you are the caretaker for a family member who is ill with COVID-19, you may qualify for paid caretaker leave. Every situation will be very unique and fact-specific.
- [Immigrant Eligibility](#): Click here for information on benefits eligibility for undocumented immigrants

## Unemployment

Filing for unemployment assistance at the [NYS Department of Labor](#) (888) 209-8124 for loss of work due to COVID-19.

- “The general rule is that workers must have valid work authorization...at the time they apply for benefits, and throughout the period during which they are receiving benefits.” NELP, [Fact Sheet: Immigrant Workers’ Eligibility for Unemployment Insurance](#) (March 31, 2020).
- In NYS, immigrants working without legal permission cannot get unemployment benefits. <https://labor.ny.gov/ui/claimantinfo/beforeyouapplyfaq.shtm>.
- Filing for unemployment does not put someone at risk under public charge. DHS has made clear that receiving unemployment benefits is not considered to be receiving a “public benefit” because it is an “earned benefit” that workers pay into with their paychecks.

## Utilities

- Internet
  - In [this document](#) compiled by Mixteca Organization, Inc. you can find the phone numbers and websites of various companies offering free internet or special accommodations.
- Electricity
  - If financially affected by COVID-19, you may request an extension on your ConEd electricity bill by logging into [your account](#).

## Financial Assistance Funds

Various funds have been created for immigrants and workers who have lost income or employment due to COVID-19. Funds are available to immigrants with and without documentation.

- New York State Youth Leadership Council has created a fund for undocumented youth and families in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. You may apply for the fund by emailing [info@nysylc.org](mailto:info@nysylc.org) for more information.
- RAISE NYC will support undocumented workers in the service industry who are not eligible to apply for unemployment benefits. The fund will be distributed to undocumented restaurant workers in Brooklyn and Manhattan. For more information, email [undocuworkersfund@gmail.com](mailto:undocuworkersfund@gmail.com).
- The National Domestic Workers' Alliance has created an emergency Coronavirus Care Fund, available to domestic workers who have participated in NDWA programs or affiliate organizations. Visit their [website](#) for updates and other resources for domestic workers.
- [Restaurant Worker Community Fund](#) has funds available for affected restaurant workers. Apply [here](#).
- [Another Round Another Rally](#) is offering \$500 relief funds for hospitality industry workers. Apply [here](#).
- [UndocuScholars](#) is providing emergency funds for undocumented immigrants who have been impacted by COVID-19. Apply [here](#).

# Healthcare

Low income individuals may be eligible for Medicaid in New York, depending on the person's public benefits eligibility status. For eligibility information, call Community Service Navigator Network at 888-614-5400.

## Medicaid

- Individuals who do not have health insurance may enroll for Medicaid in the New York State of Health Marketplace by calling the NYS of Health helpline at (855) 355-5777 or visiting [New York State of Health](#).
- Undocumented individuals can enroll in Emergency Medicaid, which covers all testing, evaluation, and treatment for COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Testing

- COVID-19 testing by calling 844-692-4692 in New York City or calling the NYS COVID-19 Hotline at 888-362-3065.
- If you go to a test site run by New York State, there is never any charge for your test.

Additional services are available to help you enroll over the phone or online for Medicaid or health insurance:

- Community Service Society Navigator Network  
888-614-5400, [enroll@cssny.org](mailto:enroll@cssny.org)
- [Health Solutions](#)
- Community Healthcare Advocates (CHA) helps New Yorkers in navigating the complex healthcare system by providing individualized assistance in over 170 languages. CHA provides guidance to New Yorkers on using health insurance, reconciling billing and debt issues, and answering questions on accessing health care in New York. Their hotline is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (888) 614-5400.

## Low-Cost and No-Cost Health Care

- [NYC Care](#) offers low-cost and no-cost health services to New Yorkers who cannot afford or do not qualify for health insurance. It is associated with NYC Health + Hospitals. For more information on how to enroll you may visit their [website](#) or call (646) 692-2273.
- Please refer to the following [list](#) of facilities in New York City for low-cost or no-cost medical care to find a location near you. Facilities are located in each of the five boroughs.

### Free Health Services

- [Free Clinic Directory](#) offers a guide for uninsured people to connect with free and affordable health clinics in their area. There are over 300 free and affordable health clinics in the five boroughs.
- [The Institute for Family Health](#) has free health centers in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. Call ahead for an appointment. They also offer Healthcare for the Homeless, which provides medical care, behavioral health care, discounted medications, referrals, and intensive HIV case management.

### COVID-19 Related Treatment and Public Charge

- Note that Emergency Medicaid is not treated negatively under the new public charge rule.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will not consider testing, treatment, or preventative care as part of a [determination for public charge](#).
- Many immigrants are exempt from public charge review. If you are concerned about receipt of benefits, speak to an attorney before disenrolling from benefits. You can call the [Office for New Americans Hotline](#) at 1-800-566-7636 or The Legal Aid Society's Access to Benefits (A2B) Helpline at 888-663-6880 for more information and assistance.

ICE has stated they will not be looking for immigrants at or near health care facilities, hospitals, health clinics, and other medical care locations.

## HIV+, Disabled, and Increased-Risk Resources

For those at increased-risk of COVID-19, please see the following resources to help you maintain your health during the outbreak. Additionally, see if you are eligible for workplace accommodations.

### Enrolling in Medicaid

- Virtual services for enrolling in Medicaid are available with [Health Solutions](#) or call 646-619-6759.

### NYC Department of Health Resources

- Health guide for people with [HIV](#) during COVID-19
- Health guide for people with [increased risk](#) to COVID-19

Please refer to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center's [list of resources](#) for HIV and STI testing during the COVID-19 outbreak.

### Requesting Workplace Accommodations

- If you qualify as an employee with a disability, you may be entitled to a “reasonable accommodation” at work to enable you to perform your job and/or protect your health.

## Domestic Violence

The social distancing guidelines set forth by the COVID-19 crisis can elevate tensions in the home and create challenging feelings of isolation. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, the following resources are available to aid in mental health, learning about your options, and creating safety plans.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline has compiled a resource on [staying safe during COVID-19](#).

[Sanctuary for Families](#) (212) 349-6009 is continuing to accept domestic violence referrals, providing shelter for clients in crisis.

### Hotlines

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline offers free resources, including a 24/7 confidential hotline and online chat, mental health resources, how to make a safety plan, and more. Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or call 311 to be connected.
- National Sexual Assault Hotline (800-656-4673) is confidential, free and available 24/7.
- [Trans Lifeline](#) (877-565-8860) offers peer support for transgender people.

## LGBT+ Resources

For help enrolling in health insurance, call The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center at 646.556.9300 ext. 271 or email [enroll@gaycenter.org](mailto:enroll@gaycenter.org) for assistance from The Center’s Patient Navigation team.

In addition, The Center has released [a comprehensive list](#) of resources regarding housing, HIV and STI testing, mental health, and more.

### Hotlines

- [Anti-Violence Project](#) (212-714-1141) offers counseling, safety planning, and resources, including medical resources. They are available 24/7.

- [The Trevor Project](#) (866-488-7386) supports young LGBT+ people in crisis. They are available 24/7.
- [Trans Lifeline](#) (877-565-8860) offers peer support for transgender people. The hotline is open 24/7.

## Youth

With school closures, minors are confronting not only the challenge of remote schooling, but also accessing free or reduced price school meals. Please see the following to learn how to access free meals for your child, usually provided by NYC Public Schools, as well as free internet services so that your child can continue their studies from home.

- Meals
  - Beginning March 23, three meals a day, including breakfast, will be available to all NYC children at more than 400 sites across the city.
  - Pickup is Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. All three meals a day may be picked up at the same time.
  - No registration, ID, or documentation is required. Meals must be eaten off premises.
  - Parents and guardians may pick up meals for their children.
  - [Find a Free Meal Location](#), call 311, or text FOOD or COMIDA to 877-877 to find a location near you.
- Child Care
  - The New York City Department of Education has opened 57 regional enrichment centers and childcare sites across the five boroughs for children of essential workers, including transit workers, grocery store, pharmacy, and food workers, as well as restaurant, delivery, and take-out workers and other frontline workers. They are open from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and accept students from 3-K through 12th grade. For more information on Regional Enrichment Centers, click [here](#). You may [enroll](#) to see if you qualify here.
- Internet
  - Due to school closures, Altice USA is offering K-12 students and college students who do not already have internet access at home free internet for 60 days
  - For other options, see our Financial Assistance section on page 2.



# Additional Resources

- Human Resources Administration (HRA) applications for emergency assistance benefits, including for food and utilities, are available [here](#).
- If denied shelter, visit the [Coalition for the Homeless](#) resource page.
- Visit [NYC Department of Social Services](#) for help accessing SNAP benefits, disability access, and temporary emergency shelters.
- The [NYC Department of Health's](#) guide on navigating COVID-19.
- The City of New York is providing assistance to New Yorkers during the COVID-19 crisis by delivering meals to those who cannot access food themselves. For more information and to see if you qualify, click [here](#).
- Hunter College NYC Food Policy Center has put together a [NYC food resource guide](#) for each NYC neighborhood amidst COVID-19. Each resource guide includes information on access to food for students and seniors, people with disabilities, and resources for immigrants.
- New York State Department of Taxation and Finance is partnering with several companies to file your income taxes for free. See if you are eligible for any of the listed resources [here](#).
- The New York City Department of Education has made three free meals Monday-Friday available for any New Yorker at more than 400 hubs across New York City. For families, meals are available from 7:30am-11:30am and for adults, meals are available from 11:30pm-1:30 pm. More information [here](#). To find a school in your area distributing food, click [here](#), call 311 ,or text the word FOOD or COMIDA to 877-877 to find a location near you.

# Complete URLs

To find the complete URLs as listed above, please see the following. The links are listed based on the section in which they appear.

## Financial Assistance

- City Bar Justice Center Guide: Dealing with the financial impact of the coronavirus: <https://www.citybarjusticecenter.org/news/dealing-with-the-financial-impact-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-a-resource-guide-for-new-york-city-residents/>
- NYS Department of Labor: <https://labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm>
- Unemployment Insurance Eligibility: <https://labor.ny.gov/ui/dande/covered1.shtm>
- ACCESS NYC: <https://access.nyc.gov/>
- New York State Paid Family and Sick Leave <https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/COVID19>
- Undocumented Immigrant Eligibility for Benefits: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/about/immigration-faqs.page>
- Mixteca list of free internet resources: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kjVFeWefjnEfUrCR2yXxOvsp6\\_rDOfaMivUEiaBr eiA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kjVFeWefjnEfUrCR2yXxOvsp6_rDOfaMivUEiaBr eiA/edit)
- ConEd (Electricity): <https://www.coned.com/en/login?url=%252fen%252faccounts-billing%252fdashboard&returnUrl=%2Fen%2Faccounts-billing%2Fdashboard>

## Financial Assistance Funds

- National Domestic Workers Alliance application: <https://membership.domesticworkers.org/coronavirus/#fund>
- Restaurant Worker Community Fund: <https://www.restaurantworkerscf.org/>
  - Application: <https://form.southernsmoke.org/smoke/application/>
- Another Round Another Rally: <https://anotherroundanotherally.org/?fbclid=IwAR2NYI5YUCDvpljCYRjxzvxaoMrYOLW3 DWANoQKDJEKZT-yFf6x2OsCXias>
  - Application: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddzKbnPiiK6lZ21BnW\\_3YQC31exc obCKiAKPOQb7eKG-ZvSg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddzKbnPiiK6lZ21BnW_3YQC31exc obCKiAKPOQb7eKG-ZvSg/viewform)
- Undocuscholars: <https://www.undocuscholars.com/>
  - Application: <https://www.undocuscholars.com/>

## Health Care

- Health Solutions: <https://www.healthsolutions.org/community-work/health-insurance/enrollment-services/>
- NYC CARE: <https://www.nyccare.nyc/>
- NYC CARE Enrollment: <https://www.nyccare.nyc/enroll/>
- List of low-cost and no-cost medical care facilities: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/immigrants/downloads/pdf/low-or-no-cost-options-nyc.pdf>
- Free Clinic Directory: [https://freeclinicdirectory.org/new\\_york\\_care.html](https://freeclinicdirectory.org/new_york_care.html)
- Institute for Family Health: <https://institute.org/health-care/locations/>
- USCIS announcement regarding public charge and COVID-19 treatment: <https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge>
- Office for New Americans Hotline <https://www.newamericans.ny.gov/Hotline/hotline.html>

## HIV+, Disabled, and Increased Risk Resources

- Public Health Solutions (enrolling in Medicaid): <https://www.healthsolutions.org/community-work/health-insurance/enrollment-services/>
- HIV+ health guide: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-guidance-for-people-with-hiv.pdf>
- Increased risk health guide: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/guidance-people-severe-covid19.pdf>
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center's list of resources for HIV and STI testing: <https://gaycenter.org/covid-19-resources/hiv-sti-testing/>
- Requesting workplace accommodations: <https://legalaidatwork.org/factsheet/disabilities-in-the-workplace-reasonable-accommodation/>

## Domestic Violence

- National Domestic Violence Hotline guide: <https://www.thehotline.org/2020/03/13/staying-safe-during-covid-19/>
- Trans Lifeline: <https://www.translifeline.org/hotline>
- Sanctuary for Families: <https://sanctuaryforfamilies.org/our-approach/client-services/shelter-services/>

## LGBT+ Resources

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center's list of resources  
<https://gaycenter.org/covid-19-resources/>
- Anti-Violence Project: <https://avp.org/>
- Trevor Project:  
[https://www.thetrevorproject.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsYb0BRCOARIsAHbLPhEczZpqwpjkv\\_mqIB2tKm-RI\\_YReEO\\_vtg3CE6Ai7Vasn0h9HC4zatMaAkFeEALw\\_wcB](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsYb0BRCOARIsAHbLPhEczZpqwpjkv_mqIB2tKm-RI_YReEO_vtg3CE6Ai7Vasn0h9HC4zatMaAkFeEALw_wcB)
- Trans Lifeline: <https://www.translifeline.org/hotline>

## Youth

- Meal location search: <https://www.opt-osfns.org/schoolfoodny/meals/default.aspx>
- Regional Enrichment Centers:  
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/regional-enrichment-centers>
- Enrollment Form for Regional Enrichment Centers:  
<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5518161/REC-Enrollment-Form>

## Additional Resources

- HRA Emergency Benefits: <https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>
- The Coalition for the Homeless resource page:  
<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/get-help/i-need-shelter/>
- NYC Department of Social Services: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dss/index.page>
- NYC Department of Health: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>
- NYC Food Delivery:  
<https://cv19engagementportal.cityofnewyork.us/#/display/5e7555117ad6750216160409>
- NYC Food Resource Guide:  
<https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/coronavirus-nyc-food-reports/>
- New York State Department of Finances and Taxation: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/>
- Free Meals for any New Yorker:  
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/free-meals>
- Map of Free Meal locations:  
<http://morr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=27fd1b2d94234c0ea45e928215d306cd>