

As the Commissioner of MOIA, I am delighted to serve immigrant New Yorkers and work with the remarkable institutions that assist them.

If New York City is the capital of the world, it's because of the energy and vision of generations of immigrants. Immigrants are 36 percent of New York's population and 43 percent of the labor force. They continue a long history of spurring growth, fueling our economy and building dynamic communities.

New York City has always been a magnet for immigrants in pursuit of better lives. But navigating a city as intricate as New York can be daunting to a newcomer, especially one who may not speak English.

At MOIA, we work to ensure that immigrants know how to access city services. We meet with civic, religious and business leaders to discuss the needs of immigrant communities. We guide city agencies to immigrant networks, distribute critical information and address issues of concern. We also engage and partner with public and private institutions for the benefit of immigrants.

Together, we strive for the same outcome -- to help immigrants succeed in New York City.

Guillermo Linares
Commissioner

Mission

Building on its Charter mandate, the Office of Immigrant Affairs promotes the full and active participation of immigrant New Yorkers in the civic, economic, and cultural life of the City.

MOIA at a Glance

These are some of the ways MOIA helps immigrants:

- We host and facilitate meetings with senior officials from city agencies to strengthen immigrant access to city services.
- **MOIA** initiated the City's annual Immigrant History Week to honor immigrant contributions.
- Our office participates in coalitions and task forces on immigration fraud, child welfare, family literacy and other issues.
- We've worked with immigrant communities to organize relief and recovery from natural disasters in their homelands.
- **MOIA** regularly disseminates information about Executive Order 41*, language access, the diversity lottery, immigration services and other relevant topics to media that specifically serve immigrant communities.

*Mayor Bloomberg issued Executive Order 41 to promote access to City services for all New Yorkers, including immigrants.

How We Can Help

If you're an immigrant to New York City, we can help you

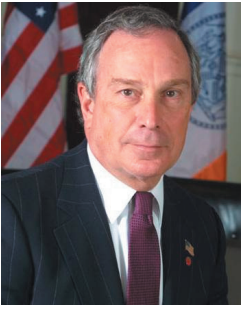
- identify which city services you can access;
- find a community-based organization that can address your needs and with a staff person who speaks your language;
- and get information about your pending applications from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly the INS).

If you're a community-based organization serving immigrants, we can help you

- find the appropriate City agency to assist you with referrals or resources;
- arrange a conversation with appropriate City officials to address a concern in your community or to help craft a strategy;
- and identify the languages spoken by staff at various City agencies.

If you're a New York City government agency, we can help you:

- discuss best policies and practices for reaching immigrant communities;
- identify community-based organizations serving particular immigrant communities in the City;
- and assist you in accessing translators and interpreters through, or with enrolling your staff in, the volunteer language bank.



New York is a City where more than 120 languages are spoken, and every major religion is practiced; it is a city where the cuisine of every nation is relished, and the artistic expression of every culture

displayed. We understand the universal dream of wanting a better life. New York City is a monument to that dream. We draw our energy and vitality from the millions of people born elsewhere, who come to New York to start a business, raise a family, seek an education, better their fortunes, make a new life for their families and themselves.

Reflecting the significance of the immigrant population to our City's economic, political and social life, in November 2001, voters adopted, by referendum, the Office of Immigrant Affairs into the New York City Charter. The Office ensures that immigrants have meaningful access to the City's services and its many agencies. The work of the Office of Immigrant Affairs is more challenging and critical than ever before. Nearly 40 percent of New Yorkers were born outside the United States, and nearly 50 percent speak a language other than English at home. I am personally committed to the full integration of this important segment of the City's population into all aspects of the City's civic, economic, and cultural life.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor



City of New York

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10038
<http://www.nyc.gov/immigrants>
Fax: (212) 788-9389

Please call **311**
for all City services and agencies.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

(MOIA)

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Guillermo Linares, Commissioner