

12. Immigrant Services

1. I am an immigrant (legal or illegal), do I qualify for public benefits?
 - Depending on your legal status and other factors, you may be eligible for certain benefits such as SSI (Social Security Insurance), Food Stamps, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), health insurance (i.e. Medicaid, SCHIP, or Family Health Plus), School breakfast and lunch programs, or unemployment insurance. Contact your local income support center or community center to see if you qualify any or all of the above benefits. (See Section 6 - Public Housing for support center list.)
 - Anyone, regardless of status is eligible for the following benefits:
 - a. [PCAP: Prenatal Care for Pregnant Women and Infants](#) **(800) 522-5006** (*Assistance available in any language*)
 - b. [Domestic Violence Assistance](#) **(800) 621-4623** (*Assistance available in any language*)
 - c. [Child Abuse and Maltreatment Hotline](#) **(800) 342-3720** (*Assistance available in any language*)
 - d. [Emergency Housing Hotline](#) **(800) 994-6494** (*Assistance in English and Spanish*)
 - e. [Food Emergency](#) **(866) 888-8777** (*Assistance available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Haitian-Creole, and Russian*)
 - f. [AIDS Hotline](#) **(800) 825-5448** (*Assistance available in any language*)
 - g. Free or low cost health insurance. All children, if otherwise eligible, are entitled to Health Care. Many adults are eligible as well. Call [HealthStat](#) **(888) NYC-6116**
 - h. All children are also eligible for school breakfast and lunch programs
 - For additional information, call or visit the [NYC Office of Immigrant Affairs](#) **(212) 788-7654**
2. Can my child attend public school in New York City?
 - In New York City, any child aged 5-21 who had not received a high school diploma can attend a public school in the child's school district. This includes undocumented children. Any child who lives in NYC can attend public school. It does not matter when the child arrived in NYC. He or she can be enrolled in public school at any time during the school year. Schools do not ask questions about a child's or parent's immigration status.
3. How do I enroll my child in a public school?
 - To enroll your child in school, you must show proof of where you live and your child's record of immunizations. Please ask your local school, school district, or the NYC Department of Education for more information about getting your child in school.
4. What are the advantages of a United States citizenship?
 - Right to vote
 - Carry a U.S. Passport
 - Pass on citizenship automatically to your minor children
 - Obtain your family members' visas more rapidly
 - Qualify for certain government and military positions
 - Share the same eligibility for public benefits as natural-born U.S. citizens