

Resources for Philadelphia Immigrants

The City of Philadelphia supports all its residents. Most city services are available to everyone regardless of citizenship or immigration status. City employees do not ask about the status of people they encounter.

Municipal IDs

Municipal IDs are a form of identification that can be used by all Philadelphia residents. In order to obtain an ID, you must present proof of your identity and Philadelphia residency. When obtaining an ID, the City will not ask for immigration or citizenship status. The City will also protect Municipal ID information to the full extent of the law. The Municipal ID program will launch in Spring of 2019.

Education and childcare

Children age 3 or 4 are eligible for PHL Pre-K. Learn more at phlprek.org. All residents have the right to attend public school from age 5 until graduation or until the end of the school year when they turn 21. Classes are available for English learners. For help enrolling, visit philasd.org/studentplacement.

Public safety

The City of Philadelphia does not conduct federal immigration enforcement. The Philadelphia Police does not ask about the immigration or citizenship status of people they encounter including victims and witnesses of crimes. Anyone who thinks they may have been the victim of a hate crime should contact the Philadelphia Police Department. You can find your local police district at: www.phillypolice.com/districts/

Citizenship

Becoming an American citizen provides many benefits, including increased access to travel, access to government jobs, and the right to vote. You can learn more about becoming a citizen on our website: <https://bit.ly/2GANapL>

Language Access

The Office of Immigrant Affairs manages Language Access Philly, the City's language access program that provides free interpretation services for individuals who have limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. To receive help or information from any City agency, dial 3-1-1 and inform the operator of the language you need. For more information, visit www.phila.gov/programs/language-access-philly

Immigration help

Free, safe immigration help is available through one of our many partners. Beware of unlicensed immigration service providers who take advantage of their customers. Get help only from a trusted, licensed attorney or accredited representative.

Protection from discrimination

Philadelphians have the right to be free from unlawful discrimination, retaliation, and harassment in the workplace, housing, and public places. To file an employment, property, or public accommodation violation complaint, contact the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) at pchr@phila.gov or call the anonymous hotline at 215-686-2856.

Health care

Low-cost emergency and non-emergency health care is available to all at public hospitals and at city health centers. Philadelphia's Division of Behavioral Health provides mental health services for adults and children requiring medical, social, and educational services. This network of services includes 11 community mental health centers, 30+ specialized behavioral health agencies, and 5 crisis response centers.

Low-income families with children age 0 through 13 years old can get free or low-cost child care:

<https://bit.ly/2V9uG2L>

English as a Second Language

Many ESL classes are available for free or at a low cost to Philadelphia residents. Use this interactive map to find a provider near you: <https://bit.ly/2sqvbvD>

Contact Us

Do you have questions/concerns? Contact the Office of Immigrant Affairs at **215-686-0876** or OIA@phila.gov

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