In 2020, key Informant Interviews found that:

Many immigrant parents were essential workers which increases their risk of contracting the virus from commuting and interacting with the public.

Social hostility towards immigrants and the fear of the public charge rule significantly impacted immigrant families’ abilities and willingness to access medical care or ask for help during the early months of the pandemic.

Some Asian families reported an increase in xenophobia due to the political climate and stigma surrounding COVID-19 origins in the Hubei Province, China.

In some cases the illness was secondary, the fear was primary and with that food insecurity, housing insecurity, education for their children, loss of employment. That has been very difficult. — Provider

The majority [of the families we work with] are low income and non English speaking, they are working as frontline workers in restaurants, nail shops, and supermarkets so there was direct impact on families as many of them lost work, and the ones working are extremely busy because they’re essential workers. — Provider

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON IMMIGRANT FAMILIES
Based on results of the NYSB5 Needs Assessment 2020-21.

PROVIDERS’ OBSERVATIONS OF FAMILIES’ NEEDS:

[Some clients] were afraid to reach out for medical services because they are not documented. We had a single mom who came down with Covid, quite ill, everyone got together from our program and community and got her food, took care of her children. Community really came together but it has been very hard on people, especially those not documented. — Provider

Specific strategies that worked well during the pandemic:

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR+R) agencies responded by providing immigrant-friendly outreach and support during the pandemic.

Webinars were developed by parent-led groups to help immigrant parents teach their children with disabilities about mask wearing and other needed health and safety precautions.

Legal Advocates addressed concerns around transmitting documents online.

Mental Health resources were available and shared in several languages for immigrant families.

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ONA HOTLINE:
To access any of the NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) free services call the NYS New Americans Hotline: 1-800-566-7636
Monday to Friday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. (except holidays)
Calls are confidential. Assistance available in 200+ languages
NewAmericans.ny.gov

Immigrants are essential workers who

- 49% provide healthcare support
- 43% work in building & grounds, cleaning, or maintenance
- 33% provide personal care services

When did NY immigrants come to the United States

- 31.5% before 1990
- 22.9% 1990 - 1999
- 22.8% 2000 - 2009
- 22.8% since 2010

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- 40,807 recipients since 2012
- As of 2019, only 36% of DACA eligible children had been approved for DACA.

Paid taxes in 2018

- Immigrant-led families in New York State paid $35.4 billion in federal taxes and $21.8 billion in state and local taxes.

Immigrants support the NY economy

- DACA recipients and those eligible paid $113.4 million in state and local taxes in 2018.

Data Sources:
- Migration Policy Institute, https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/NY

Who are New York’s immigrants?