



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

TASK FORCE ON

NEW AMERICANS

Budgetary & Legislative Priorities

2024

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4,419,348

Immigrant Residents
in New York State

\$138 BILLION

Spending Power of Immigrants
in New York State



\$24.4 BILLION

State & Local Taxes Paid by
New York Immigrants

\$36.6 BILLION

Federal Taxes Paid by
New York Immigrants

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

New York State has long stood as a beacon of hope and opportunity, welcoming waves of immigrants who have enriched our communities, economy, and cultural tapestry. In these times of global uncertainty and change, it is more vital than ever that we reaffirm our commitment to being a welcoming state for immigrants. Our history is replete with stories of individuals and families who arrived on our shores with little more than the hope for a better life and the determination to achieve it. These stories are not relics of the past but ongoing narratives that continue to shape the identity and prosperity of New York.



Immigrants play an indispensable role in New York's economy, contributing billions of dollars in taxes and filling crucial roles in our workforce. From the tech industry to healthcare, from agriculture to education, immigrants are not just participants; they are often at the forefront of innovation and growth. Their entrepreneurial spirit has led to the establishment of countless businesses, creating jobs and spurring economic development in communities across the state. It is essential to recognize and support this contribution, ensuring that immigrants have the opportunities and resources to thrive. Moreover, New York's cultural diversity, one of our greatest strengths, is largely a product of our rich history of immigration. The exchange of ideas, traditions, and values among people from different backgrounds has fostered a dynamic and inclusive society.

In addition to economic and cultural benefits, embracing immigrants is a matter of human rights and dignity. Many immigrants come to New York seeking refuge from violence, oppression, and poverty. Providing a safe haven and a chance for a new beginning is not only a moral imperative but also a testament to the values of compassion and solidarity that define us as New Yorkers. We must ensure that our policies and practices reflect these values, offering protections and support to those who have come to contribute to and share in the promise of our state.

However, welcoming immigrants is not without its challenges. It requires comprehensive policies and programs that address issues such as housing, education, healthcare, and workforce integration. It calls for collaboration between state and local governments, community organizations, and the private sector to create an environment where immigrants can succeed and, by extension, enrich our state in myriad ways. The benefits of doing so—economic growth, cultural enrichment, and the reaffirmation of our values—are clear and compelling. As we look to the future, let us embrace the opportunities that come with being a state of inclusion and diversity. By doing so, we not only honor our heritage but also lay the foundation for a more prosperous and united New York.



Assemblymember
Phara Souffrant Forrest

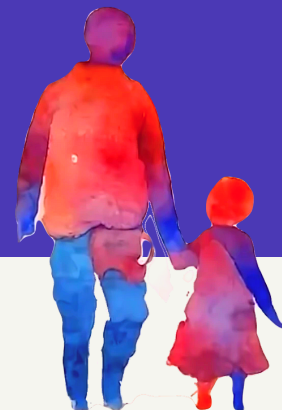
THE TASK FORCE ON NEW AMERICANS

MISSION STATEMENT

To advocate for public policies and state budget issues that will help improve the lives of the more than 4.2 million immigrants who call New York State their home while working to build support for systematic and structural changes that will allow for the full integration of immigrants into the social, economic and political systems of our society.

To achieve these goals, the Assembly Task Force on New Americans will:

- Research and evaluate current programs and proposals that affect immigrant communities; and
- Establish a legislative program addressing social and economic issues of concern to immigrant communities which includes their input via community forums and legislative hearings;
- Foster cooperation between legislators, state and municipal officials in efforts to address issues of concern and in seeking ways to improve services to immigrant communities;
- Serve as a conduit of information for immigrant communities on issues before the federal, state, and local governments.



TASK FORCE MEMBERS



CHAIR
PHARA SOUFFRANT FORREST
District 57



MICHAELLE SOLAGES
District 22



ANDREW HEVESI
District 28



STEVEN RAGA
District 30



JESSICA GONZALEZ-ROJAS
District 34



ZOHRAN MAMDANI
District 36



JUAN ARDILA
District 37



CATALINA CRUZ
District 39



EMILY GALLAGHER
District 50



MARCELA MITAYNES
District 51



MARITZA DAVILA
District 53



LATRICE WALKER
District 55



MANNY DE LOS SANTOS
District 72



TONY SIMONE
District 75



GEORGE ALVAREZ
District 78



YUDELKA TAPIA
District 86



KARINES REYES
District 87



MARY JANE SHIMSKY
District 92



CHRIS BURDICK
District 93



DANA LEVENBERG
District 95



SARAHANA SHRESTHA
District 103



SARAH CLARK
District 136



JONATHAN RIVERA
District 149

840,742

IMMIGRANT HOMEOWNERS
IN NEW YORK STATE

289,506

IMMIGRANT
ENTREPRENEURS

23.2%

SHARE OF RECENT
HOMEOWNERS WHO ARE
FOREIGN-BORN

32.4%

SHARE OF
ENTREPRENEURS WHO
ARE IMMIGRANTS

\$20.7B

AMOUNT PAID BY
IMMIGRANT
HOUSEHOLDS IN
RENT

\$7.0B

BUSINESS INCOME
OF IMMIGRANT
ENTREPRENEURS

\$558.5B

HOUSING WEALTH HELD
BY IMMIGRANT
HOUSEHOLDS

26.9%

SHARE OF NEW YORK
LABOR FORCE WHO
ARE IMMIGRANTS

BUDGET PRIORITIES

BUDGET PRIORITIES

ACCESS TO REPRESENTATION

A.170A / Cruz

\$150M

The Access to Representation Act will ensure a right to counsel for all immigrants facing deportation in New York and allocate \$150 million to meet urgent and long-term legal and social service needs of immigrant families in New York.

Access to counsel is inexorably linked to access to justice in immigration court. Having legal representation is one of the most important variables in obtaining a successful outcome. This legislation will help ensure that due process is served for vulnerable immigrant New Yorkers and that the principles of fundamental fairness are observed.

UNEMPLOYMENT BRIDGE PROGRAM

A.4821 / Reyes

\$500M

The Unemployment Bridge Program will provide up to \$1200/month in economic support to workers ineligible for unemployment. Prime beneficiaries will be immigrant workers without authorization, cash economy workers, freelancers and people in re-entry people. This program will be funded through an innovative revenue source - a Digital Ad Tax (DATA), which anticipates close to \$1 billion in annual revenue.

LANGUAGE ACCESS EXPANSION ACT

A.7235 / De Los Santos

\$250M

The Language Access Expansion Act will greatly increase access to language services in regional areas by: directing county agencies to provide interpretation and translation services, including local languages to the statewide language list, and requiring public-facing state agencies such as the Department of Motor Vehicles and Department of Education to provide in-person interpretation and translation services.

HOUSING ACCESS VOUCHER PROGRAM

A.4021A / Rosenthal

\$250M

The NYS Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP) will create a flexible, statewide Section 8-like voucher to be used by people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

We must commit ourselves to ensuring that no New Yorker is denied access to safe, long-term housing because of a lack of financial resources. The Housing Access Voucher Program will enable individuals and families to transition out of shelters or unsustainable housing situations into stable housing. It will also enable local housing agencies to avert evictions for non-payment of rent and other causes of displacement.

LOCAL, COMMUNITY, & ETHNIC MEDIA COMMITMENT ACT

A.6879A / Shrestha

The Local, Community and Ethnic Media Commitment Act will ensure that information about the many initiatives funded by our state will reach a higher number of New Yorkers through dedicated advertising in ethnic or local media. It will do so by requiring state agencies like the Department of Labor, the Office of Children and Family Services, or the Department of Health to spend at least 50% of their print and digital advertising budget in such outlets. This would mean that the 30 percent of New Yorkers who do not speak English as their primary language and others who get their news only from local media outlets would have better access to notices about the state's public programs.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT

A.4022 / Hevesi

The Working Families Tax Credit will expand access to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) by creating a new, combined tax credit.

The WFTC will increase the amount of money most eligible families get under the current credits by as much as \$1,500, get rid of punitive phase-ins and work requirements, and expand access to Individual Tax Identification Number filers who are currently cut out of EITC credits.

INVEST IN OUR NEW YORK PACKAGE

A.3690 / Kelles, Shrestha

A.3193 / Solages

A.3252 / Kelles

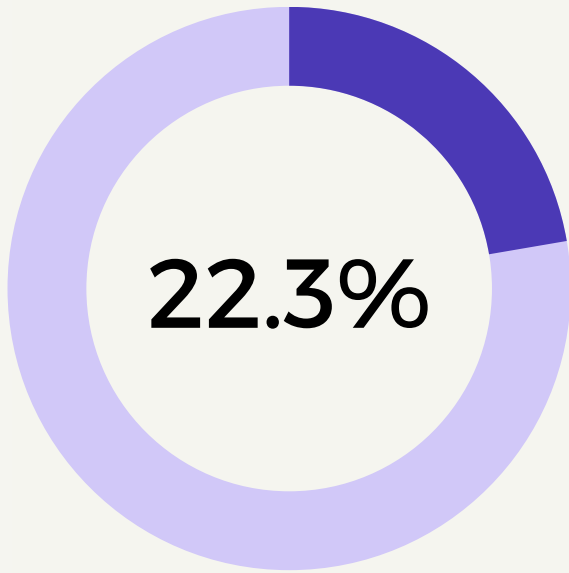
A.3115 / Meeks

A.2576 / Kim

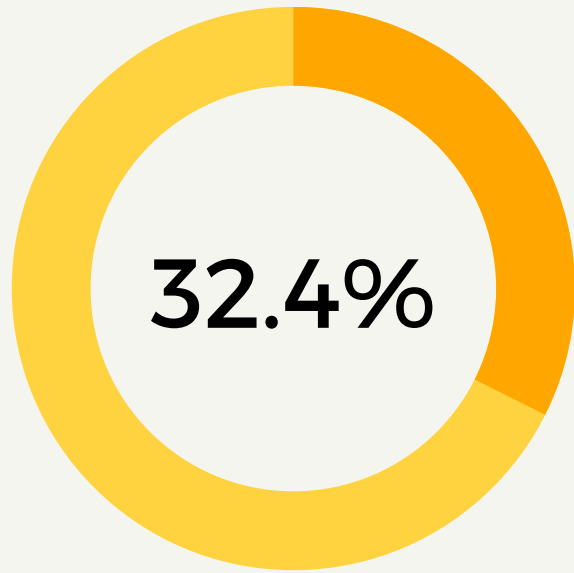
This bill package will raise tens of billions of dollars to ensure we can take care of each other and rebuild our economy by ending tax breaks for the wealthiest New Yorkers. This revenue will prove crucial to invest in the creation of affordable housing, ensure quality education, jobs, and care, and stop efforts to take away vital public programs for New Yorkers.

ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY PRIORITIES

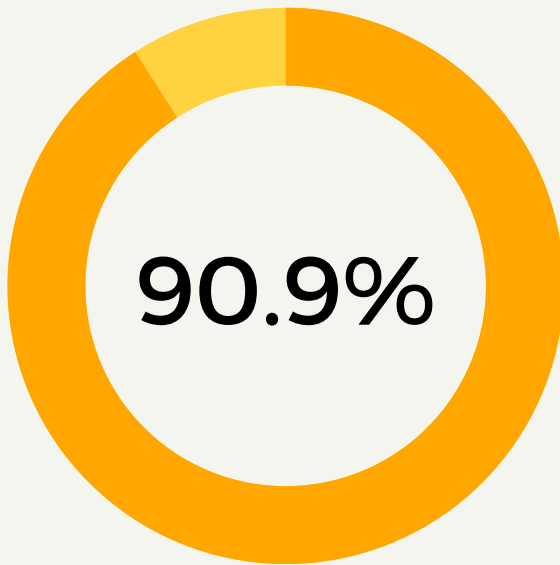
Immigration Integration Research & Policy Institute	\$600,000	The Immigration Integration Research & Policy Institute, housed at the Rockefeller Institute of Government, helps build on the state's commitment to supporting immigrants of all ages, nationalities, and backgrounds by analyzing real-time immigration, economic, labor, and other data and identifying potential solutions for policymakers
New York State Enhanced Services to Refugees Program (NYSESRP)	\$8 million	NYSESRP helps refugee resettlement agencies fully serve recent arrivals plus existing refugees and asylum seekers already in their communities
Child Care for Immigrant New Yorkers	\$50 million	End the practice of denying New York children child care assistance due to immigration status by offering state funded child care assistance to immigrant children barred by federal law from participating in the New York's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
Adult Literacy Education (ALE)	\$27.9 million	Adult literacy programs assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency; who are parents/guardians to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and to obtain a secondary school credential.
ONA ESOL Opportunity Centers	\$246,000 per contract	Increase the number of ONA ESOL Opportunity Centers to better promote integration into New York State, with a particular focus on upstate areas that currently lack adequate resources.



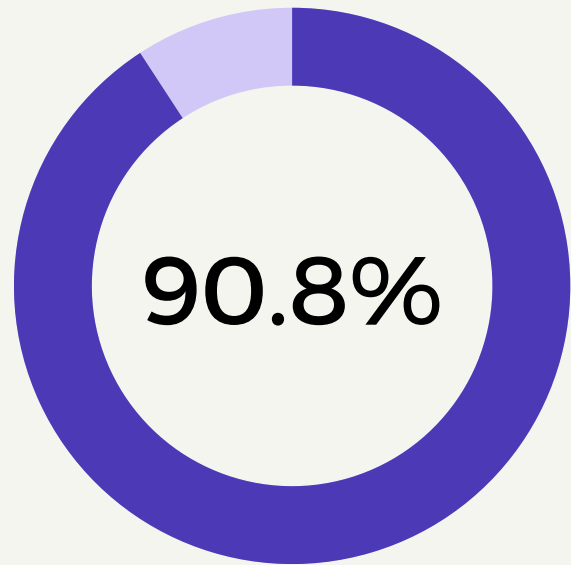
Immigrant share of the population



Share of entrepreneurs who are immigrants



Employment rate of likely refugees



Share of undocumented immigrants who are working age

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

NEW YORK FOR ALL

A. 5686 / Reyes

The New York for All Act will protect immigrant communities across New York and ensure that all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, can lead open lives, participate in their communities, provide for their families, and access health care without intimidation.

EMPIRE STATE LICENSING ACT

A. 8263 / Cruz

The Empire State Licensing Act addresses the compelling need to remove the citizenship and immigration status requirements for the acquisition of professional, occupational, commercial, and business licenses for noncitizen applicants. These requirements prevent equity and fairness, and undermine New York's efforts to promote economic growth and support immigrant communities. Our state recognizes the value of providing every New Yorker with the opportunity to apply for and acquire licenses, permits, certifications, and registrations they are otherwise qualified for.

DIGNITY NOT DETENTION

A. 4354 / Reyes

Dignity Not Detention will prohibit New York governmental entities from entering into immigration detention contracts and from receiving any payments related to immigration detention. When immigrants and communities can live in dignity and freedom, we'll create a more welcoming state for all who call New York home.

COVERAGE FOR ALL

A. 3020A / Gonzalez-Rojas

Coverage For All would open the Essential Plan to cover New Yorkers earning up to 250% of the federal poverty level with health insurance regardless of immigration status. This would occur through a federal section 1332 waiver, which could secure federal funding for the entirety of this coverage extension, while allowing the Commissioner of Health to set guardrails for the expansion.

IMMIGRANT ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

A.8406 / Forrest

This bill will establish an immigrant integration advisory board for each economic development region in New York State which will help set economic priorities for each of the 10 Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs)

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO SHELTER

A.7994 / Forrest

Right to visit shelter facilities for elected officials

A.8088 / Forrest

Allows ONA to operate and offer programs in shelters

A.9129 / Cruz

Prohibits the imposition of limits on the length of stay at homeless shelters

These bills would provide oversight and much needed protections to the Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers in New York City, currently being used to house a majority of new arrivals. By ensuring these facilities are properly classified as shelters and therefore subject to the requirements and oversight of OTDA, bringing services currently offered by ONA into shelters where they can do the most good, and by allowing local elected officials the authority to feely visit and inspect these facilities, we can help to ensure a humane and effective enviornment for new arrivals to succeed in our state.

TUITION EQUITY ACT

A.8403 / Forrest

This bill would allow undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition rates at SUNY and CUNY colleges, helping to alleviate financial burdens, strengthening New York's states workforce and economy, and fostering social integration and a sense of belonging.

BENEFITS FOR ALL

A.160 / Cruz

The purpose of the bill is to provide the state and municipalities with the discretion to offer certain local public benefits necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of any individual who would otherwise be deemed eligible absent federal law restricting eligibility due to immigration status.

OPENING FHEPS TO ALL IMMIGRANTS

A.5513 / Rosenthal

This bill authorizes undocumented persons to receive vouchers through the family homelessness and eviction prevention supplement (FHEPS). FHEPS is often a lifesaver to homeless families, and this lifeine should be extended to all struggling New Yorkers regardless of immigration status.

PROTECTING IMMIGRATION STATUS

A.5686 / Reyes

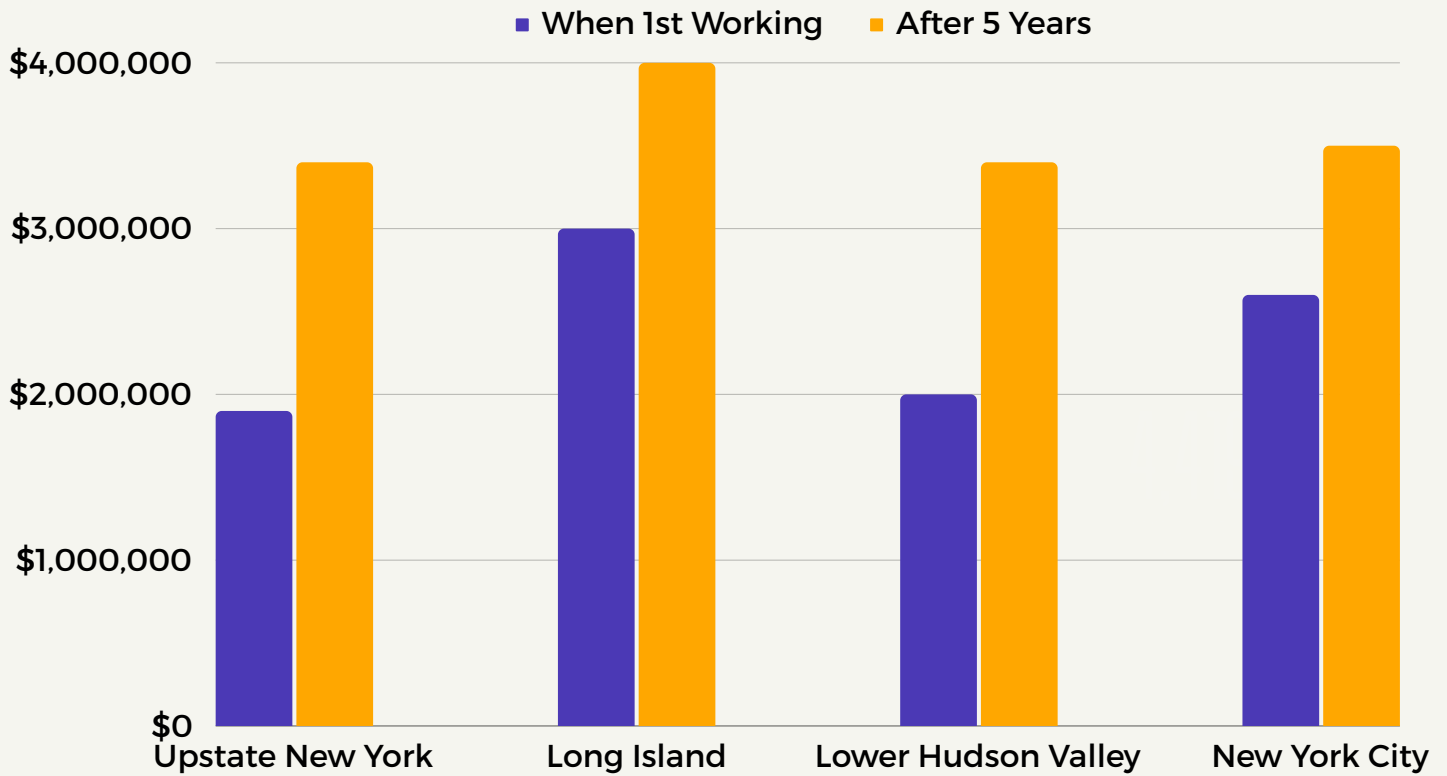
This bill prohibits police officers, peace officers, school resource officers, probation agencies, state entities, state employees, and municipal corporations from questioning individuals regarding their citizenship or immigration status.

EQUITABLE STREET VENDING

A.3575 / Gonzalez-Rojas

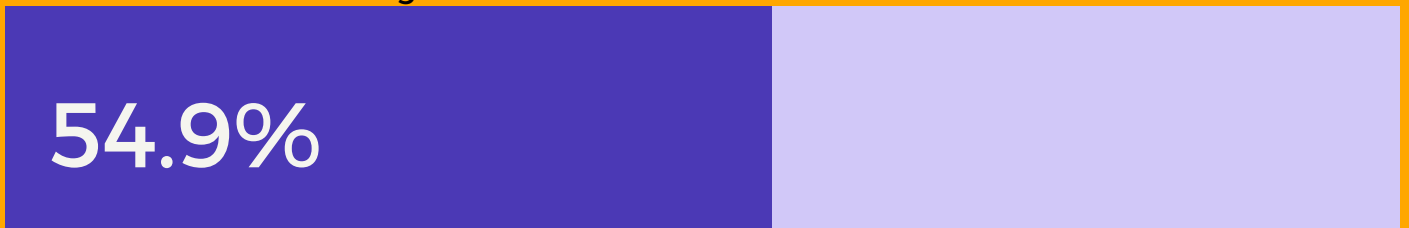
This bill will require New York City to create a fair and equitable street vending license program and make sure every street vendor is licensed. The city will be forbidden from restricting or capping the number of street vendor licenses.

IMMIGRANT TAX CONTRIBUTIONS GROWTH OVER TIME



IMMIGRANTS IN THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Health aides who are Foreign-Born



Nurses who are Foreign-Born



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Carl Heastie, Speaker of the Assembly,
 - Catalina Cruz, Previous Chair of the Task Force
 - The Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus
 - The Puerto Rican and Hispanic Task Force
 - The Office of New Americans & the New York Department of State
-
- New York Immigration Coalition
 - Make the Road NY
 - VERA Institute of Justice
 - Alliance for Quality Education
 - The Invest in Our New York Coalition
-
- Guillermo Martinez, Deputy Director & Intergovernmental Liaison at The Institute on Immigrant Integration Research & Policy
 - Cynthia Nayeli Carvajal, Director of Undocumented and Immigrant Student Programs at CUNY
 - Tsveta Dobрева, PhD Candidate and Instructor at SUNY Albany

WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
OF THE TASK FORCE

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