

Know Your Rights

Protections & Resources for Immigrants and Refugees



Cook County Government is committed to serving all residents and workers, regardless of immigration or citizenship status. As the second-largest county in the United States, where 21% of residents are foreign-born, we provide a variety of services and protections for all immigrants across the county.

At Cook County Government, you have the right to:

Legal Representation Against Deportation.

The Cook County Public Defender's Office represents all immigrants, regardless of status, in Immigration Court to defend against deportation.



Access to an Attorney Free of Charge.

Individuals who have been arrested can call the Cook County Public Defender's Office at 844-877-4448 for free legal representation at the police station, available 24/7 365 days a year.



Free Legal Aid Services for Housing and Debt Issues.

All immigrants, regardless of status, in Cook County can obtain free legal assistance if they are facing eviction, foreclosure, consumer debt, or tax deed issues.



Access Cook County Health Services.

All immigrants, regardless of status, living in Cook County, ages 19-64, may apply for health insurance via CareLink, a free program that helps cover the costs of healthcare at Cook County Health facilities.



Know Your Rights

Protections & Resources for Immigrants and Refugees



Referral Hotline for Resources.

Call 2-1-1 for resources to access food, housing, and more.



Protection Against Discrimination.

If you believe your rights are being violated, you may file a complaint with the Cook County Commission on Human Rights.

All immigrants, regardless of status, are protected from unfair treatment at work or being denied access to housing based on citizenship status, country of origin, the language(s) they speak, or their cultural practices/traditions.



COOK COUNTY INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION SERVICES

If English is not your first language, you can request a translator when you visit Cook County offices. Printed materials may also be requested in additional languages, including Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Chinese, Urdu, and Tagalog.

For more information about Cook County resources for immigrants, visit our Immigration Resources Webpage.

