

Recommendations

During this time of upheaval in our health and immigration systems, New York should demonstrate bold national leadership by covering all state residents and ensuring the financial sustainability of safety-net hospitals.

- **Allocate \$532 million to create a state-funded Essential Plan** for all New Yorkers up to 200% of the federal poverty level who are currently excluded because of their immigration status.
- **Offer state-funded Medicaid coverage to immigrants who are losing their Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** by enacting A10607/S7569-A.
- **Modify payments to safety-net hospitals** by ending the indigent care transitional adjustment and passing legislation to provide enhanced medical assistance payments to true safety-net hospitals.
- **Pass and sign into law the New York Health Act.**

Community Need and Opportunity

- **More than 400,000** New Yorkers are uninsured because they are barred from comprehensive coverage due to their immigration status.
- **33,600** New Yorkers with TPS will lose access to affordable coverage if the state does not affirm its commitment to maintaining their eligibility if their status is terminated.
- Anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric in Washington have caused a spike in anxiety and stress linked to fear and uncertainty, exacerbating an existing lack of behavioral health services for immigrant communities. Increasing eligibility for comprehensive insurance coverage is one pathway to expanding access to behavioral health services.
- Washington's disregard for the wellbeing of low-income and immigrant communities means **the state government must step in to protect health care coverage and access for its most vulnerable populations.**
- The proposed **"public charge" rule makes decisive state commitments to immigrant communities more critical than ever.**
- Facilitating access to comprehensive behavioral and physical health care and coverage is important for **integrating immigrant families** into our communities and strengthening their ability to work, be productive, and contribute to the economy.
- New York State's commitments to improve population health, transform health care delivery, control costs, and eliminate health disparities **require coverage solutions for all New Yorkers.**
- **Strengthening the fiscal health of safety-net hospitals** is more important than ever given threatened hospital funding cuts and the possibility of an increasing uninsured population caused by the proposed "public charge" rule and the destabilization of insurance markets.
- Denial of coverage on the basis of immigration status causes:
 - families to suffer worse health;
 - hospitals to provide care for which they may not be reimbursed;
 - gaps in coverage that lead to cost inefficiencies, waste, and poor-quality care.