



Coalition Speaks!

The latest from the New York Immigration Coalition

United for Justice and Opportunity



[Photo above] The NYIC was paid a visit by our new City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. The board and staff discussed how to work with the Speaker on issues pertaining to supporting immigrant communities in New York. *Left to Right:* SJ Jung, board president of MinKwon Center for Community Action; Seema Agnani, executive director of Chhaya CDC; Bakary Tandia, policy director of African Services Committee; Muzaffar Chishti of Migration Policy Institute at NYU School of Law; Pat Young of CARECEN; Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito; Steve Choi, executive director of NYIC; Vladimir Epstein of Russian-American Voters Educational League; Mae Lee, executive director of Chinese Progressive Association; Linda Sarsour, executive director of Arab American Association of NY; Angela Fernandez, executive director of Northern Manhattan Coalition of Immigrant Rights

Upcoming Events

- On February 13th at 2:30pm, we're teaming up with the Center for Community and Ethnic Media to host a panel discussion with top local and ethnic media journalists to ask, "How Community and

Welcome!

Welcome to our *new* newsletter covering the NYIC's latest efforts to support New York's immigrant communities. We are excited about this year, and this newsletter will help keep you up to date on all the latest as we advocate for immigrants at the local, state, and national levels in 2014! Read on for more details.

Education

Ethnic Media Report on Immigration?” For more information or to RSVP for the event, click [HERE](#).

- We have upcoming multi-consular ID events this upcoming February! From February 19th - 23rd, we'll be working with the Mexican consulate in East Harlem to issue passports and consular IDs to community members. Click [HERE](#) for information on these upcoming events.

NYIC Reports and Materials

- NYC released a special double edition annual report in December 2013. Check out two years worth of NYC's projects, programs, advocacy, and successes! Click [HERE](#).
- Read our latest education report: [Public Education and Dynamic Bilingualism for the 21st Century](#)
- Read our latest report on health and language access: [The Language of a Healthier Immigrant New York City](#)

NYIC in recent media:

- [Immigrant Advocates Continue to Push for DREAM Act | NY1](#)
- [Advocates Push to Give Undocumented Immigrants Driver's Licenses | New York Daily News](#)
- [Prioridad educativa para inmigrantes de NY | El Diario](#)
- [Obamacare Bars \[Undocumented\] Immigrants and Sticks Hospitals with the Bill | The](#)

Sounding the Call for English Language learners

- On December 6th, NYC's Education Advocacy team publicly released a policy brief to Governor Cuomo's New New York Education Reform Commission together with our partner, [Internationals Network for Public Schools](#), in advance of the Commission's final report. The policy brief addressed the omission of English language learner students from the Commission's interim report and outlined recommendations to improve their outcomes. Click [HERE](#) to access the report!
- The NYC published a joint op-ed, "[Prioridad Educativa Para Inmigrantes](#)" in El Diario/La Prensa with the Internationals Network for Public Schools to provide recommendations for the new Chancellor of New York City's Department of Education Carmen Farina. The op-ed stressed the importance of supporting New York City's immigrant youth and English Language Learners for the future of the city. Click [HERE](#) to read it!
- And on January 8th, the NYC held its monthly Education Collaborative meeting, where 15 community-based members and other allies crafted our "Top Ten" actions for the new administration to take to support English language learners and their families. Check out our website in the next few days for this document.



[Photo above] NYIC education collaborative has their monthly meeting.

Special Projects: Consular IDs

Key to the City: Unlocking Immigrant Community Potential

- Continuing the NYC's Consular ID initiative – an effort that brings together foreign consulates with community and legal organizations to provide critically-needed government ID documents to New York immigrants, we held another series of ID events on December 4th through the 8th, 2013 at [PS 24](#) in

Atlantic

Read more media articles featuring the NYC by visiting the news section on our website, [HERE](#).

NYIC is hiring!

- [Regional Coordinator - Long Island](#)
- [Health Advocacy Coordinator](#)

NYIC events - check out our [calendar!](#)

Other Announcements

- Volunteers Available for Service: Guttman Community College Students are exploring the topic of immigration in their 12-week City Seminar from March 3 to June 10. Faculty want to build some service-learning or advocacy opportunities into the curriculum that would benefit agencies and organizations whose work serves immigrant populations. Faculty are seeking to collaborate with community organizations; if your organization is interested in student support for advocacy, please contact Claire King at claire.king@guttman.cuny.edu, (646) 313-8055.
- Now accepting RFPs: Brooke Astor Fund for New York City Education 2014 Request for Proposals. Grants support new and established projects with the potential to generate systemic improvements and sustainable, widespread change in the way reading is taught and supported in the early grades in New York City's public schools and fund direct services for students, school and teacher development, and research.

Sunset Park with the Mexican Consulate. Along with our partners, we have to date served 17,000 people and provided consular IDs and foreign passports to more than 10,000 people. At the December event, the Mexican Consulate issued consular ID documents to nearly 400 community members, who can now use these documents to access critical city services and schools. Local community partners [Brooklyn Defender Services](#) and [Catholic Charities](#) provided legal assistance to hundreds of families, and NYC member [Center for Family Life](#) provided screenings and referrals for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). NYC's Zelene Pineda and Max Ahmed held College Readiness Workshops for 50 parents and youth and distributed 300 of our Parent Guides, "[Your Children Can Go to College: Yes They Can](#)".

- On January 25th and 26th, we teamed up with the Guatemalan Consulate to provide informational services to over 600 Guatemalans in Jamaica, Queens and Sunset Park, Brooklyn. We also provided DACA screenings to 25 individuals and distributed over 100 parent guides!



[Photo above] A New Yorker receives services and a new consular identity card at an NYIC-coordinated consular ID event.

Health

Immigrant Access to Health Care

- In November, the NYC's Health Advocacy Program completed a report providing recommendations for New York's hospitals to serve their immigrant community members. Titled "**The Language of a Healthier New York City: Current Trends and Best Practices for Providing Language Assistance Services in New York City Hospitals**," this comprehensive report was developed from extensive surveys with immigrant patients and interviews with hospital administrators. The report was presented to hospital administrators at a November 12th round table, where it was agreed that the NYC should convene a **NYC Language**

Assistance Coordinator Taskforce, to bring together hospital language access coordinators on a quarterly basis to discuss challenges and best practices for providing language services in a hospital setting.

- Our health team has been busy holding trainings and townhalls to educate New York communities about immigrant access to health and health reform! On December 10th, NYC's Health Advocacy Director Jackie Vimo gave **"Immigrant Access to Health"** trainings to more than 30 participants of the NYC's Training Advocacy Institute. The trainings covered critical issues such as immigrant access to financial assistance, language access, and immigrant eligibility for public health programs. And on February 6th, 2014, the NYC and Cabrini Immigrant Services hosted an **"Immigrants and Health Reform Town Hall"** leading a crowd of 75 people in a discussion on the eligibility of immigrants for public health programs in New York City and on the experiences of immigrants with the states current health reform.



[Photo above] Jackie Vimo, director of health advocacy at NYC, gives a training on immigrant access to health.

- In November 2013, the NYC's Health Advocacy Program announced the **launch of a program to monitor immigrant experiences with the "New York State of Health,"** New York's health exchange, in collaboration with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. This monitoring effort – the first of its kind - includes a survey of "Navigators" who are helping immigrants enroll in the New York State of Health, a survey of the customer assistance hotline language assistance, and focus groups with immigrant communities.
- During November and December, NYC staff worked with Collaborative members to conduct focus groups to assess dozens of immigrant community members experiences with the New York State of Health. **The immigrant focus groups took place in Long Island and throughout New York City** in Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic and were co-hosted by North Fork Spanish Apostolate Church, Ciudad Global, [South Asian Council for Social Services](#), [El Centro del Inmigrante](#).



[Photo above] 75 plus people attend the "Immigrants and Health Reform" Town hall on February 6th, 2014.

Special Projects: DACA Outreach

Bring Undocumented Immigrants into the Fold: NYC's DACA Outreach

- On January 24th, the NYC and the NYC [Department of Youth and Community Development](#) (DYCD) convened 44 participants representing 30 groups at [St. Nick's Alliance](#) in Brooklyn to discuss best practices, challenges, and innovative ideas on encouraging enrollment, and strengthening collaborations for the new "DACA" Initiative. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Initiative, supported by the city of New York, was created to conduct outreach, provide legal assistance, and expand adult education programming for young people who would qualify for DACA. The NYC is leading the citywide outreach component of this effort, coordinating 28 outreach providers that are working in collaboration with 70 adult ed and legal groups. **Our outreach providers will be reaching out to "hard-to-reach" young undocumented immigrants to enroll them in DACA.** Click [HERE](#) to check out the New York Times on our initiative.



[Photo above] Betsy Plum, DACA outreach coordinator at NYC at St.Nick's Alliance in Brooklyn discussing DACA outreach with outreach providers.

Immigration

Demanding Action on Immigration Reform

- On December 12th, 2013, the NYC-coordinated [New Yorkers for Real Immigration Reform](#) statewide campaign, **sent more than 40 people to Washington D.C.** to join actions to keep up the pressure for the passage of immigration reform. NYC's member groups – the Minkwon Center for Community Action, [Arab American Association of New York](#), [Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House](#), [Cabrin Immigrant Services](#), and CUNY Dreamers – delivered empty Christmas stockings and led sit-ins in at the offices of Representatives Richard Hanna, Michael Grimm, Christopher Gibson, and Dan Lapinski. NYC advocates were featured in this photo by the [New York Times](#) sitting in the office of Rep. Richard Hanna.



[Photo above] Manny Castro and Ariana Flores of NYC with New York community members sit in Rep. Richard Hanna's office in D.C., delivering empty Christmas stockings to signify empty promises on immigration reform.

Steering the Path to Drivers Licenses for All

- On January 7th, the NYC convened a major statewide meeting -- bringing together more than 50 organizations from across the state including Rockland County, Hudson Valley, Rochester, and Buffalo -- to develop a campaign strategy to restore drivers' licenses for all, including undocumented immigrants.



[Photo above] La Fuente community member, member of the NYC, holds sign calling for drivers licenses for all.

Republicans release their principles for reform; a momentary thaw in the partisan divide

- In response to the Republican Party's January 30th announcement of its principles on Immigration Reform, the NYC released [this](#) public statement calling for further action. NYC's Executive Director Steven Choi called for a real legislative bill

including a path to citizenship. We are keeping up the pressure! Stay tuned for actions on the city, state, and national level from our campaign, [New Yorkers for Real Immigration Reform!](#)



[Photo above] Members of New Yorkers for Real Immigration Reform respond to the GOP principles. [Left to Right] SJ Jung, president of MinKwon Center for Community Action; Anthony Perez of Faith in New York; Estela Vazquez, executive vice president of 1199SEIU; Tania Cordillo, Member of Make the Road NY; Bakary Tandia of African Services Committee; Max Ahmed, DREAM Fellow alumni at NYIC; Steven Choi, executive director of NYIC; Pat Young of CARACEN.

Moving State Dream Forward in 2014

- On January 13th, on the steps of the New York City Public Library, the New York State Dream Act Coalition (NYSDAC) called on Governor Andrew Cuomo and the state legislature to take action and include the New York State (NYS) Dream Act in the 2014 budget. Moderated by the NYC's Executive Director Steven Choi, the event was attended by nearly 50 DREAMers and supporters. Click [HERE](#) to see coverage on NY1.



[Photo above] NYC executive director Steven Choi moderates a press conference on the steps of the NY Public Library. New York DREAMers hold signs urging New York State legislators to pass the NYS DREAM Act this year.

Training

Expanding Legal capacity statewide

- From January 27th to January 31st, 2013, the NYC held its **week-long Board of Immigration Appeals Accreditation & Recognition training** for 50 staff members from diverse community-based and social service agencies. This training enables agencies and designated staff to apply for recognition and accreditation by the BIA to provide crucial immigration legal services, including DACA applications, green card renewals and naturalization applications. In addition, the NYC offers immigration law trainings that provide Continuing Legal Education credits for attorneys. In 2013, the NYC's Training Institute served over 2,000 persons.



[Photo above] BIA training attendees visited the Oath of Citizenship at a ceremony in downtown Manhattan on January 31, 2014.

New trainings from NYC's Training Institute!

- The NYC training institute is excited to be expanding the types of trainings we conduct, including trainings on non-profit management, advocacy, social media, and other issues affecting immigrant communities throughout the state. To find out information about the NYC's Training Institute – including a schedule of upcoming trainings - click [HERE](#).



Civic Engagement

Immigrants Vote! and expanding voting rights in NYC

- February 3rd marked the launch of the new NYC-led Civic Engagement collaborative, where 23 groups came together to coordinate around issues of civic participation in advocacy in New York. The collaborative will have monthly meetings and be the main vehicle for the Immigrants Vote Campaign in 2014.
- NYC's Civic Engagement team is supporting the Municipal Voting Rights campaign through the [New York Coalition to Expand Voting Rights](#). The campaign is pushing legislation in the City Council to expand voting rights to legal residents of New York City who have resided here for six months or longer. The legislation has been introduced by Councilman Daniel Dromm for the past three years and has the support of thirty New York City council members.



[Photo above] An immigrant New Yorker advocates for expanding voting rights.

Other Announcements:

- NYC executive director Steven Choi is one of six honorees at NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's Lunar New Year celebration on Thursday, February 13th in Flushing, Queens. For more information, click [HERE](#).
- The NYC's DACA work was featured in a Philanthropy New York's "Smart Assets" blog. Read our executive director, Steven Choi's blog post: [Ripple Effects: How can we continue DACA's positive impact?](#)
- For the past year, the NYC has been disseminating a guide for immigrant parents to help their children navigate the complex college process. The guide, *Your Children Can Go to College. Yes They Can!*, which is currently available in English, Chinese and Spanish, is now being translated into Bengali, Arabic, and Haitian

Creole. The newly translated guides will be available later in February and will be distributed by the NYC and our member groups! For a copy of the guide, [contact us](#), or access the existing guides [HERE](#).



[Photo above] NYC's parent guides are currently available in English, Chinese, and Spanish!

The New York Immigration Coalition is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for nearly 200 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. The NYC aims to achieve a fairer and more just society that values the contributions of immigrants and extends opportunity to all by promoting immigrants' full civic participation, fostering their leadership, and providing a unified voice and a vehicle for collective action for New York's diverse immigrant communities.

Support the NYIC! Click [here](#) to make to a donation.

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