



Mayor's Office of  
Immigrant Affairs

## Immigration Raids – Information and Resources

*Updated 1/6/2016*

*This document is intended to provide information and referral information to New York City agency staff regarding the recent federal immigration raids that began in January 2016.*

### **The City's official statement**

The city is disturbed to hear reports of federal immigration raids, targeting families of adults and children from Central America. We are closely monitoring this developing situation.

The U.S. should be a place of refuge for families fleeing violence and persecution. We understand that many of these individuals may have experienced heinous acts of violence in their home countries, and they may not have had access to legal help to pursue humanitarian relief in the United States.

All New Yorkers should know that anyone who resides in our city, regardless of immigration status, has the right to access City services with a sense of security and peace of mind, including education, emergency food and shelter, legal services, and municipal ID.

Also, New York City together with the City Council has made significant investments in connecting recently arrived children and families with City services, including legal services.

### **What is happening?**

- In January 2016, the federal government began arresting some individuals and families who recently arrived in the United States from Central American countries and who have received a final order of deportation from an immigration judge.
- In many of these cases, individuals received a final order of deportation because they did not appear at their immigration court hearing or they did not have access to adequate legal help to pursue humanitarian relief in the U.S. Many of these individuals may have experienced acts of violence in their home countries and came to the U.S. to flee violence and persecution.
- As of January 5, 2016, 121 individuals have been arrested nationwide so far. These arrests mostly took place in Georgia, Texas, and North Carolina. **There have been no confirmed reports of immigration arrests of this kind in New York City.**

### **What is the City's involvement?**

- The City of New York is not involved in these immigration enforcement actions.
- We are closely monitoring the situation to ensure that all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, have the right to access city services with a sense of security and peace of mind.
- New York City's schools are open to all NYC children regardless of immigration status. The New York City Department of Education (and other city agencies) does not share information with immigration authorities about children and families who are enrolled in public schools.

## **What are the rights of immigrant families in New York City?**

- **Privacy**

City agencies are forbidden by Executive Order 41 to ask about immigration status unless it is necessary to determine eligibility for a benefit or service. If an individual does share his or her immigration status or other confidential information with City employees, City employees may not report this to anyone, except when it is necessary for the investigation of an illegal activity, other than mere status as an undocumented immigrant.

- **Language Access**

City agencies that provide direct social services are required by law to arrange for interpretation in individuals' primary languages.

- **City Services**

All New Yorkers have the right to access most City services, regardless of immigration status, including education, emergency food and shelter, legal services, and municipal ID.

## **Where can immigrant families go for help?**

- **Immigration Legal Help**

***New York State New Americans Hotline:*** Call **(800) 566-7636** for a referral to free confidential immigration legal help in over 200 languages.

***UnitedWeDream Hotline:*** Call **(844) 363-1423** to report information about an immigration raid.

- **Other services for recently arrived immigrant children**

This Resource and Referral Guide provides information on services available to recently arrived immigrant children and their families and caretakers. These services include education, child and family welfare, health, legal, and other services.

English version: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/imm/html/recently-arrived/recently-arrived.shtml>

Spanish version: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/imm/html/recently-arrived/guia.shtml>

- **IDNYC**

The IDNYC is a government-issued photo identification card that is available to all City residents age 14 and older. Immigration status does not matter. The IDNYC is accepted by the NYPD as proof of identification. Make an appointment at: <http://www1.nyc.gov/>

- **Know Your Rights**

If your agency is interested in hosting a Know Your Rights training or workshop, please contact the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs at **(212) 788-7654** or [MOIA@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:MOIA@cityhall.nyc.gov).