Community Guide to
HRA Public Benefits for Immigrants
Please be aware that the purpose of this guide is to provide the public with basic information about HRA programs. To determine eligibility for HRA's programs, please contact the programs through the numbers/websites in the guide.

For more information you may consult the following resources:

- **HRA’s Website**: www.nyc.gov/hra
- **HRA Infoline**: 718-557-1399
- **NYC 311**
- **ACCESS NYC**: www.nyc.gov/ACCESSNYC
  (Benefits screenings and applications – Available in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Haitian-Creole, and Korean)
  (NYC program information in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian)
- **New York State Immigration Hotline**: 212-419-3737
Ensures that the parent without custody (the non-custodial parent) pays to support his/her children. Services include locating the non-custodial parent, giving him/her a legal notice to appear in court, helping to establish paternity, child support and medical support orders in Family Court, and collection and enforcement of those orders. This poverty reduction program can help keep families financially independent and decrease the need for other assistance.

Eligibility Criteria
- No citizenship/immigration status requirements for eligibility.
- No income requirements for eligibility.
- For more information call 311, HRA Infoline at 718-557-1399 or the NYS Child Support Hotline at 1-888-208-4485 or go to: www.nyc.gov/hra and www.newyorkchildsupport.com

Many immigrants in New York City are able to use a wide range of services. The list below includes services that are available to New York City residents regardless of immigration status. Some of these services are provided by HRA; others are not. There may also be other services available to immigrants that are not in this brochure.

To find out more about the services below, call 311.

Safety and Well-Being
- Police and fire protection
- Poison control hotline
- Consumer fraud protection through the Department of Consumer Affairs
- Protection of the Commission on Human Rights against discrimination
- Department of Parks and Recreation services and facilities
- Public transportation

Health & Human Services
- Children under 19 are eligible for health insurance under the State’s Child Health Plus program
- Adults may be eligible for coverage for the treatment of emergency medical conditions under the Medicaid program
- Emergency medical care, including ambulance service
- Prenatal care for pregnant women through the Medicaid program
- Women who received Medicaid for prenatal care can receive free planning services after their pregnancy ends through the Family Planning Extension Program
- Health care is available at public hospitals (NYC’s Health and Hospital Corporation, or HHC) and federally-qualified community health centers
- Domestic violence support services
- Immunizations
- HIV testing and counseling
- Emergency shelter
- Food assistance services
- Child welfare and foster care services
- School breakfast and lunch programs
- Senior services and senior center programs of the Department for the Aging

Education
- Public school education
- Public library services and special events
**Domestic Violence Support Services**

Provides emergency shelter and support for victims of domestic violence and their children. All programs provide a safe environment as well as counseling, advocacy and referral services.

**Eligibility Criteria**

- No citizenship/immigration status requirements for eligibility.
- If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, such as physical violence, sexual violence, threats, verbal abuse, or stalking, please call NYC 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-621-HOPE or 311.

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**Adult Protective Services**

Arranges for services and support for physically and/or mentally impaired adults who are at risk of harm. Helps resolve the risks faced by eligible clients, and enables them to live independently and safely within their homes and communities.

**Eligibility Criteria**

- No citizenship/immigration status requirements to qualify for certain services.
- If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, such as physical violence, sexual violence, threats, verbal abuse, or stalking, please call NYC 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-621-HOPE or 311.

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**Frequently asked questions about HRA services available to immigrant clients**

**How can I apply for City services if I don’t speak English well?**

Free interpretation services are available at all City agencies, including HRA. Federal, state and local laws protect your right to get services even if you do not speak English well. Types of free language services: (1) Interpretation services over the phone are available at HRA sites in over 170 languages. (2) Bilingual staff may interpret where possible. (3) Face-to-face interpreters can be sent to clients who are unable to leave their home. (4) Translated documents: Many City documents are translated into six languages (Arabic, Chinese, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian and Spanish), as required by Local Law 73.

**Will HRA report my personal information to the immigration authorities?**

HRA will not report your personal information to anyone, except if required by law. NYC Executive Order 41 protects the confidentiality of anyone seeking City services. HRA staff will only ask for your immigration status if it is required to determine eligibility or if it is required by law.

**If I receive temporary cash assistance, will it affect my immigration case?**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) says that receiving cash assistance or SSI may or may not have a negative impact on your immigration case. It depends on your situation.

**If I receive food stamps, will it affect my immigration case?**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) says that receiving food stamps or other food assistance will not affect your immigration case.

**If I receive Medicaid, will it affect my immigration case?**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) says that receiving health care benefits, including Medicaid, will not affect your immigration case. USCIS says that receiving long-term care in a nursing home or another institution may or may not affect your immigration case; it depends on your situation.

**If you are undocumented, can you still apply for benefits for your citizen or non-citizen children who may be eligible?**

Yes.

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* HRA is not the Agency that decides if receiving benefits will affect your immigration case; USCIS decides this. HRA strongly recommends that non-citizens speak with a lawyer to understand how receiving public benefits may affect immigration cases.
A cash grant that includes money towards housing, energy costs, and other expenses. Adults under the age of 60, who do not have disabilities or other barriers to employment and who are receiving temporary cash assistance, must either be working or enrolled in HRA-approved work activities for 35 hours per week.

HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) clients receive ongoing case management as well as home and hospital visits; individualized service planning; link to cash assistance, Medicaid, food stamps and help applying for SSI/SSD benefits; emergency, transitional and non-emergency housing and rental assistance; home care and homemaking services; employment and vocational services; information and referrals to community-based agencies; counseling for clients and their families on daily living skills and available support systems; guardianship and permanency planning for families with children; and burial assistance.

Eligibility Criteria
- U.S. citizens or people with certain immigration statuses may be eligible.
- Must be eligible for Medicaid.
- Some programs also consider your available resources.
- Eligibility for Medicaid-funded home care is different depending on the program, and is based on doctor’s orders, and a medical and social assessment.
- Call 311 or HRA Infoline at 718-557-1399.
- For more information or for an application go to: www.nyc.gov/hra

HIV/AIDS Services

Temporary Cash Assistance
A cash grant that includes money towards housing, energy costs, and other expenses. Adults under the age of 60, who do not have disabilities or other barriers to employment and who are receiving temporary cash assistance, must either be working or enrolled in HRA-approved work activities for 35 hours per week.

Eligibility Criteria
- U.S. citizens or people with certain immigration statuses may be eligible.
- Eligibility is based partly on: your income, your resources, and the number of people living with you.
- In many cases, clients who receive temporary cash assistance must either be working or be enrolled in HRA-approved work activities, such as job training and education. Eligible families may also receive support services such as child care.
- To find a Job Center located near you: www.nyc.gov/hra
- Call 311 or HRA Infoline at 718-557-1399.

Food Stamps / Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Helps low- and moderate-income New Yorkers, including working families, the elderly, and the disabled buy healthy and nutritious food, even if they earn money, own a house, own a car, have a bank account or have private health insurance. Food Stamp recipients use an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to buy food.

Eligibility Criteria
- U.S. citizens or people with certain immigration statuses may be eligible.
- Eligibility and benefits are based partly on: your income, expenses, and the number of people living with you.
- Check your potential eligibility and apply online: www.nyc.gov/ACCESSNYC or www.mybenefits.ny.gov
- You can also mail in your food stamps application: Mail Application & Referral Unit (MARU), P.O. Box 24510, Brooklyn, NY 11201.
- For more information about Food Stamps, call 311 or 1-800-342-3009 (and press “1” for food stamps).
- Download an application online: www.nyc.gov/hra
More than 500 food pantries in NYC offer bags of food and soup kitchens offer prepared meals.

• No citizenship/immigration status requirements for eligibility.
• Food pantries may have their own requirements.
• To locate a food pantry or soup kitchen in your area, please call 311.

Prenatal Care for Pregnant Women through Medicaid.

Free health insurance for individuals of any age. Offers free pregnancy care and other health services to women and teens. Under Prenatal Care Services, pregnant women receive prenatal health services, such as lab tests, HIV tests, nutrition screenings, and other services related to their pregnancy and birth.

• No citizenship/immigration status requirements.
• Eligibility is based on income.

Helps people who receive Medicare (due to age or disability) by paying their monthly Medicare premiums, co-payments, and/or deductibles.

• No citizenship/immigration status requirements.
• Children under 19 years old.
• Depending on a family’s income, Child Health Plus is free for some families and others have to pay a small monthly premium. Families with higher incomes can also purchase health coverage for their children at the full premium level.

• U.S. citizens and people with certain immigration statuses may be eligible.
• Eligibility is based on income.

Medicaid. Free health insurance for individuals of any age.

Family Planning Benefit Program.

Free health insurance for males and females of childbearing age. Offers males and females free family planning services. FPBP covers screening for sexually-transmitted diseases, HIV and cervical cancer, related clinical exams and lab tests, provision of birth control methods, devices, and supplies related to reproductive health.

• U.S. citizens or people with certain immigration statuses may be eligible.
• Eligibility is based on income.

Medicare Savings Program (MSP)

Eligibility Criteria

• No citizenship/immigration status requirements.
• Applicants must be eligible to receive or be receiving Medicare.
• Eligibility is based on income.
• To find out how to apply, call 311 or HRA Infoline at 718-557-1399, or to check eligibility, go to www.nyc.gov/ACCESSNYC

Public Health Insurance Programs

Low-income individuals and families, pregnant women, children, persons over 65 and people with disabilities may be eligible, even if they earn money, own a house, own a car, have a bank account or have private health insurance. Persons and families receiving SSI are automatically eligible. Those receiving cash assistance also qualify.

Medicaid. Free health insurance for individuals of any age.

Family Health Plus (FHPlus). Free health insurance for people 19-64 years old who do not have health insurance and whose income is too high for Medicaid.

Child Health Plus. Free to low-cost insurance for children under age of 19.

Eligibility Criteria

• No citizenship/immigration status requirements for eligibility.
• Food pantries may have their own requirements.
• To locate a food pantry or soup kitchen in your area, please call 311.

To find out how to apply for public health insurance, call 311 or HRA Infoline at 718-557-1399, or to check potential eligibility, go to www.nyc.gov/ACCESSNYC