



CARE for Immigrant Families

The Campaign for Access, Representation, and Equity (CARE) for Immigrant Families is a coalition of more than 100 leading organizations, faith-based groups, and elected officials who came together to advocate for passing the Access to Representation Act (S141/A270), the Build Act (A2689/S4538), and allocating \$175 million in the FY27 NYS budget to meet urgent and long-term legal and social service needs of immigrant families in New York.

Results

New York State allocated **\$82.48 million** to the Office of New Americans (ONA) to support immigration legal and ancillary services. Here is a breakdown of the funding:

- **\$74.2M** to support ONA immigration legal services:
 - \$64.2M for immigration legal services/case management
 - \$10M for additional services for non-citizens related to legal services, English language education, job training, and job retention
- **\$7.8M** for legal and ancillary services for migrant individuals and families previously funded through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)
- **\$415,000** for services for immigrant and noncitizen veterans

Since the budget includes both new funding and reallocation of existing funds, the final budget includes a total of **\$10 million in new funding** for immigrant legal defense and support programs.

The Access to Representation Act and the BUILD Act did not get voted on this session.

Immigrant New Yorkers are facing unprecedented threats to their safety due to an aggressive federal deportation and detention agenda. Legal service providers across the state are working tirelessly, but the demand continues to far outpace available resources. This increased funding will be important in meeting a portion of that need, but it is not enough to ensure that immigrant New Yorkers will be able to access the legal services they need to keep their families together and remain in their communities. We will continue our advocacy to ensure that New York will eventually pass the BUILD Act and Access to Representation Act and deliver the fully funded legal services that immigrant families need.





New York for All

Our entire community is safer when all residents feel safe driving to work, taking their kids to school, and reporting crimes to law enforcement. We have been advocating for passage of the New York for All Act (Gounardes / Reyes), which would broadly prohibit state and local officers from enforcing federal immigration laws, funneling people into ICE custody, and sharing sensitive information with federal immigration authorities.

New York for All did not pass, but MANY important provisions did pass

Although New York for All did not pass, there was strong progress in legislation to protect immigrant New Yorkers. Here are some of the many new protections that were passed into law:

- **Banning 287(g) Agreements:** A ban on formal collusion between local law enforcement and ICE in the form of 287(g) agreements and a prohibition on maintaining, renewing, or entering into future agreements.
- **NYS Bivens Act:** An act that grants New Yorkers the right to sue a federal, state, or local government officer who violates the U.S. Constitution.
- **Mask Ban:** A ban on the use of face coverings by law enforcement unless needed for law enforcement duties, religion, or health and safety purposes and a requirement for visible identification.
- **Sensitive Locations:** This prohibits all civilian state, local, and school employees from permitting access to any non-public area of a state-owned or operated facility to immigration authorities without a judicial warrant. It also empowers privately owned or operated sensitive locations, including hospitals, daycares, schools, housing accommodations, and houses of worship, to restrict access to non-public areas to immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant.
- **Prohibitions Related to Detention Facilities:** State and local agencies are barred from paying or otherwise contributing to the costs related to constructing, owning, or operating an immigration detention facility. They are also prohibited from changing zoning to allow for the construction or use of buildings as immigration detention centers without meaningful public input.
- **Education Protections:** Codification in state law of the right to public education for all children, regardless of immigration status.
- **Prohibitions Related to Municipal Employees:** Non-law enforcement state and municipal employees are prohibited from sharing New Yorkers' personal information with ICE, inquiring or collecting information about someone's immigration status, or using state resources for immigration enforcement.
- **Office of Immigrant Trust:** This establishes a new compliance monitoring and enforcement unit called the Office of Immigrant Trust.



Updates on Other Priorities

- **The Language Access Expansion Act (LAEA)** would expand the existing state Language Access policy to enhance access to language services throughout our state. This is crucial for ensuring equitable access to essential services and vital emergency information for all New Yorkers. The LAEA passed in the Senate but not in the Assembly.
- We advocated for passage of **S2078/A7405**, a bill to shut down repeat wage theft offenders for good. This bill passed in the Senate but not the Assembly.

Neighbors Link will continue to advocate for the passage of both of these bills in the next legislative session.



Next Steps

New York State accomplished many historic steps forward this year that will have a tangible impact on the lives of immigrant New Yorkers. However, the legislation that was passed does not address informal collusion with ICE. Neighbors Link remains concerned that informal collusion will still result in immigrant New Yorkers being detained by ICE.

In Westchester County, we are fortunate to have proactive measures like the Immigrant Protection Act and local municipal resolutions that protect immigrant residents. We encourage individual municipalities throughout New York to pass their own local legislation to ban all forms of formal and informal collusion between police, local government, and federal immigration enforcement.

Neighbors Link will continue to provide regular advocacy updates, but we also encourage people to join in our work by signing up to [volunteer](#), making a [donation](#), and visiting our [Resources](#) page. Please email Katie Graves-Abe any advocacy questions at kgraves-abe@neighborslink.org. Thank you for support!