

Empowering Asylum Seekers –Let's Talk and Share Best Practices

Sponsored: Constitutions & By-Laws Committee of NCLA



Empowering Asylum Seekers

 Let's Talk and Share Best Practices



Long Island Library Conference Thursday May 9, 2024 Constitution & By-Laws committee of NCLA

Welcome!

Types of immigration



01 Refugees

02 Asylum Seekers

03 Skilled workers

04 Temporary Workers

What are public libraries doing to support a new generation of immigrants and asylum seekers to develop small and local businesses? Dive into this discussion on the tri-part approach to immigration support by Brooklyn Public Library and Queens Public Library

Immigrant vs. Refugee vs. Aslyum Seeker

- An immigrant is a person living in a country other than their birth country. Other oftenused terms include "migrant," the "foreign born," and "international migrant."
- Both refugees and asylum-seekers are seeking protection from the U.S. due to persecution in their home countries.
- Refugees are given a legal status prior to coming to the U.S. by UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
- Asylum Seekers must be in the U.S. to request asylum and upon review by immigration,
 they are granted or denied asylum. If granted, they become asylees.

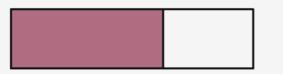
Statistics: New York City

Where are People From?

In NYC: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Haiti, Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Bangladesh, India, Ukraine, and etc. Asylum Seekers

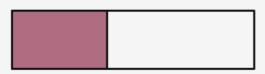
As of October 1, 2023, the City had over 64,100 people seeking asylum in its care, at more than 210 sites including 17 humanitarian relief centers have been opened.





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64,00 0

BPL's Three Main Focus Areas



Immigrant Services



Outreach to Shelters

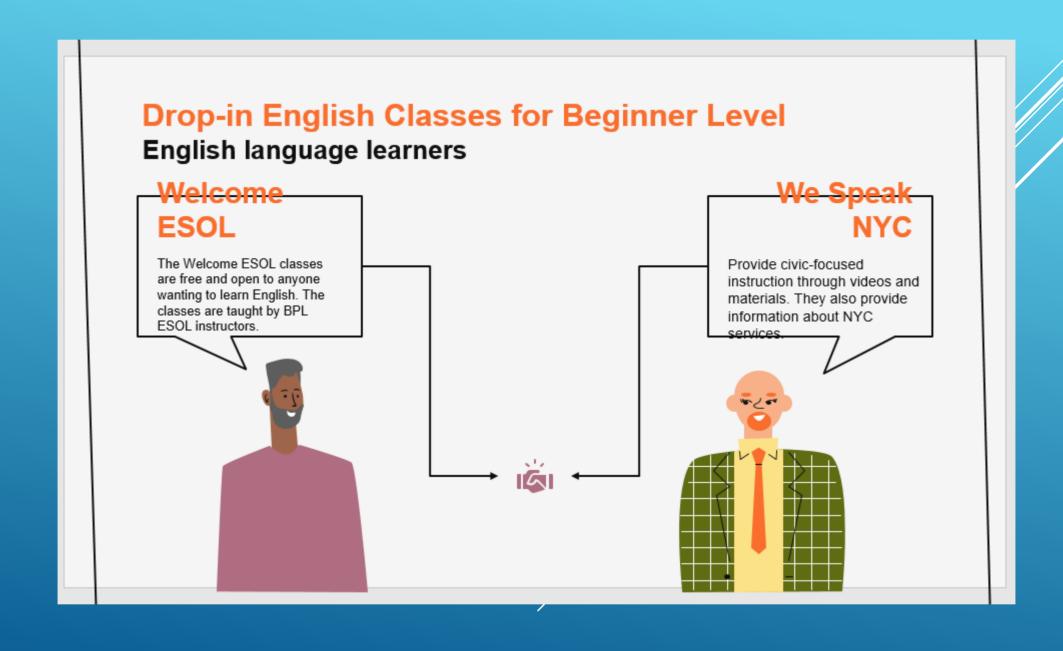
- Work authorization process
- Certifications (OSHA)
- Professional training
- Workforce Training
 - Workers Rights

English Classes

- Formal English classes
 - Volunteer-led conversation groups
 - · Online resources
 - Children and youth

Welcoming Spaces

- The Library offers programs for immigrants in multiple languages.
- From citizenship classes to English conversation groups, family cultural events and adult literacy courses, BPL's branches are welcoming spaces for all Brooklynites.



Immigrants Services and Literacy

Career advancement of immigtant and asylum patrons

Business English

- Creating a professional resume, cover letter and an online profile
- Exploring your local library and other community resources
- Talking about business and workplace matters

Partnership Organizations

Upwardly Global, The Hope Program, CLIP (CUNY-Language Immersion Program), CUNY Hostos Community College, CUNY College of Technology, CUNY Medgar Evers College, NY Immigration Coalition, League of Kitchens, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, CAMBA/Cooper Union, Kress Vision, SUNY BEOC, NY Alliance for Careers in Health Care, Robin Hood Foundation, NYC WorkForce, NYU Literacy Review.

Generation of Life Long Learners

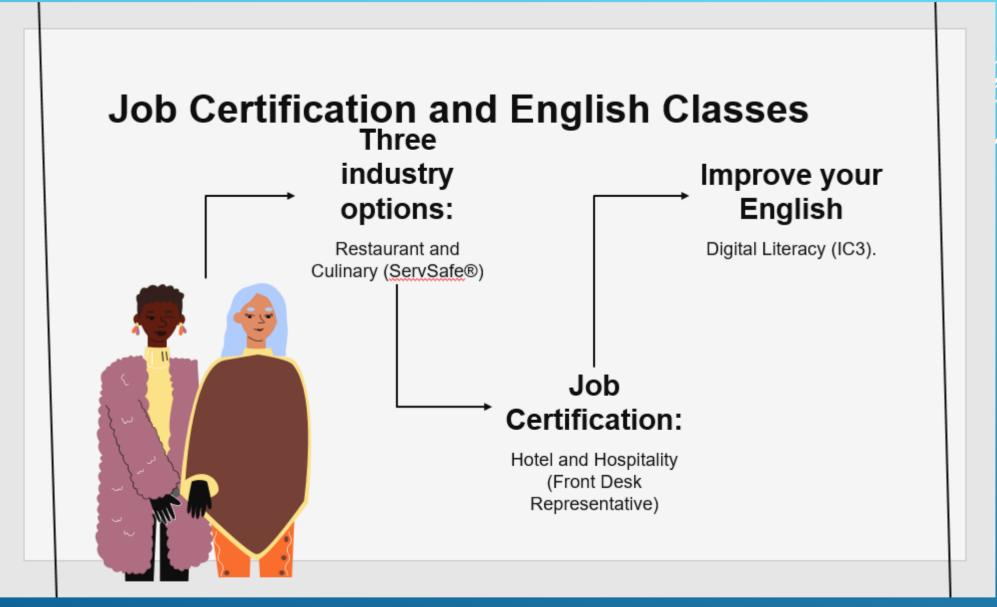
English Language Learning for Children





- •Brainfuse HelpNow provides live, one-on-one Homework Help in English. Spanish, and French.
- •<u>BookFlix</u> is a great resource that pairs fiction books with nonfiction titles on a related topic and has games that test comprehension. This is available in English and Spanish.
- •BrainPOP is another great digital resource that has educational content that covers a variety of topics and has games! This is available in English, Spanish, and has a whole section for ESL learners.

- •<u>Tumblebooks</u> has a large collection of read-along titles and games in English, French, and Spanish.
- •Hyread is a digital database of Chinese language texts.
- •Likewise, BPL has access to some digital resources that are only available in English but are visual enough that they may be of some use to English Language Learners in the same way that watching TV might help via context, visual cues, and interest-driven attention. These are ScienceFlix and TrueFlix
- Additionally BPL has a huge collection of <u>eBooks and eAudiobooks</u> in dozens of languages available with only a library card



Additional Resources

Language Line

<u>Telephone interpretation</u>
<u>services</u> are available
at every BPL branch in more
than 170 languages. Ask a
librarian for assistance.

Case Management

We can help you connect to social services such as childcare referrals, housing assistance, connect to employment opportunities, navigate college and training programs, and much more. We offer free one-on-one in-person appointments.

Legal Services

Limited Legal Services Access free and low-cost legal services for immigrants.









Thank You and Contact Info:

Taina Evans, Regional Director

tevans@bklynlibrary.org

Janel Peterson
Coordinator,
Immigrant
Services

jpeterson@bklynlibrary.org





EMPOWERING ASYLUM SEEKERS – LET'S TALK AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES

Long Island Library Conference Thursday, May 9, 2024





Ensure staff throughout the system are informed and able to support and direct

asylum seekers

- Help staff understand the big picture of the NYC asylum seekers situation
- Provide useful resources to the staff
 - Staff Resources for Serving Migrants (1 pager)
- Learn common needs of asylum seekers
- Offer lessons learned and best practices
- > Teach staff how to stay up to date

STAFF TRAININGS

WHAT CAN QPL DO TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS-PART 1

- ► Held on October 25, 2022 TRAINING
- RIF Asylum Support (https://www.rifnyc.org): a local organization that provides services to asylum seekers
- Catholic Migration Services(https://catholicmigration.org/): provided legal aspects of the asylum application process
- Rochdale Village Adult Learning Center Manager: shared what she has been seeing on the front line

- ► Held on December 6, 2022
- Senior Manager of Member Engagement NYC at the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC.org)
- Various Community Library Managers shared on-the-ground experiences (Corona, Long Island City etc.)

WHAT QPL IS DOING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS-PART 2 TRAINING

- ▶ Held on September 5, 2023
- Provided big picture and QPL specifics
- Offered lessons learned and best practices
- Shared resources

Future training- information on Workforce Development for those who have Work Authorization

A YEAR LATER-ASYLUM SEEKERS AND QPL-PART 3 TRAINING

Immediate needs

- ID
- Food
- Clothing
- Housing
- Transportation
- Education System

English Language Learning

- Formal English classes
- Volunteer-led conversation groups
- Online resources
- Children and youth

Immigration Legal Services

- Immigration Legal Help
- Pro-se tools

Work

- Work authorization process
- Certifications (OSHA)
- Professional training and foreign degrees
- Workforce Training
- Workers Rights



Challenges:

- o Location: Privacy, protection. Where are they living and who is managing it?
- Language access: Many languages
- o Information overload: Overwhelming amount of information
- o Our Role: What can we do, as a Library
- Capacity: Limited resources

How to address these challenges?

- o Through partnerships!
- Creating resources for staff
- Internal collaborations
- Volunteers can help
- Meeting people where they are

WORKING TOGETHER: COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE

The New Americans Program celebrates Queens residents' cultures and helps newcomers understand life in the United States

NEW AMERICANS PROGRAM



(in Spanish)

will also learn how to determine if they qualify and how to apply. Participants will receive a

ADMISSION IS FREE

Wednesday, November 15, 11am

38-23 104 Street - 718-426-2844 1 to 103rd St/Corona Plaza - Q23, Q48

CONOZCA SUS

(en español)

Al final del taller, los participantes aprenderan sobre la vivienda asequible, incluyendo donde

ENTRADA GRATUITA

Miércoles, 15 de noviembre, 11 am

38-23 104 Street - 718-426-2844 hasta la 103rd St/Corona Plaza - Q23, Q48

As part of its role as an information center, Queens Public Library presents programs of interest to the community. The library does not vouch for the accuracy of information disseminated during such programs and assumes no responsibility for any statements made. Views expressed are those of the speaker alone.



Asiáticos Americanos por la loualdad per la igualdad



FREE RESOURCES FOR NEW ARRIVALS

(in Spanish)

know how to deal with court or access

FREE ADMISSION

Thursday, September 21, 4pm

128-16 Rocksway Blvd. • (718) 529-1660 Q7, Q9, Q10

Tuesday, September 26, 2pm

to 103rd 5t/Corona Plaza - Q23, Q48

Friday, September 29, 10:30am

to 21 Street/Queensbridge Q66, Q69, Q100LTD, Q103



As part of its role as an information center, Queens Public Library presents programs of interest to the community. The library does not vouch for the accuracy of information disseminated during such programs and assumes no responsibility for any statements made. Views supressed are those of the speaker alone.



SPANISH COMPUTER CLASS FOR NEWCOMERS

Come and learn some basic but very practical computer skills to help you adjust to life in the United States. You will learn how to send emails, scan, upload and download documents, organize documents in Google Drive and much more.

Space is limited and will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Saturdays, October 14, 21, 2:30pm LONG ISLAND CITY (MEETING ROOM A) 37-44 21 Street - (718) 752-3700 to 21st Street/Queensbridge Q66, Q69, Q100LTD, Q103

Saturdays, October 28; November 4 2:30pm

SOUTH OZONE PARK (MEETING ROOM) 128-16 Rocksway Boulevard - (718) 529-1660 Q7, Q9, Q10

CLASE DE COMPUTACION EN ESPAÑOL PARA RECIÉN LLEGADOS

Venga y aprenda algunas habilidades de computación básicas pero muy prácticas para ayudarle a adaptarse a la vida en los Estados Unidos. Aprenderá cómo enviar correos electrónicos, escanear, cargar y descargar documentos, organizar documentos en Google Drive y mucho más.

El espacio es limitado y estará disponible por orden de llegada

Sábados, 14 y 21 de octubre, 2:30pm

LONG ISLAND CITY (Sala de reuniones A) 27-44 21 Street - (718) 752-2700 Tren - hasta la 21st Street/Queensbridge Q66, Q69, Q100LTD, Q103

Sábados, 28 de octubre; 4 de noviembre 2:30pm

SOUTH OZONE PARK (Sele de reuniones) 128-16 Rocksway Boulevard • (718) 529-1660 Q7, Q9, Q10

IMMIGRATION AND EMPATHY: UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN'S STORIES IN NYC Learn about unaccompanied child (UC), young individuals who arrive



Learn about unaccompanied children (UC), young individuals who arrive at the US border by themselves, and embark on harrowing and dangerous journeys. Discover their remarkable resilience and gain insights into their unique experiences. This program was designed to foster empathy and support for UC and their families in our city.

FREE ADMISSION

Wednesday, October 4, 4pm RIDGEWOOD

20-12 Madison Street • (718) 821-4770 to Forest Avenue • 813, 820, Q39, Q58





CELEBRANDO EL MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month



New Americans Program Presents: PUPPET WORKSHOP

Up to 15 children will learn about making and using puppets. Participants will create their own puppets and then feature them in a theatrical performance.

Participants will recreate Quico, a character TV series that depicts the misadventures of Chavo, an orphan living alone in a Mexican vecindad). The class will then learn how to bring the puppet to life by making it move.

for this workshop.

ADMISSION IS FREE

Saturdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28 3pm

100-01 Northern Blvd., Corona

to 103rd Street/Corona Plaza. Walk 5 blocks to Northern Boulevard Q23, Q66, Q72



- Community Learning/Adult Learning Centers-
 - Tabling at Central Library opposite IDNYC to provide targeted assistance including the EnGen app for studying English on your phone https://getengen.com/
 - Case management available at Adult Learning Centers
 - Additional ESOL clsses including some targeted to low literacy students
 - Navigate NYC course at Long Island City Adult Learning Center
- Collection <u>Development</u>- <u>Expanded Spanish language</u> and <u>bilingual</u> collections at appropriate locations
- Promotion of Brainfuse Live Homework Help including in Spanish as well as English
- Community Engagement- Outreach Team Mobile Library visits to shelters where asylum seeker families are housed
- Programs & Services- Purchase of picture books in Spanish as donations for families waiting in line at IDNYC; in collaboration with Community Library Services, respond to requests by parent coordinators at schools with influx of ELL students for presentations in Spanish about library services

QPL RESPONSE & SERVICES

- Partnership with USCIS for in-person consultations and presentations in English and Spanish re: work authorization, asylum and fee waivers
- QPL's Job & Business Academy assists with resumes, interviewing and more
- Partner Workforce 1 offers special sessions for Asylum Seekers who have work authorization
- Language Learning databases including ESOL promoted.
- Modifying library card policies; Library Card applications in additional languages
- Library as a trusted safe space.

QPL RESPONSE & SERVICES, (CONT).

- Goal of integrating newcomers into existing programs and services across age groups for mutual learning
- NAP working with other units in the Programs & Services Department and across Departmental lines to make the library as welcoming as possible to our newest arrivals who are becoming our newest neighbors
- Taking response out of emergency mode and making it part of normal library services

INTEGRATION

Contact information: Fred Gitner, <u>Asst.</u> Director, New Initiatives & Partnership Liaison, New Americans Program

fgitner@queenslibrary.org

¡GRACIAS! THANK YOU! MERC!!





HOW TO SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY?



ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE ON LONG ISLAND

CHALLENGES

WHAT ARE SUFFOLK LIBRARIES DOING



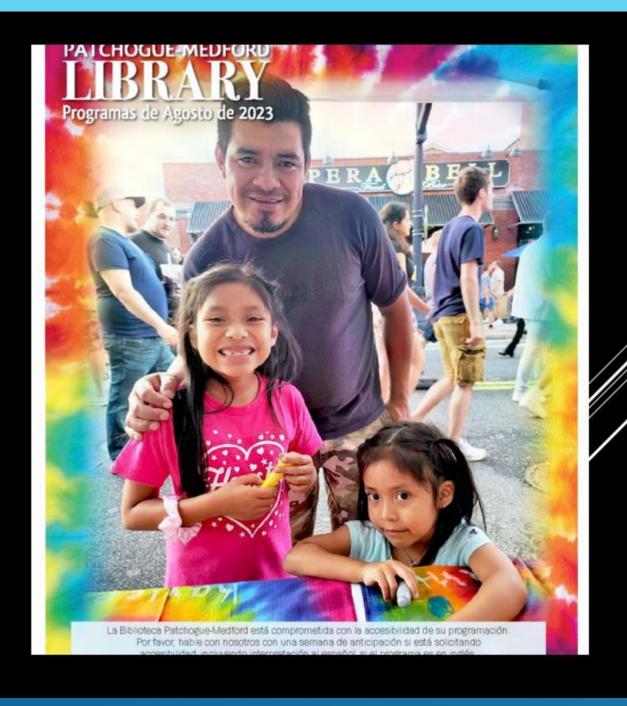
Inscribase

¡Vea nuestro e-boletín!

programas en línea en nuestro sitio web SPAMISH LANGUAGE NEWSLETTERS SPANISH LANGUAGE NEWSLETTERS



SPANISH LANGUAGE NEWSLETTERS







A notario or notario público isn't an attorney and can't give you legal advice.



Notarios will take your money but won't help you. Sometimes, they hurt your chance to immigrate lawfully.



Only an immigration attorney or an accredited representative working for an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice can give you legal advice about the immigration process. Find out more at ftc.gov/immigration.



NOTARY SERVICES & NOTARY FRAUD AWARENESS



SOCIAL WORKERS
IN THE LIBRARY

Immigration Counseling

Free appointments are available for help with your general immigration questions.



The immigration counselors speak both English and Spanish.



Appointments are available Tuesdays from 3:00-7:00 PM.



Make an appointment online or call 631-654-4700 x153.

LAW SERVICES IN THE LIBRARY CATHOLIC CHARITIES

NON PROFIT PARTNERS

SEPA MUJER

Latina women and girls building the power of the immigrant community towards advancing equity and justice. Through our work, we strive to nurture and improve civic engagement by way of leadership skills and legal representation.

FAMILY SERVICE LEAGUE

FSL is a social service agency that provides support and security to our Long Island neighbors who need it most. From children and families to individuals and seniors, we empower more than 50,000 of our community's most vulnerable to mobilize their strengths and improve their quality of life.

STONY BROOK HOME FREE CLINIC

...A medical student-run, physician-supervised free clinic affiliated with the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. We provide high quality and comprehensive primary care to uninsured adults on Long Island at no cost.

LEGAL HAND CALL IN CENTER

Legal Hand Call-In Centers are available by telephone, email, text, chat, and video. Services are free and there are no eligibility requirements. All are assisted regardless of income, immigration status, and residence.

TOURO LAW CENTER IMMIGRANT LEGAL CLINIC

Representation is provided by upper-level law students, working under the close supervision of experienced lawyers who are clinical professors. There is no charge for clinic representation...Please do not visit the Law Center unless you have first contacted the Office of Clinical Programs at (631) 761-7080 to see if you are eligible.

OLA OF EASTERN LONG ISLAND

OLA (Organización Latino Americana) serves immigrant and US-born Latinos working and/or living in the villages and hamlets of the Towns of East Hampton, Southampton, Riverhead, Southold, and Shelter Island.

LITERACY SUFFOLK

We change lives, families, and communities by tutoring adults to improve their ability to speak, read, and write English.

Thank you.

Jose Hernandes, Library Manager

Huntington Station Branch, Long Island

Contact: jose_hernandez@huntlib.org



We speak your language.

EMPOWERING ASYLUM SEEKERS – LET'S TALK AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES: A BUSINESS LIBRARY FOCUS

Long Island Library Conference, Thursday, May 9, 2024
New York Marriott Hotel, Melville, N.Y.
Sponsored by: Constitutions & By-Laws Committee of NCLA

A BUSINESS LIBRARIAN'S TO-DO LISTS

- Don't work in a silo partner with your colleagues who work with refugees and asylum seekers
- Check the data and definitions
- Be knowledgeable re: referrals and know which documents can be printed in languages other than English
- How do we connect customers to the technical assistance to start and operate a business or nonprofit organization in Queens County?
- Stay connected to government and business communities
 - Government agencies, such as SBA and NYC Small Business Solutions Center
 - Economic development agencies (example: Queens Economic Development Corporation)
 - Chamber of Commerce(s)
 - Nonprofits, fiscally sponsored groups (example: Street Vendor Project) and CBOs



DATA & DEFINITIONS

PERIODICALLY REVIEW
FEDERAL, NEW YORK
STATE AND CITY OR
COUNTY-LEVEL DATA (IF
AVAILABLE)

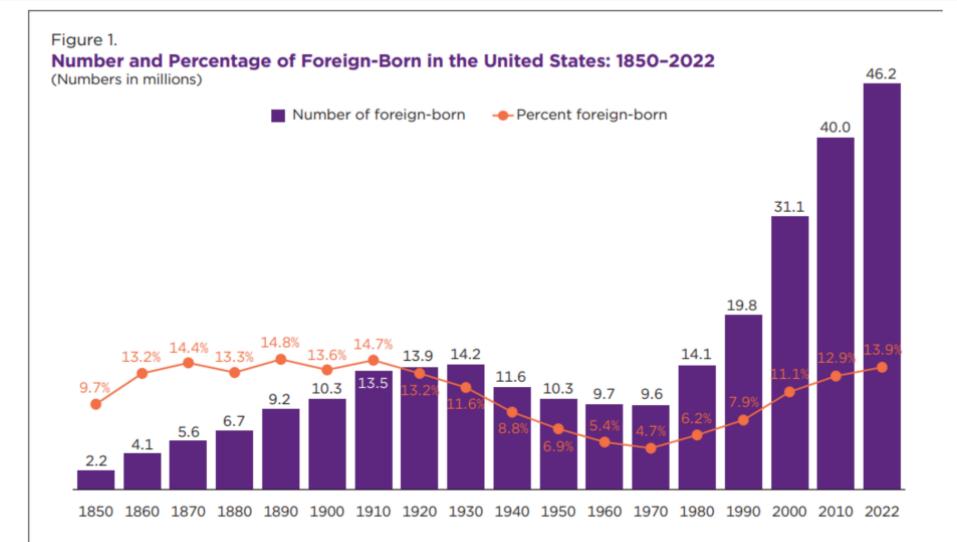
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU: WHO IS FOREIGN-BORN?

- Foreign-born are people who were not U.S. citizens at birth, including naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (immigrants), temporary migrants (such as foreign students), humanitarian migrants (such as refugees and asylees), and unauthorized migrants
- Native born population comprises anyone who is a U.S. citizen at birth, includes people born in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Marianas, or abroad, to a U.S. citizen parent or parents

The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2022 (census.gov) www2.census.gov/library/publications/2024/demo/acsbr-019.pdf

FOREIGN BORN POPULATION IN U.S. MAKES UP 13.9 PERCENT (46.2 MILLION), U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, APRIL 2024

- Foreign-born numbers: California (10.4 million), Texas (5.2 million), Florida (4.8 million), New York (4.5 million)
- In California, New Jersey, New York, and Florida, the foreign-born population accounts for more than 20 percent of the state's population
- Nearly one-third of the country's foreign-born came to U.S. in 2010 or later
- About 53 percent or 24.5 million naturalized
- Labor force participation is higher for foreign-born



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1850-2000 Censuses and 2010 and 2022 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

NYC COMPTROLLER BRAD LANDER "FACTS NOT FEAR, HOW WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS BENEFITS NYC," JANUARY 2024

Immigrant New Yorkers are more likely to be employed Immigrant New Yorkers create jobs by starting a business

Immigrants account for 32.4 percent of entrepreneurs in NYS and make up one-quarter of NYS labor force

In NYC, immigrants comprise 36% of population and 43% of workforce

Providing more pathways to legal status for undocumented workers will raise wages for everyone

The right to seek asylum in the U.S. is enshrined under federal law. 8 U.S.C. § 1158(a)(1). This right to seek safety from persecution is also guaranteed under international law.

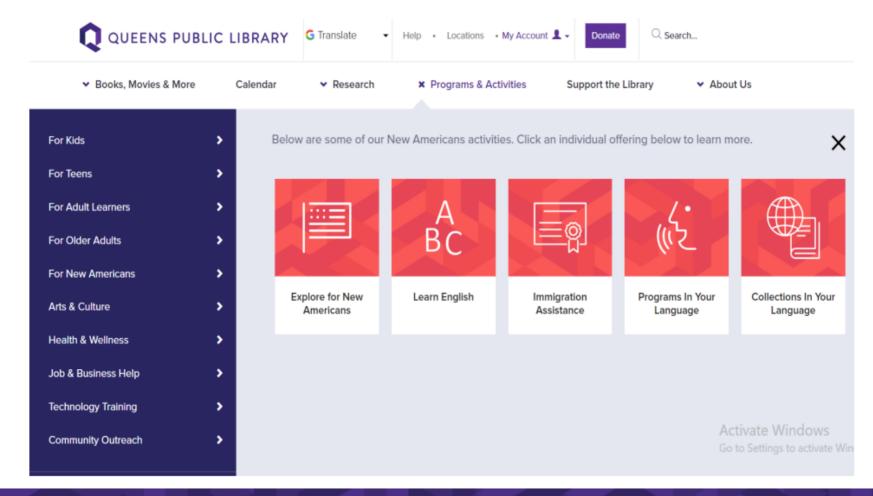


ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS & SERVICES

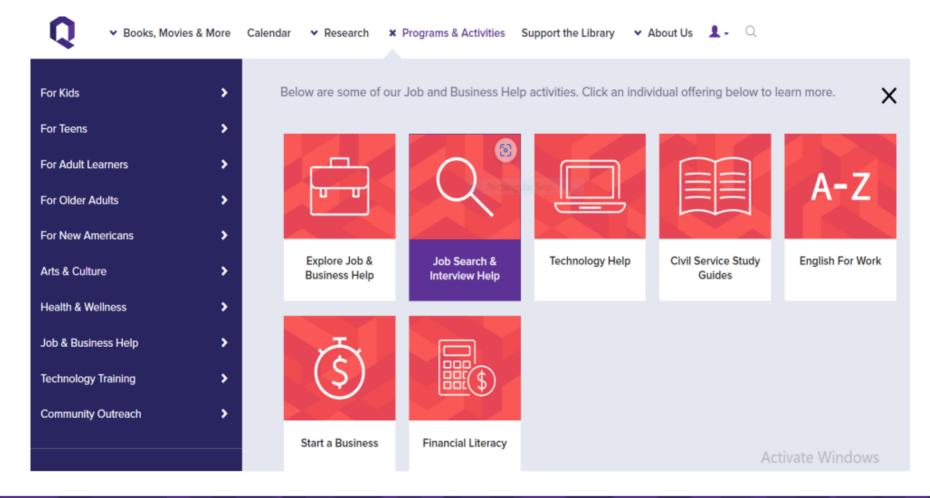
QPL'S NEW AMERICANS PROGRAM HAS SERVED NEW AMERICANS IN QUEENS COUNTY FOR 45+ YEARS!



QUEENSLIBRARY.ORG - NEW AMERICANS PROGRAM



QUEENSLIBRARY.ORG - JOB & BUSINESS ACADEMY





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING, ASKING GREAT QUESTIONS AND SHARING IDEAS!

SUSAN SHIROMA BUSINESS LIBRARIAN, QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY, CENTRAL LIBRARY SUSAN.SHIROMA@QUEENSLIBRARY.ORG