

INFORMATION GUIDE

RUSA LGBTQ+

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rusalgbtq.org



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GOAL



This guide, created for Russian-speaking Eurasian LGBTQ+ immigrants, including those seeking asylum in the USA, is designed to provide quick access to various contemporary resources. These resources assist in adapting to life in the USA, finding employment, accessing social and legal support, improving English language proficiency, and exploring various other opportunities. The RUSA LGBTQ+ team will regularly update the guide to maintain the relevance of its information.

To quickly find the information you need, use the "Document Structure" section in the left panel or use the search function: press Ctrl + F (on Windows) or Command + F (on Mac), then enter keywords.

[Clickable links in the text are highlighted in this color.](#)

Feel free to contact us with any questions or issues, as well as suggestions and feedback regarding this guide.

GETTING ID DOCUMENTS IN NEW YORK



IDNYC

The IDNYC card is an official identification issued as part of the IDNYC program in the city of New York (not the state!). This card provides residents with access to various city services, cultural institutions, and programs, and can also serve as an identification document in some situations.

The IDNYC card also entitles holders to various discounts and privileges at city establishments. It is available to all New York City residents, including non-residents and individuals without legal status.

To obtain a New York City identification, you need to provide proof of identity and residency in the city of New York. The number of documents required varies depending on what documents you have, but typically, a foreign passport or driver's license with a photograph is the best form of identification. Use the interactive tool below to determine which documents you will need based on your circumstances.

IDNYC Card Application

The form/template for obtaining an IDNYC card is posted in the section about the IDNYC program on the official website of the City of New York. This section contains information about the program itself, the conditions for obtaining the IDNYC card, a list of benefits and discounts available to its

holders, as well as instructions for submitting an application, and the location of the nearest distribution points.

IDNYC Card Application



Learner Permit

To obtain a learner permit in New York, you must be at least 16 years old. You will need to present proof of identity and proof of residency in the state. The list of acceptable documents can be found on the New York State DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) website.

Learner Permit

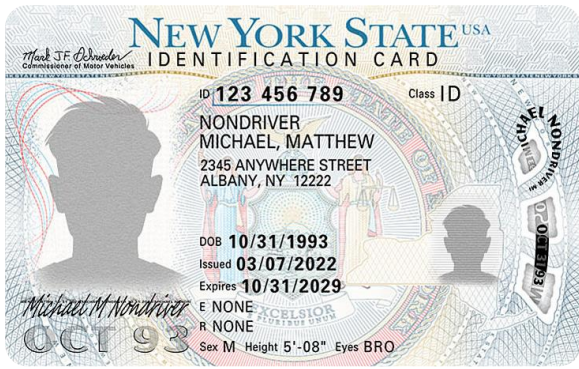


Complete the application for a learner permit (form MV-44). You can fill out the form online, print it, and bring it with you, or fill it out at the DMV office.

The fee may vary depending on your age and the duration of the permit.

Form MV-44





NDID (Non-Driver ID Card)

To obtain a Standard Non-Driver ID Card in the state of New York, you will need to present a document that verifies your identity and proof of residency in the state. The number of documents required depends on what other documents you have, but in most cases, a foreign passport or driver's license with a photograph will suffice as proof of identity.

Use the interactive tool below to determine what documents you will need based on your circumstances. The cost of a non-driver identification card in New York State ranges from \$6.50 to \$13. You can request the Standard Non-Driver ID Card or the REAL ID Non-Driver ID Card (a type of identification card that complies with REAL ID Act standards—requires additional documents), or the Enhanced Non-Driver ID Card (an identification card that has additional features and security standards).

Obtaining a non-driver identification card
in the state of New York



LEARNING AND PRACTICING ENGLISH

Online Resources (Websites, Applications)



[NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

The New York Public Library website offers a list of various free internet resources for learning and practicing the English language. NYPL Website.



[DUOLINGO](#)

One of the world's most popular interactive platforms for learning the English language. Game-based lessons, adaptive exercises, and plenty of resources are available for effective and engaging language learning.



[KHAN ACADEMY](#)

The English grammar course from the educational organization "[Khan Academy](#)" is available on their [YouTube channel](#), which includes 118 video lessons. Additionally, the course is accessible on their website, offering additional features such as progress tracking, practical exercises, and educational tools. The course materials are also available through mobile apps.



ENGLISH UNLIMITED ADVANCED **COURSEBOOK**

The "English Unlimited" coursebook for advanced-level learners is based on real-life situations. It prepares students for independent use of the English language in international communication. Complex, contemporary topics and exercises, along with a focus on intercultural competence, make this international textbook indispensable for students with an advanced level of English who wish to become more confident communicators..



PurlandTraining.com

A free web resource for learning English, owned and operated by Matt Purland, an experienced English teacher and trainer from Cambridge, UK.



ENGLISHBANANA.COM

The "English Banana" website offers over 4000 pages of free printable materials for learning English as a second language (ESL), as well as free English language textbooks, podcasts, and many other free resources.



OXFORD PRACTICE GRAMMAR **STUDENT'S SITE**

An online resource for learning English grammar, provided by Oxford University Press, is designed for students at all levels of difficulty. Students can improve their skills by completing interactive tasks, tests, and study modules in a convenient online format. The course includes three levels of learning: basic, intermediate, and advanced.



ESL Directory on the HITE Website

The HITE website is an online directory of resources providing access to free and low-cost medical and social services for New York City residents, including low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals and families. The directory also includes information on free ESL courses.

In-person English as Second Language Courses (ESL)



RIVERSIDE Immigrant Services & Empowerment

The Riverside Immigrant Support Center offers English language courses for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The program includes developing professional skills, digital literacy training, personalized professional integration planning with mentorship support, and access to social services.



The English-Speaking Union of the United States (ESU USA) - Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC)

The English-Speaking Union in the USA - The Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center (ARNIC) is a free program for newly arrived immigrants, offering classes from intermediate to advanced levels to improve English language skills, cultural understanding, networking, and professional development. ARNIC supports members on their path to full integration into American society as they build a new life in America.



International Center Catholic Charities Community Services

The International Center for Catholic Charities Community Services offers two free English language courses: an intensive course and an open enrollment course. The intensive course is for beginners and intermediate levels, with structured instruction available to students living in New York City or nearby areas. Registration is required. The open enrollment course is for intermediate and advanced levels. Here, students can practice conversational English on real-life topics without prior registration, joining as needed.



Free ESL New York

Free English as a Second Language (ESL) courses for individuals for whom English is not their native language. Courses are open to all individuals aged 18 and over currently residing in Manhattan and Brooklyn neighborhoods in New York City.

SOCIAL SUPPORT

SHELTERS

MOIA - Mayor's office of immigrants affairs

Dating and communication: The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) provides support to newly arrived individuals and families seeking asylum.

The 24/7 Arrival Center for asylum seekers is located at:



The Roosevelt Hotel
45 E 45th St, New York, NY 10017



Informational assistance and services include:

- Medical services and referrals
- Enrollment in schools
- Consultations on mental health
- Assistance with obtaining medical insurance



Resources for asylum seekers can be found on the main website of New York City, NYC.GOV



Informational brochure from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA)



PATH (Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing)

The reception center of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) for prevention assistance and temporary housing (PATH) provides prevention assistance and temporary housing to families with children.



151 East 151st Street, Bronx, New York (open 24/7)



Applying for temporary housing assistance - DHS



AFIC (Adult Family Intake Center)

The Adult Family Intake Center (AFIC) provides prevention assistance and temporary housing to families with children over 21 years old.



400-430 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016 (open 24/7)



Applying for temporary housing assistance - DHS



Free food



[FOOD BANK for New York City](#)

The Food Bank for NYC's food pantry database provides assistance in finding the nearest soup kitchen for the homeless/low-income individuals, food bank, or senior assistance center. Additionally, the website offers registration for the SNAP program (see below) and access to free tax assistance.



[Plentiful](#)

Use the Plentiful mobile app on your phone or computer to find food pantries and receive the food you need without waiting in line.

Financial Assistance



[CCAP - Child Care Assistance Program](#)

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provides assistance to low-income families to help them afford childcare, enabling them to become self-sufficient.

Through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), parents/guardians can receive subsidies to help them pay for some or all of the cost of childcare services.



HRA - Human Resources Administration

The Human Resources Administration (HRA) is a New York City agency that provides various social services and support programs for residents of the city. This includes assistance in obtaining Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing and cash assistance, as well as training and employment programs. Individuals in need of social support can visit HRA offices for assistance and enrollment in relevant programs.

HRA also manages an online portal where individuals can apply for benefits and track the status of their cases. [HRA Online Portal](#).



SSA- Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration (SSA) program provides financial protection to U.S. residents, supporting them at all stages of life. The program administers retirement benefits, disability benefits, survivor benefits, and family benefits, as well as enrolls individuals in Medicare. Additionally, the program provides Social Security numbers (SSN), which are unique identifiers necessary for employment, financial transactions, and determining eligibility for certain government services.



HITE

This website serves as an online resource directory that enables New York residents (low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals and families) to access free and low-cost medical and social services. Use the link below to explore their helpful resources::

- Financial assistance
- Food assistance
- Healthcare and medicine
- Housing and homeless services
- Immigrant support
- Mental health and substance use
- Social support and services
- Youth and family services

Public Transportation



Fair Fares NYC

New York City residents with low incomes participating in the Fair Fares NYC program can receive a 50% discount on subway and bus fares. Options available include pay-per-ride, weekly unlimited, and monthly unlimited. The Fair Fares program can also provide a 50% discount on MTA Access-A-Ride paratransit trips. Fair Fares NYC.



Reduced Fares

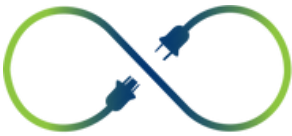
The Reduced-Fare MetroCard is available for passengers aged 65 and over or passengers with disabilities. The Reduced-Fare MetroCard includes subsidized fares for subway, buses, or other forms of public transportation. Reduced-Fare MetroCard.

Communication



Lifeline Telephone Service

The New York State Lifeline program, provided by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), offers subsidized telephone services for low-income individuals, allowing them to stay connected with family, doctors, employers, and emergency services. This program provides a discount on the monthly phone bill or subsidizes the installation of a phone line.



Connect All

The Connect All program makes information and communication technologies accessible to underserved communities worldwide. It provides high-quality refurbished computers to non-profit and non-governmental organizations, as well as low-income individuals.



PCs for People

PCs for People is a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable, quality computers and internet access to low-income households, families, and non-profit organizations.

RENTAL HOUSING AND TENANT RIGHTS

NYC Housing Connect



Through the lottery program "NYC Housing Connect," you can search for and apply for available rental and homeownership options. To participate, your family must meet requirements regarding the number of occupants, total income, and size of the unit in the available residential complex.

Illegal Lockouts



All tenants have the legal right to remain in their homes unless they are evicted by a New York City marshal after going through the housing court process. You have the right to stay in your home unless you receive an eviction order signed by a judge and delivered by a marshal or sheriff. Otherwise, pressuring you or forcing you to leave your home is prohibited.

RTC - Right to Counsel



Under New York City's Right to Counsel law, legal services are free and available in every borough regardless of immigration status. The Office of Civil Justice (OCJ) within the Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration (DSS/HRA) provides tenants facing eviction in housing court or administrative hearings with access to free legal representation or consultations offered by nonprofit legal services organizations in all five boroughs of New York City

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS



The Coalition for the Homeless website gathers numerous informational and referral resources on temporary shelter, permanent housing, eviction prevention, disability rights, domestic violence, food assistance, and more.

Housing Options



The "Housing Options" section on the official New York City website provides information about various housing support programs, tips for housing search, eviction prevention, and support for the homeless.

Eviction Prevention and Homebase



If you're facing the risk of homelessness, it's important to know that on the "Eviction Prevention and Homebase" information and resource portal on the official New York City website in the NYC311 section, you have access to resources and programs that can help you get support and avoid homelessness. The shelter system for the homeless, managed by the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), provides temporary shelter in emergency situations. It's important to note that you have the right to access these services regardless of your immigration status. For more information about homeless intake centers, eviction prevention, and the HomeBase program, contact a consultant at 311. They can provide you with the address of your local HomeBase office. HomeBase is a program designed to assist people at risk of homelessness. If you believe you may face homelessness, HomeBase consultants will help you find alternative options other than shelter for the homeless.

BRONXWORKS



The "BronxWorks" program helps residents of the Bronx in New York City access housing, employment, healthcare, and other social services. It provides assistance with housing search, employment, education, medical services, and support for families and children. The "BronxWorks" program also assists in eviction prevention, helping residents of the Bronx in New York City to maintain their housing by providing information on tenants' legal rights and support in dealing with landlords and courts.

Rental Assistance from HRA



The Department of Social Services (DSS), which includes both the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA), can help you connect to rental assistance programs such as CityFHEPS and many other programs provided by state and federal governments.

NYHousingSearch.gov



NYHousingSearch.gov is the official website of the state of New York designed to help residents and people looking for housing in finding affordable housing. On this site, you can find various housing options, including rentals and sales, as well as information on housing programs and subsidies. The site also provides resources for landlords and social services related to housing issues.

Tenant Protection Cabinet



The "Tenant Protection Cabinet" program is a state government initiative in New York aimed at safeguarding tenant rights and preventing housing issues. The "Cabinet" was created to provide support to tenants facing problems related to housing, such as illegal evictions, inadequate maintenance, and unlawful rent increases. It offers tenants information about their rights, legal assistance, and support in resolving housing disputes.

LEGAL SERVICES NYC HRA FOR LANDLORDS



The "Legal Services for Tenants" section on the official website of New York City provides tenants with a wide range of legal support and consultations on housing issues. Here, you can find information about your rights as a tenant, the process of resolving housing disputes, and available legal resources. Specialized attorneys and organizations are ready to assist in resolving conflicts with landlords, provide consultations on the legality of evictions, and help prepare documents and represent tenants' interests in court. This section aims to provide tenants with the necessary protection and assistance in addressing housing problems.

HEALTH & MEDICINE



If you have a medical emergency and need immediate assistance, please call 911.

Health Insurance Network

[Documentation Guide to Immigrant Eligibility for Health Coverage in NYS](#)

Documentation Guide to “Immigrant Eligibility for Health Coverage in NYS” is a guide to the necessary documents for obtaining health insurance. It helps immigrants determine their eligibility for participation in Medicaid, Family Health Plus, and other state healthcare programs.

MEDICAID health insurance program

Medicaid is a state-sponsored health insurance program for low-income individuals. Under Medicaid, you have to choose a plan administered by various companies, such as Fidelis, Metroplus, UHC, and others. You can visit the nearest state hospital, where representatives of these companies will assist you with registration. Most asylum seekers and all low-income asylees and immigrants qualify for NYS Medicaid.

You can also apply for Medicaid online on the "[New York State of Health](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov)" [website \(nystateofhealth.ny.gov\)](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov). Assistance in finding Russian-speaking brokers and assistants is available by postal code in the "[Find Brokers](#)" section on the same website.

Physical and mental health

Health Insurance Network

To find a service provider, including providers of psychotherapy and psychiatric services, within your health insurance plan's network, contact your insurance company at the phone number provided on the back of your insurance card. If needed, you can request a provider who speaks Russian.

Zocdoc

With the Zocdoc website, you can easily find healthcare providers near you, including therapists and psychiatrists covered by your insurance plan. You can schedule appointments, whether in-person or virtual, directly on the website to receive medical or dental care.

NYC CARE (not medical insurance)

NYC Care is a program providing access to medical care, offering affordable and free services to New York City residents who are ineligible for or unable to afford health insurance, regardless of immigration status. All NYC Care services are provided through the system of [public state hospitals and medical centers in New York City](#) known as NYC Health + Hospitals.

With NYC Care, you can obtain a unique membership card to access medical services, choose your doctor, and purchase available medications.

HIV/AIDS Services from HASA (HRA)

HASA stands for "HIV/AIDS Services Administration" in New York City. This agency, a division of the Human Resources Administration (HRA), provides a wide range of services and support to people living with HIV/AIDS in New York City. HASA programs and services include medical care, housing, food assistance, employment support, and other forms of assistance to ensure a high quality of life for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The main contact number for reaching HASA is 718-557-1399.



The office is located at
400 Eighth Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10001



Cancer treatment

The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) and the Perlmutter Cancer Center (PCC), located within NYU Langone Health, offer cancer treatment programs for individuals who are uninsured or unable to afford treatment. When reaching out to them, it's important to inquire about financial assistance options and complete the necessary paperwork before your visit to ensure access to treatment.

On the official websites of both centers, you'll find information about available programs, eligibility requirements, the application process for financial assistance, and contact details for further information or consultations



**Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center**



**Perlmutter
Cancer Center**



Psychology today

The website "Psychology Today" allows you to search for providers of psychotherapy and psychiatric services in your area, and filter search results based on your health insurance plan, type of treatment, language preferences, and more.

Emergency assistance

Emergency MEDICAID Program

The Emergency Medicaid Program can provide support in case of urgent health issues. Most doctors can assist you in such situations. You can also visit the emergency room of the nearest public hospital. To ensure that the chosen place for assistance is a public institution rather than a private clinic, check the list of New York's public hospitals and clinics on the website.

1-800-LifeNet

1-800-LifeNet is a service assisting in crisis situations and providing mental health support. By calling this number, you can receive consultations from experienced specialists and referrals to appropriate resources, such as crisis center services or therapeutic support. The 1-800-LifeNet service ensures anonymity and accessibility 24/7, providing help in difficult times and support in maintaining mental health.

To contact the 1-800-LifeNet service, simply dial 1-800-543-3638. This is a toll-free number and is available 24/7, 7 days a week.

Чтобы связаться с службой 1-800-LifeNet, просто наберите бесплатный номер 1-800-543-3638. (круглосуточно, 7 дней в неделю).

NYC 988

The NYC 988 service is your opportunity to receive free, confidential mental health assistance. Speak with a consultant via phone, text message, or chat and access mental health and substance abuse treatment services in over 200 languages, 24/7, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. At any time, on any day, in nearly any language, from your phone, tablet, or computer, the NYC 988 number is where you can get the help you need. To receive crisis counseling, text or call 988 and speak with us.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to individuals in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States.

CALL 988

EDUCATION



Adult Education Centers

Brooklyn Adult Learning Center

The Brooklyn Adult Learning Center (BALC) offers free education to adults aged 21 and older. The center provides a wide range of courses, including English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, exam preparation for certificates and licenses, professional courses, skills enhancement courses, and secondary education programs. Special emphasis is placed on High School Equivalency (HSE) programs, which enable adult students to obtain a high school diploma. This opens up opportunities for career advancement, college enrollment, or obtaining vocational skills.

Long Beach Adult Learning Center

Long Beach Adult Learning Center (LBALC) is an educational institution specializing in free/affordable educational programs for adults. The center offers a variety of courses and learning opportunities designed for those looking to supplement their education, enhance professional skills, or explore new areas of knowledge. Programs include English language courses for non-English speakers, GED test preparation courses, professional training, and skills enhancement programs.

Nassau BOCES Adult Education

Nassau BOCES Adult Education Center (Nassau BOCES Adult Education) is an educational center offering a variety of free/affordable educational programs and courses for adults. The Nassau BOCES Center is designed for those looking to supplement their education, enhance their professional skills, or explore new areas of knowledge. Programs include English language courses for non-English speakers, GED test preparation programs, professional courses, and skills enhancement programs.

The Lehman College Adult Learning Center (ALC)

Adult Learning Center (ALC) of Lehman College is an educational institution specializing in providing free/affordable educational programs and courses for adults. The center offers a wide range of educational programs, including English language courses for non-native speakers, GED test preparation programs, professional courses, and skills enhancement programs.

Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center

Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center (BEOC) is an educational center providing extensive learning and development opportunities for residents of Brooklyn and surrounding areas. The center offers a variety of free/affordable adult education and professional training programs, including English language courses, GED and TASC test preparation programs for high school equivalency diplomas, as well as professional training and certification programs in various industries.

SUNY-MANHATTAN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER

The SUNY Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) is an educational center providing extensive educational opportunities for residents of Manhattan and surrounding areas. The center offers a variety of free/affordable educational programs and professional courses for adults, including GED and TASC test preparation programs for high school equivalency diplomas, English language courses for non-English speakers, as well as professional training and certification programs in various fields.

SUNY-QUEENS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER

The State University of New York's Queens Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is an educational center providing learning opportunities for residents of the Queens area and surrounding neighborhoods. The center offers a variety of free/affordable educational programs and courses for adults, including GED and TASC test preparation programs for high school equivalency diplomas, English language courses for non-native speakers, as well as professional courses and skills enhancement programs.

IMMIGRANT EDUCATION AND PREPARATION CENTER

The Center for Immigrant Education and Training (CIET) at LaGuardia Community College is an educational and training center for immigrants located at LaGuardia Community College. CIET provides a wide range of free/affordable educational programs and services for immigrants, including English language courses, citizenship test preparation, professional training, and retraining programs.

Schools for children

P.S. 384 - Hunters Point Elementary

P.S. 384 - Hunters Point Elementary School offers educational programs for elementary school students.

[Link to Hunters Point Elementary School on The NYC Public Schools website](#)

The NYC Public Schools

The New York City Public School system is the largest educational network in the United States, serving children and teenagers from ages 3 to 21. This system includes thousands of schools providing educational services in the five boroughs of New York: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island. NYC Public Schools provides free education for all children, including pre-school education, elementary school, middle school, and high school. Schools offer a variety of educational programs, including specialized school programs, gifted programs, programs for children with special educational needs, and much more.

GED® Test

Since January 2022, the state of New York has selected the General Educational Development (GED®) Test as the primary pathway to earning a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma in New York state, replacing the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™ Test). This means that students seeking to obtain a high school equivalency diploma in New York will now take the GED® Test instead of the TASC™ Test. This transition came into effect in January 2022. The GED® Test is one of the nationally recognized exams accepted in many states, including New York, and provides students with the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency diploma, which is recognized as equivalent to a traditional high school diploma.

Scholarships and grants for education



[FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that students complete to request financial assistance from the U.S. government to pay for higher education. Filling out the FAFSA is the first step in receiving federal student loans, grants, and scholarships, as well as determining the cost of attendance and available financial aid options. Asylum seekers in the United States, like other students, have the right to apply for federal student financial aid (FAFSA) if they meet certain criteria. The qualification for FAFSA is typically related to the applicant's legal status and their access to certain types of income and support. In this context, eligibility for FAFSA for asylum seekers can be a complex issue, as they may have nuances in their status that affect their eligibility for federal student financial aid. For accurate information and consultation on this matter, it is recommended to contact an educational institution or an organization specializing in supporting asylum seekers.



[LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS from Immigrants Rising](#)

The list of scholarships and grants from Immigrants Rising is a resource provided for young immigrants in the United States. Here, you will find various scholarships, grants, and financial aid opportunities available to immigrants and undocumented immigrants to help them pursue higher education or develop professional skills. Funding programs may vary in type, requirements, and selection criteria, including educational level, area of

interest, and immigration status. The list is regularly updated and edited to provide current information and assist young immigrants in finding financial support for their education and professional growth.

ProFellow ProFellow

ProFellow is an online resource that provides information and tools for those interested in searching for and obtaining grants, scholarships, and other forms of financial support for their education, research, or professional development. This resource offers a database containing over 2000 fellowships and grants, including various financial aid programs from around the world, such as academic scholarships, research grants, internships, and more.

fastweb Fastweb

Fastweb is an online platform for students that provides information about scholarships, grants, and other sources of financial aid. Users create a profile, specifying their interests and educational achievements, to receive personalized recommendations about available financial opportunities. The site also offers information about application deadlines and selection criteria for each scholarship or grant. This resource is useful for students seeking financial support to pay for their education in line with their educational goals.

For immigrants to meet the requirements of employers and educational institutions in the United States, it is often necessary to translate and evaluate their educational documents. Government employers and educational institutions require this to verify education. It is important to check approved evaluation agencies on the employer's or university's website, as requirements may vary. The Foreign Education Evaluation Guide from NYC DCAS, provided by the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services, may be helpful. This document assists in evaluating foreign education by providing information on procedures and criteria for evaluating foreign diplomas and other educational documents, as well as steps to take after receiving evaluation results.

EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

I-765 Application for Employment Authorization (Work Permit)



Typically, individuals applying for asylum (Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal) can usually apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), also known as a Work Permit, after 150 days from the date their asylum application was received for processing. This period is referred to as

the "conditional waiting period." After this period, asylum seekers are eligible to work in the United States if they have obtained an EAD issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Applying for an EAD allows individuals awaiting asylum status to legally work in the United States and support themselves and their families. Below are online resources that contain requirements, recommendations, and tips for completing and filing an EAD application, as well as frequently asked questions that may arise during the process.

The "I-765, Application for Employment Authorization" on the USCIS website



"Work Permits" section on the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project website



The latest version of Form I-765, as of April 15, 2024, available on the USCIS website



Before completing, it is advisable to verify the current version of the form on the USCIS website under the I-765, Application for Employment Authorization section, within the Forms and Document Downloads subsection

Professional training



[BWI - Brooklyn Workforce Innovations](#)

The organization "Brooklyn Workforce Innovations" (BWI) assists low-income residents of New York City in finding employment opportunities with a living wage and access to career advancement. BWI has developed training programs, including free ones, aimed at emerging local industries. BWI students are trained only in professions that lead to employment with a living wage. BWI instructors are qualified and experienced in the industries they teach.

BWI maintains long standing relationships with a wide network of businesses that hire our graduates.

Please visit BWI's free informational online seminars: [Calendar of informational online seminars BWI](#)



TENT

Tent is a network that brings together over 350 major organizations aiming to assist LGBTQ+ refugees in the United States with employment opportunities. It provides professional mentoring for LGBTQ+ refugees in the U.S., where mentees receive free individual professional guidance from a mentor from a large company (such as Chobani, Pfizer, and Under Armour). The goal of this program is to help mentees better navigate the U.S. job market and advance in their careers. There is no fee for participation in this mentoring program, and all LGBTQ+ migrants who have involuntarily left their country and are aged 18 and older in the U.S. are eligible to participate, including asylum seekers, those granted asylum, conditionally released on humanitarian grounds (individuals temporarily allowed entry to the U.S. for reasons such as medical necessity or extraordinary circumstances but without direct

refugee status or other forms of protection), TPS holders (individuals from countries where return is impossible due to extreme circumstances, and they receive Temporary Protected Status allowing them to stay and work in the U.S.), and victims of human trafficking.

**Participant Registration Form: Registration Form
(In question #16, mark RUSA LGBTQ+)**



SoHarlem Creative Economy Training Institute

The SoHarlem Institute for Creative Economy offers free training to low-income and unemployed local residents. Participants receive free training in sewing basics and are directed towards employment in the fashion industry.



Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW)

The organization "Nontraditional Employment for Women" (NEW) supports and trains women to choose and thrive in nontraditional and traditionally male-dominated professions and industries.

NEW's main mission is to combat gender stereotypes and inequality in employment by teaching women professional skills and supporting their entry into fields where women have traditionally been underrepresented. These nontraditional fields include construction, electrical work, plumbing, mechanical engineering, and other professions.

NEW programs include on-the-job training, professional development courses, mentorship programs, job placement assistance, and other resources that help women overcome obstacles and successfully integrate into unfamiliar industries



CUNY Upskilling

CUNY Upskilling (Повышение квалификации в CUNY) is a carefully curated list of free virtual training designed to help you acquire the latest professional skills and knowledge, uncover your strengths, gain a competitive edge in the job market, and make a strong impression on potential employers. Additionally, if you have recently lost your job or relocated, our partnership with the New York State Department of Labor and Coursera can help you get back on your feet.



CITY TECH (Center for Continuous Learning)

The Center for Continuous Learning (CCL), part of New York City College of Technology (CUNY), offers a variety of adult education programs, including courses in computer technology, business, healthcare, and other fields. Programs are available in various formats, including online, evening and weekend classes, intensive courses, and more. The flexible schedule allows for tailored learning to meet students' needs. CITY TECH also collaborates with local businesses to offer programs that meet workforce demands and contribute to the employment and career advancement of graduates.



MIT Refugee Action Hub (ReACT)

ReACT (Refugee Action Hub) is an initiative launched by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to provide assistance to refugees and refugee communities through innovative technologies, education, and resources. The MIT Emerging Talent initiative, inspired by the ReACT MIT model, is an initiative launched by the Jameel World Education Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to create educational opportunities, professional growth, and entrepreneurship for talented individuals from underserved communities worldwide. The program's goal is to provide access to high-quality education and development resources for people with limited opportunities due to social status, economic situation, or other reasons. One of the main programs of MIT Emerging Talent is the Certificate Program in Computer and Data Science. The program provides training in computer and data sciences, developing the necessary skills and knowledge for a successful career in the field of information technology.



WES (World Education Services)

World Education Services (WES) is a nonprofit social enterprise that supports the educational, economic, and social integration of immigrants, refugees, and international students. WES sets international standards for academic credential evaluation, assisting millions of individuals in their pursuit of academic and professional goals. Drawing on years of leadership experience in global education, WES has developed a wide range of tools for achieving broad-scale social impact. From assessing academic achievement to shaping policy, developing programs, and providing philanthropic funding, we collaborate with diverse organizations, leaders, and networks to inspire people and drive changes in systems. Together with our partners, WES enables individuals to learn, work, and thrive in new places.



ECFMG- Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) is an organization that evaluates the education and qualifications of medical graduates from other countries. The primary goal of ECFMG is to ensure safe and quality medical practice in the United States by assessing the medical knowledge, skills, and competencies of graduates obtained outside the U.S.

To achieve this goal, ECFMG provides a range of services, including:

1. Evaluation of the education and qualifications of foreign medical graduates for licensure to practice medicine in the United States.
2. Administration of exams such as the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), which assesses the knowledge and competencies of medical graduates.
3. Issuance of certificates to foreign medical graduates who complete the evaluation and examination process, confirming their qualification to practice medicine in the United States.

ECFMG plays a crucial role in upholding high standards of medical practice in the United States and contributes to the training of skilled and professional medical personnel from different countries.



The Cooper Union's Retraining Program for Immigrant Engineers (RPIE)

The Cooper Union's Retraining Program for Immigrant Engineers (RPIE) is a FREE professional development opportunity that supports immigrant engineers, refugees, and asylum seekers in building a competitive portfolio to secure the careers they desire. The program offers coursework in engineering and technology, covering areas such as OSHA, "green building," HVAC, AutoCAD, Java, and cybersecurity. Students benefit from professional networking, career counseling, and an innovative curriculum aligned with industry trends.

// FLATIRON SCHOOL

Flatiron School

Flatiron School is an educational institution specializing in providing education in technology, including programming, web development, data analytics, and other related fields. Founded in 2012, the school has since become a leader in the bootcamp industry - intensive educational programs. Students are offered flexible payment options and scholarships to make quality education accessible to all. Flatiron School actively strives to increase diversity in the technology industry, aiming to make it more open and inclusive. The commitment to diversity is backed not only by words but also by actions, including scholarships and programs aimed at supporting students from underrepresented groups. Additionally, students are offered free trial lessons to familiarize themselves with the educational programs.



**Entertainment
Community Fund**
Formerly The Actors Fund

The Entertainment Community Fund

The Arts Community Development Fund is an organization that provides support and stability for professionals in the arts and entertainment industry. The fund offers various services, including health, career, and housing support, to ensure stability and well-being for those contributing to the cultural diversity of the country.

correlation.one

Data Skills for All (DS4A)

Correlation One is a company specializing in the development of programs and initiatives in the field of data, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. They create and implement educational programs, host competitions, and organize events aimed at developing skills in the field of data and preparing for careers in this area. Additionally, Correlation One focuses on diversity issues, including programs that promote the involvement of professionals from various cultural and social groups in the data industry.

The Data Skills for All (DS4A) program is one of their projects aimed at increasing the accessibility of data skills for everyone interested. DS4A from Correlation One is an important program that encourages professionals from underrepresented groups to pursue careers in data. Adapted for working professionals with 2 to 3 years of experience, it provides free professional development, resume enhancement, skills marketing, portfolio creation, and mentoring. DS4A also helps participants connect with companies looking for talented employees from diverse groups, including Target, Point72, J&J, and Match Group, while providing interview preparation.



The CyberNYC Fellowship is a full scholarship program offered by the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and Fullstack Academy, aimed at training New York City residents in cybersecurity. The program provides free professional education, including courses, support, and mentorship, for participants with specific work experience. The learning process includes online courses with full or part-time options, allowing students to develop cybersecurity skills and create portfolio projects.

Additionally, the program supports participants in job search in the cybersecurity field and prepares them for interviews. Students must meet certain qualification requirements and go through a selection process, including application submission and enrollment in the Fullstack Academy Cyber Bootcamp courses.

V School V School

V School is an educational institution specializing in preparing students for careers in technology. Founded on principles of project-based learning and practical application of knowledge, V School offers intensive training programs focused on acquiring skills in web development, software development, and other technical fields. Education at V School is based on modern methodologies and technologies, allowing students to quickly and efficiently master the necessary skills. The school also emphasizes preparing students for real-world tasks and collaboration with companies in the industry. In addition to technical skills, V School's curriculum also focuses on developing soft skills such as communication, collaboration, and problem-solving, helping graduates successfully integrate into the workforce. V School also provides students with access to scholarships based on financial need, academic achievements, or other criteria.

Columbia University Scholarship for Displaced Students

The Columbia University Scholarship Program for Displaced Students was launched to address the global crisis and provide displaced students with the opportunity to receive higher education at a prestigious institution. The program's goal is to change society's perception of displaced individuals: from viewing them as a burden on public support to recognizing them as valuable members of society capable of making significant contributions to its development.

The scholarship, implemented with the support of the Columbia Global Center in collaboration with participating schools, provides students with full coverage of tuition expenses and assistance with non-tuition costs. This initiative aims to increase the accessibility of higher education for those who have been forced to leave their homes due to conflicts, violence, or persecution.



careers
businesses
neighborhoods

Virtual Workforce1 Career Center System

The Virtual Workforce1 Career Center System is an innovative system designed to help New York City residents prepare for employment and find jobs in any sector of the economy across the city's five boroughs. Through this system, individuals can receive personalized assistance online or over the phone (within one to two business days) from experienced specialists who can help them find suitable job opportunities, prepare for interviews, and access free training. All services are completely free of charge and do not require in-person attendance.

PER SCHOLAS (Per Scholas)

Per Scholas is a non-profit organization that provides training and support for technical careers to individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities. Founded in 1995, Per Scholas aims to make high-quality technical education accessible to all, regardless of their financial status or previous work experience. Per Scholas training programs include courses in information technology, programming, and digital literacy, designed in accordance with the requirements of the modern industry.

Additionally, Per Scholas offers job search support, mentoring, and soft skills development to help graduates successfully enter the job market and advance their careers in the technology sector. Their mission is to create equal opportunities for everyone in the field of technology and reduce digital inequality.

Upwardly Global Upwardly Global

The Upwardly Global career coaching program is a free offering that provides individual resources for professional coaching and career training to immigrants and refugees seeking to re-enter the workforce in their professional field in the United States. The program spans 18 months of active job search and offers the opportunity to meet with coaches in person or online. Through this program, participants learn how to identify suitable career growth opportunities, plan their career path, craft resumes, and prepare for interviews in the American style. They also gain access to free training, courses, and certificates that enhance their competitiveness in the job market. The program also organizes networking events with leading employers in the United States.



StreetWise Partners

The StreetWise Partners program offers free mentorship for adults seeking internships and jobs. Considering that 80% of job opportunities are found online, having a StreetWise mentor can be key to success. The year-long StreetWise Bridge program provides career development support, helping participants develop essential job readiness skills and expand professional networks. Throughout the program, participants receive training in resume writing, interview preparation, and professional skill enhancement. Additionally, the program offers access to networking events with representatives from leading companies, assisting participants in finding opportunities for long-term career growth.



STRIVE

STRIVE is an organization dedicated to supporting and nurturing talent through its programs and initiatives. Their flagship program, Career Path, provides comprehensive assistance in professional growth—from preparatory courses to specialized training in high-demand fields. The Future Leaders program helps youth, including those facing challenges, become active leaders in their communities. Fresh Start offers support and opportunities for successful reintegration into society for formerly incarcerated individuals. Through its events and initiatives, STRIVE creates a robust social movement around its values and goals.



The HOPE Program

The HOPE Program offers extensive talent support and development initiatives for New York residents. Their main program, HOPEworks, helps participants acquire in-demand skills, including mathematics and digital literacy. Special attention is given to environmental professions.

BROOKLYN NAVY | YARD | The Brooklyn Navy Yard

The Albert C. Wiltshire Employment Center is a job center that connects local residents with job opportunities at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The center offers a wide range of vacancies in various sectors, including industrial manufacturing, hospitality, design, and marketing, collaborating with over 500 businesses at the yard. Center staff assist candidates in preparing for interviews and provide support through their training partners. The center is open to all individuals from Monday to Friday, offering both in-person and remote services.



GRACE
INSTITUTE

Grace Institute of New York

Grace Institute of New York provides free 14-week training and support programs for women and non-binary individuals aged 18 to 64. The institute offers two programs: one in office administration and another in healthcare administration. Requirements for participation include authorization to work in the United States and a high school diploma or equivalent credential. Graduates receive assistance with job placement and further career development.



[The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce](#)

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce offers membership to companies of all sizes and industries, providing access to exclusive events, discounts, and business development services. The Chamber also hosts various events and programs to support business and entrepreneurship in Brooklyn.

Good Help Staffing Service provides staffing solutions for businesses, offering free employment services by connecting enterprises with qualified personnel through a network of over 200 training and employment organizations. "Good Help On-the-Go" provides access to job search presentations and employment skills for local job seekers, along with job search resources. Job seekers can start their job search now or access local job listings and apply. Companies can save time and money by accessing pre-screened potential employees.

[Good Help Staffing Service - Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce](#)



[Post-Criminal Justice Involvement Services](#)

The reentry system provides specialized services at Workforce1 Career Centers in the Bronx and Brooklyn. Here, candidates can receive career counseling and training to help overcome common barriers to employment for individuals with criminal backgrounds. Additionally, the Employment Works program for job seekers offers a wide range of services, including coaching, access to professional attire and perks, as well as interview referrals and post-employment follow-up.



EMMA'S TORCH Emma's Torch

The organization "Emma's Torch" offers an 11-week paid internship program with culinary training and employment training focused on equality and self-support. Students receive up to 440 hours of training, including hands-on culinary lessons and employment preparation. The program includes on-the-job training at the Emma's Torch restaurant, weekly English language lessons, interview preparation, and career seminars. Students receive compensation at the minimum wage for full-time work, as well as free tools and uniforms for their work.



OBT - Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow

The organization "Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT)" provides education and vocational training programs for residents of New York. OBT works with youth and adults, offering individualized support and helping to develop skills for successful careers. Programs include preparation for the GED (General Educational Development - equivalent to a high school diploma in the U.S., provided to those who have not earned a standard high school diploma), training for employment in high-demand fields, and adult literacy. Program participants may receive scholarships and paid internships, as well as long-term support after completing their training.



PROJECT RENEWAL Project Renewal

Project Renewal offers integrated health, housing, and employment assistance programs. The Culinary Arts Training Program provides six months of training in the hospitality industry for low-income and formerly homeless adults. The Next Step program provides individualized educational and employment services for adults with a history of homelessness, serious mental illness, substance abuse, and criminal justice involvement. The Next Step Internship Program offers professional training to unemployed men and women interested in working in homeless services.



Hot Bread Kitchen

The organization Hot Bread Kitchen offers culinary training for women, non-binary, and gender-neutral individuals ready to start a career in the food industry. Programs include basic culinary techniques, food safety training, and professional preparation. We help prepare for the food safety certificate exam, which provides an advantage in the job market. Training is available in English and Spanish and includes hands-on practice. Upon completion of the program, students can expect employment in the restaurant industry, with a starting wage of \$18.38 per hour.

ReServe Health Initiatives (NYC)

ReServe is an initiative that brings together the talent and experience of individuals over the age of 50 to assist non-profit and governmental organizations, combat poverty, provide support to youth, and navigate the healthcare system. Reservists, aged 50 and older, bring vast work experience, professional ethics, and significant problem-solving skills to organizations. By working on semi-professional projects, reservists receive modest hourly compensation while contributing to improving community life.

An Institution of Respect and Equality

The job creation program by the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation aims to provide professional support to residents of Central Brooklyn, helping them overcome barriers in their professional development and find promising employment opportunities. Specialists offer assistance in resume development and interview preparation. Central Brooklyn residents have access to webinars, individual consultations, and training programs aimed at improving professional skills and finding suitable employment.

Sanctuary for Families

The Economic Empowerment Program (EEP) by Sanctuary For Families helps women experiencing gender-based violence break the cycle of poverty, homelessness, and abuse. It provides professional development, training, and career advancement preparation, assisting participants in finding gainful employment. The program also offers psychological support, legal assistance, childcare, and other necessary services to help participants start a new life free from fear and violence.

St. Nicks Alliance Workforce Development

The Employment Program by the St. Nicholas Alliance in New York provides training in high-demand fields and assists in securing well-paying career opportunities. It also supports individuals in finding their first job, obtaining a high school diploma, and learning English. The program offers training and certification in various areas, including construction, data analytics, and financial services.

SUNY's Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) labs

The Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) program by SUNY helps individuals acquire basic computer skills for job searching or advancing in education. ATTAIN labs offer free training both online and in various locations across New York. The courses are short, which allows individuals to achieve their goals more quickly.

YAI

YAI's Employment Program provides support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at every stage of their career path. It includes training, internships, and assistance in finding employment in various sectors such as retail, healthcare, hospitality, and office services.

CGFNS CVS For New York Application Form

The Credentials Verification Service (CVS) by CGFNS (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools) is required for licensure application in New York. It verifies educational and licensure documents for healthcare professionals such as nurses, physical therapists, and therapists. Through the CVS program, CGFNS collects and verifies the authenticity of the applicant's educational and licensure documents. Once verified, these documents are forwarded to the New York State Education Department for evaluation as part of the licensure process.

Personal-Touch Home Care

Personal-Touch Home Care invites you to join their team and offers flexible schedules and competitive pay. They provide free training and certification for two weeks for those without experience, as well as free one-day training for those with minimal experience in caregiving. Additionally, for CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistants) interested in becoming HHAs (Home Health Aides) or PCAs (Personal Care Aides), free one-day training is also available.

Free HHA Training in Brooklyn NY: Top 7 Schools

Many students and job seekers are interested in the opportunity to receive free home health aide training in Brooklyn, New York. Interest in training in this field is particularly high in New York City, where there is a high demand for home health aides and a growing number of job opportunities.

The New York State Department of Health mandates that home health aides must complete a minimum of 95 hours of training to obtain certification. This training consists of 65 hours of classroom lectures and 30 hours of practical training. Courses are free of charge and available at several educational institutions, where assistance in finding suitable employment after completing the training is also provided. Several schools are offering free home health aide training in Brooklyn, including Special Touch Home Care Services Inc., Allen Health Care Services, and others.

Free Home Health Aide Training in NYC: Top 9 Schools

New York is a state with a huge demand for qualified home care professionals. The opportunity to receive free training is provided by many educational institutions, which is especially important for those who are on a budget but aspire to a career in this field. Many training programs include the possibility of employment after completing the courses. The list includes various organizations offering free training with subsequent employment in New York..

NYPL Career Services

The New York Public Library's Career Services provides support in professional development, resources, webinars, and events for those seeking employment or aiming to advance their careers. We offer free virtual and in-person support to assist you in achieving your career goals, including coaching, resume and cover letter writing, job application support, and professional development events. We host events such as job fairs and seminars.

Brooklyn Public Library LibGuides

The Brooklyn Public Library assists with resume preparation and career development. They offer help with writing and updating resumes both in-person at the central library and at branches throughout Brooklyn. They also provide individual assistance through online Zoom sessions or via email. Additionally, their guide offers resources and information about libraries and other events related to job searching and career development.

Online Learning with Coursera through the New York State Department of Labor

The New York Department of Labor partners with Coursera, a leading provider of online education. Through this partnership, unemployed residents of New York will have access to nearly 4,000 programs in high-demand industries and will be able to develop skills in areas such as data science, business, and technology. Many of these programs lead to certification and help individuals advance in their careers. Requests for a free account can be submitted via email, providing the necessary information.

Catalog of job search websites from the Brooklyn Public Library

The Brooklyn Public Library catalog includes a list of websites for job search and employment agencies. The organizations, agencies, and employers included in this list cover a wide range of industries. Some websites may require registration, usually with an email address. While some career websites may charge a membership fee, many of them are free. Apart from fees for civil service exams, no employer should charge a fee for simply applying for a job.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Camba

Want to start a small business in New York?

- Business planning
- Small business workshops
- One-on-one business counseling
- Developing marketing and branding strategies
- Creation of Websites and logos

Small business loans up to \$35,000

email: SMALLBIZ@CAMBA.ORG

Call: (718) 226-0436 (add. 66301)

LEGAL ASSISTANCE



Legal services

[National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#)

The National Immigration Legal Services Directory is an online resource providing information on legal services in the field of immigration law. It helps people find licensed attorneys and organizations specializing in immigration issues in their region. With this resource, users can quickly find professional assistance for various immigration needs, including visa issues, status, citizenship, and deportation defense. The National Immigration Legal Services Directory also provides information on the availability of free or low-cost legal assistance for those who cannot afford it. Please note that there is increased demand and queues.

Note: When searching the directory, be sure to pay attention to the "Types of Legal Assistance" listed for each organization.

[Pro se help desks from the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project \(ASAP\)](#)

This online resource contains a list of organizations providing limited legal assistance to individuals seeking asylum without attorneys in immigration court. Please reach out directly to these organizations for detailed information about their services. Visit the "Find Help" page on the ASAP website to find other legal and social services.

The list of private immigration lawyers from the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)

This online resource contains a list of private immigration attorneys recommended by local nonprofit organizations. The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) does not have personal familiarity with them. Private immigration attorneys typically charge fees for their services, but clients can inquire about the possibility of payment plans. On the "find help" page, ASAP provides information about free or low-cost legal assistance and about clients' rights when working with an attorney. The costs of filing asylum applications and submissions are high and range from \$5,000 to \$12,000 or more.

Preparing forms



Information for filing
an asylum application
I-589 on the USCIS
website



The asylum application
form I-589 is available
on the USCIS website.



Information

[Asylum information on the RIF Asylum Support organization's website](#)

This article provides information about asylum in the United States, explaining the differences between refugees and asylum seekers. It covers the basic requirements for obtaining asylum and the categories of individuals seeking asylum in the United States. The article also discusses the process of filing Form I-589 for asylum, available resources for asylum seekers, and the importance of legal assistance in this process.

RIF Asylum Support is an organization that provides legal support and assistance to asylum seekers. They offer various services, including assistance with form completion, conducting monthly educational seminars, and organizing support groups. The organization also assists with deportation defense cases and provides information about available benefits and resources for asylum seekers in New York.

[Information about asylum on the website of The Legal Aid Society](#)

[The YouTube channel of RIF Asylum Support organization](#)

By subscribing to the RIF Asylum Support organization's YouTube channel, you gain access to valuable information and resources to help you navigate the asylum process in the USA. While the organization is not a legal service, it provides general support related to the asylum process. It's important to remember that each asylum case is unique, and immigration law can be complex. Subscribing to the channel also shows your support for the organization's work in assisting asylum seekers.



- [How to Write Your Asylum Story](#)
- [Applying for a Work Permit Online](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Asylum Interview](#)

TAX FILING



[The VITA program from the organization "Food Bank For New York City"](#)

You can get free tax filing assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program from the organization Food Bank For New York City. Assistance is provided by a team of experienced professionals certified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Services are available both online and in-person for residents of New York City. Those earning \$65,000 or less in 2023 are eligible for their services.

[IRS VITA and TCE Service Provider Directory](#)

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free tax help to taxpayers who qualify. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) maintains a directory of VITA and TCE providers across the United States, making it easy for taxpayers to find assistance near them. This directory includes information on locations, hours of operation, and contact details for scheduling appointments or obtaining assistance.

[NYC Free Tax Prep from DCWP](#)

The NYC Free Tax Prep program, provided by the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), offers free tax preparation services to individuals whose household income in 2023 was \$85,000 or less, as well as individuals filing an individual return with income of \$59,000 or less. Volunteer consultants from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) / Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, certified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), will provide you with the necessary assistance. The program offers various options for filing tax returns, including virtual tax preparation, self-preparation with software assistance, document drop-off sites, and in-person tax filing sites.

SAFETY RESOURCES



*If you are in an emergency
or immediate danger, please call 911*

It's important to remember that reaching out to the New York Police Department, law enforcement agencies, or other emergency services is safe, and your immigration status is not a barrier to receiving the necessary assistance. Seeking help is crucial, and there are resources available to ensure your safety and well-being. If you or someone you know has become a victim of crime or domestic violence, seek assistance through the links provided below.

[Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Support from NYC Human Resources Administration](#)

Support for victims of violence and human trafficking in New York: Resources and assistance. This article provides extensive information about the resources and assistance available to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking in New York City. It includes contact hotlines, organizations, and programs that offer temporary housing, medical assistance, legal support, and other services to help victims recover and regain independence.

Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Support from NYC Human Resources Administration 24-hour New York Hotline for Domestic Violence: CALL 1-800-621-HOPE(1-800-621-4673).

New York State Office for New Americans Information Portal

The New York State Office for New Americans Information Portal provides a wide range of services and programs tailored to new residents in the state of New York. It includes contact information for legal assistance, details on free educational programs, events, and resources for new U.S. residents, as well as opportunities for funding and registration to receive updates from the administration.



***Hotline for New Americans:
CALL 1-800-566-7636 (4673).***

Safe Horizon

Safe Horizon provides comprehensive support to victims of crime and abuse in New York. The organization offers confidential hotlines for victims of domestic violence, crime, and rape/sexual assault, providing crisis counseling, resource information, and safety assessment.

NYC Anti-Violence Project

The New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) is an organization dedicated to ending violence against LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities. Their offerings include a 24-hour bilingual hotline, short-term counseling, anti-bias and anti-discrimination advocacy, support groups, as well as a free and confidential legal program.

Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

The Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) in the state of New York provides support to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Available services include a 24-hour confidential hotline with multilingual support, online chat, and assistance in navigating various services such as criminal justice, law enforcement, family court, social services, healthcare, and community resources.

The resource offers information on safety planning tools, rights, and guides for those who have experienced sexual or domestic violence.

CALL 800-942-6906 or TEXT 844-997-2121.

NY Crime Victims Legal Help

The resource "Legal Support for Crime Victims in New York" provides assistance to immigrants who are concerned about deportation threats after becoming victims of crimes. It outlines legal protections for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and certain crimes, emphasizing that individuals without documents have rights under U.S. law.

Domestic Violence Information Portal on the NYPD website

The Domestic Violence page on the NYPD (the New York Police Department) website contains information about the measures taken by the police to prevent and combat domestic violence in New York City. Police officers specializing in domestic violence prevention provide support to victims, offer consultations, assist individuals in obtaining protection orders, and develop safety plans for them. The page also includes useful resources and information about the U-visa program for domestic violence victims.

[The Immi learning center](#)

Immi is your resource for learning about US immigration law and legal ways to stay in the country. The Immi Learning Center explains basic terms and concepts related to immigration, and also provides detailed information on how to remain in the US legally.

[Immigration Know Your Rights Information](#)

The "Know Your Rights" immigration service provides information on a wide range of immigration issues, including the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program, TPS (Temporary Protected Status), and work permits.

The DACA program offers certain individuals who arrived in the US as children without documentation the opportunity to temporarily stay in the country and obtain work authorization. TPS (Temporary Protected Status) is granted to citizens of countries who are temporarily unable to safely return to their home countries due to armed conflict, natural disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances. Work permit deferment is an opportunity for some workers with undocumented status in the country to receive temporary protection from deportation and authorization to work.

This service is designed to help understand basic rights and concepts in immigration, as well as to provide information on legislative updates and changes in immigration policy.

[Know the Laws - By State](#)

The "Know Your Laws Across States" information service provides information about the laws of each state that may be helpful to victims and individuals who have experienced domestic violence. This information is presented in a question-and-answer format.

Information about Gender-Based Violence on OPDV website

The "Gender-Based Violence Information" section on the OPDV (Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) website contains information about various types of gender-based violence, such as domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, reproductive control, and stalking. The article also describes how to seek help if you have experienced gender-based violence and provides contact information to reach professionals.

Information about Domestic Violence and the LGBTQ Community from NCADV

The "Domestic Violence and the LGBTQ+ Community" blog on the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) website provides information about how the LGBTQ+ community often remains overlooked in the domestic violence movement, despite members of this community becoming victims of such violence as much as, if not more than, their heterosexual counterparts. The article highlights unique aspects of violence in the LGBTQ+ community, such as the threat of disclosing someone's personal or intimate information and specific transgender violence. It also discusses the barriers faced by LGBTQ+ individuals when seeking help and offers resources for those in need of support and protection.

LGBTQ+ RESOURCES



InReach

InReach is a non-profit technology organization that expands access to supportive social resources for various members of the LGBTQ+ community. The free InReach mobile app is the world's first open-source platform providing resources to support and ensure the safety of individuals from the LGBTQ+ community who have experienced persecution or discrimination. InReach aims to become a comprehensive digital service for diverse LGBTQ+ communities, offering a list of verified services for refugees and immigrants, Black, Indigenous, people of color, transgender and gender-nonbinary individuals, minors and their guardians, as well as other LGBTQ+ groups.

Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center

InReach is a non-profit technology organization that expands access to supportive social resources for various members of the LGBTQ+ community. The free InReach mobile app is the world's first open-source platform providing resources to support and ensure the safety of individuals from the LGBTQ+ community who have experienced persecution or discrimination. InReach aims to become a comprehensive digital service for diverse LGBTQ+ communities, offering a list of verified services for refugees and immigrants, Black, Indigenous, people of color, transgender and gender-nonbinary individuals, minors and their guardians, as well as other LGBTQ+ groups.

Brooklyn Community Pride Center

The Brooklyn Pride Center is an organization whose goal is not only to provide assistance to the LGBTQ+ community but also to actively advocate for its rights and equality. We conduct various programs and implement initiatives tailored to the specific needs of our participants, ranging from counseling and psychological support to social events and support groups.

We also work on creating inspiring spaces where everyone can safely communicate, share experiences, and find support. Our mission is to create a community where every person feels accepted and supported, and where they can find the necessary resources and opportunities for their personal and professional development.

The LGBT Asylum Project (San Francisco, California)

The "LGBT Asylum Project" is a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, California, that provides affordable legal representation and support to various members of the LGBTQ+ community: asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants facing persecution due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or HIV status. The project's clients, often with low or no income, arrive in the United States with harrowing stories of imprisonment, physical harm, torture, and psychological trauma inflicted by governments, fellow citizens, friends, and family. The project not only provides them with legal assistance but also offers asylum in the Castro district, known for its support and safety for the LGBTQ+ community.

Destination Tomorrow

Destination Tomorrow (Путь в Завтра) is an LGBTQ+ organization and community center in the Bronx, New York, committed to ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals have access to services in their own neighborhoods. The organization provides space for the growth and education of LGBTQ+ youth and offers various programs and services for community members in the Bronx. Their mission is to help vulnerable members of the LGBTQ+ community achieve economic, social, and psychological development. They aim to create a future where LGBTQ+ people can avoid crises through action plans and community support.

The Ali Forney Center

The Ali Forney Center (Центр имени Али Форни) is a non-profit organization specializing in helping homeless LGBTQ+ youth aged 16 to 24. They provide a wide range of services, including medical care, psychological support, group therapy, assistance with employment, and financial aid. The organization also offers emergency housing in comfortable apartments with daily home-cooked dinners. In addition to this, the Ali Forney Center operates a transitional housing program, helping young people live independently and prepare for self-sufficiency. Their goal is to help LGBTQ+ youth get their lives back on track and prepare them for thriving.

The NEW Pride Agenda (NPA)

The NEW Pride Agenda is an organization whose initiatives are aimed at promoting equality, recognition, and protection of civil rights, as well as providing humanitarian assistance to the LGBTQ+ community. They seek to unite efforts to support LGBTQ+ people in the state of New York, as well as to engage the public to be more informed, participate in policy making, and address existing issues. They also provide education to members of the LGBTQ+ community, their allies, and the public at large on rights, legal means of protection, and actions aimed at increasing LGBTQ+ representation in various areas of public life, such as government, education, business, and others.

The Trevor Project

The Trevor Project is an important informational resource for LGBTQ+ youth, providing guidance on support, health, and safety information, as well as resources for suicide prevention. Here you'll find information on suicide risks and factors, support for young people with disabilities, as well as how to help those who may be in crisis. Resources addressing the diversity and differences among LGBTQ+ youth and methods of support for those facing difficult life situations or discrimination are also available.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



If you're interested in volunteering for an organization that supports LGBTQ+ asylum seekers in New York, please find below a list of volunteer opportunities currently available:

Rainbow Connections (RUSA LGBTQ+)

The "Rainbow Connections" program, conducted by the organization "RUSA LGBT," aims to bridge the gap between the local LGBTQ+ community in the United States and newly arrived LGBTQ+ asylum seekers. The program's goal is to support asylum seekers, create conditions for them to feel welcome guests, and promote unity and mutual understanding. Volunteers are matched with asylum seekers who become their friends, advocates, and mentors. "Rainbow Connections" includes various events throughout the year, including public gatherings, cultural explorations, and educational seminars, to celebrate the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community and promote social integration. Rainbow Connections (RUSA LGBTQ+).

NYC Service

In New York City, tens of thousands of people seeking asylum reside. Meeting their needs requires a city-wide support system. NYC Service coordinates volunteer needs with city agencies and community partners. Individuals interested in supporting asylum seekers can register and obtain additional information on how they can help.

Volunteering at the Ali Forney Center

AFC (Ali Forney Center) offers various volunteer opportunities, including assistance in emergency housing, support for events and fundraising, as well as administrative aid. Volunteers can help provide meals for clients in emergency shelters, participate in planning and conducting special events, and assist in organizing corporate events for clients. Additionally, groups from community, religious, and student organizations can join the AFC volunteer program and help create a welcoming atmosphere for clients by participating in various events and activities.