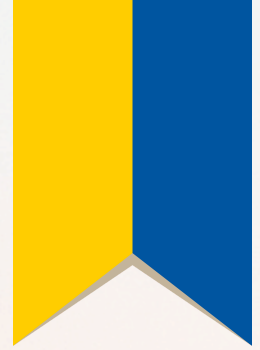




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# **WELCOME TO NEW YORK:**

## **A Guide for Ukrainian Newcomers**

This booklet is intended to provide information and resources for Ukrainian humanitarian parolees who have arrived in New York

**May 2024**

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## WELCOME TO NEW YORK

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The Resettlement & Integration Department at Commonpoint Queens has compiled some information and resources for Ukrainian humanitarian parolees (UHPs) who arrived in New York through the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program. Information provided in this resource is as of May 2024 and is subject to change. Please check the [Commonpoint Queens](https://www.commonpointqueens.org/) website for possible updates and changes.

This booklet is intended solely for informational purposes and does not constitute legal advice. All content is publicly available.

## RESETTLEMENT SERVICES FOR UHPs

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### ***Eligibility of Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) for Mainstream Benefits & ORR-funded services***

As of April 2024, Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) who were paroled between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2024 are eligible for resettlement assistance and other benefits available to UHPs in New York City. This includes spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who are paroled during this period.

Between October 2023 and April 2024, UHPs were excluded from ORR benefits due to a temporary halt in Ukrainian Supplemental Assistance eligibility. Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) are now eligible for benefits and services provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), as outlined in Policy Letter 22-13 recently approved by Congress. Policy Letter 22-13 serves to notify that as of May 21, 2022, the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA), extended by the Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024 (USSAA) 3, allows ORR to furnish resettlement assistance and other benefits to specific Ukrainian populations and non-Ukrainian individuals who have been displaced from Ukraine and arrived in the United States. As of April 22, 2024, all UHPs paroled into the country are eligible for ORR benefits.

List of agencies in the city of New York can be found here:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/policy-guidance/state-new-york-programs-and-services-locality>

## DOCUMENTATION

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Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees may have one of the following documents to show their legal status in the United States:

**Foreign passport with parole stamp that includes a UHP class of admission (COA)** - Ukrainian passport or that of another country if permanently residing in Ukraine. For more information regarding documentation of parole under Uniting for Ukraine, please visit: <https://www.uscis.gov/save/whats-new/parole-under-uniting-for-ukraine>

### **I-94 Form**

**Form I-94 in the United States** - Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees under Uniting for Ukraine can obtain a copy of their electronic Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, from the U.S Customs and Border Protection website at [i94.cbp.dhs.gov](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov). This Form I-94 record will include a UHP class of admission (COA).

To obtain Form I-94, UHPs can visit the website at the following link: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>, click the tab "GET MOST RECENT I-94," and enter their information.

### **Employment Authorization (EAD)**

**Employment Authorization Document (EAD)** - United States employers are required to make sure all employees, regardless of citizenship or national origin, are authorized to work in the United States. Having an Employment Authorization Document (I-766/EAD) is one way to prove that one is permitted to work in the United States for a specific time period.

UHPs can create an account and apply for an EAD and a Social Security Number (SSN) for each family member here:

- [Citizenship and Immigration Services - Sign up for a USCIS Account](#)
- [Apply for Form I-765](#)

**Note:** An unexpired I-94 form that shows a class of admission of "UHP" and a most recent date of entry on or before Sept. 30, 2024, is an acceptable document that temporarily shows identity and employment authorization for up to 90 days.

For more information regarding employment authorization for UHPs, please visit: [Which Ukrainian Parolees and Immediate Family Members are Employment Authorized Incident to Parole? | USCIS](#)



## **Social Security Number (SSN)**

**Social Security Number (SSN)** - A Social Security number (SSN) is a unique identifying number assigned to U.S. citizens and other residents. SSN is required to work in the United States so that employers may report their employees' wages, pay income taxes, and determine eligibility for Social Security benefits. Please visit <https://www.uscis.gov/ukraine> for more information regarding obtaining a social security number.

### **There are two ways to apply for an SSN:**

1. Visit the Social Security Administration office with a valid passport, form I-94 and [completed questionnaire SS-5](#). In section 5, UHPs are eligible under "Legal Alien Allowed to Work." In New York City, the application may be submitted in person to the Social Security Administration at the following addresses:
  - a. **Brooklyn:** 154 Pierrepont Street, 6th floor, NY 11201
  - b. **Manhattan:** 123 William Street, 3rd floor, NY 10038
  - c. **Queens:** 155-10 Jamaica Avenue, 2nd floor, NY 11432
  - d. **Bronx:** 820 Concourse Village West, 2nd floor, NY 10451

Please note, other SSA field offices may be found using the [SSA Field Office Locator](#).

2. Request an SSN when completing the USCIS form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization (see above). The EAD approval process can take several months, and the Social Security card will arrive soon after the EAD.

Applying for a SSN and an initial EAD is free for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees.

Typically, UHPs receive Social Security cards, that show the individual's name and Social Security number, and has a notation, "**VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION.**" This type of social security card may be issued to people lawfully admitted to the United States on a temporary basis who have the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s authorization to work. USCIS is an agency of the Department of Homeland Security.

For more information regarding types of social security cards, please visit: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/cards.htm>

## REQUIRED STEPS

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### **Report Change of Address to USCIS**

All noncitizens in the United States must report a change of address to USCIS within 10 days. If an individual has changed their address since filing with USCIS, it is important to update the address using the [AR-11 - Change of Address form](#) or through their [account with USCIS](#). Failure to include the receipt number of each pending application may result in USCIS sending mail and documents to the old address.

### **Complete U4U Public Health Requirements**

All UHPs over the age of two must be screened for TB with an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) within 90 days of arrival in the United States. IGRA is a blood test that can determine whether a person is infected with TB bacteria.

Everyone must attest to completing the TB screening requirement in their United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) online account ([myaccount.uscis.gov](#)) within 90 days of arrival, including minor children and children under 2 years of age, who qualify for an exemption to the TB test screening.

For more information about screening for TB, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/u4u-conversation-guide.html>

**1. TB Testing in NYC** - To find free clinics that offer TB testing in New York City, UHPs can access the following website: [NYC TB Test Centers](#)

**2. Health insurance** - If a parolee has enrolled in Medicaid or other health insurance, they can get tested as directed by the primary care physician (PCP).

**3. Free referral through KHealth** - UHPs can get a free referral on the site [KHealth](#) and take a paid test at one of the labs, such as LabCorp or Jason Health.

### **Vaccination against COVID-19**

According to U4U program requirements, after being paroled into the United States, all beneficiaries aged 6 months and older must submit an attestation stating that they will be or are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 90 days of arrival. The attestation is a condition of parole and must be completed in the beneficiary's USCIS online account.

If an individual has received two vaccinations with the two-stage vaccine against COVID-19, they are considered fully vaccinated and do not require additional vaccinations.

For individuals who are partially vaccinated, completing the COVID-19 vaccination process is necessary in the U.S. The vaccination card can be downloaded from the "DIYA" portal. This card contains vaccine information and dates, aiding U.S. healthcare providers or pharmacists in selecting the suitable vaccine and scheduling the completion of vaccination for partially vaccinated individuals.

Vaccination does not require insurance - it is free for everyone. One of the easiest ways to get vaccinated is to contact a large pharmacy: [CVS](#), [Walgreens](#), [Health Mart](#).

[USCIS Uniting for Ukraine Vaccine Attestation](#)

## **Registration For The Selective Service**

All men in the United States who are ages of 18 through 25, including Ukrainian humanitarian parolees, must register for Selective Service. New arrivals must register within 30 days of arriving in the U.S. Evading registration could lead to denial of immigration and other benefits down the road, as well as potentially large fines and even jail time. [You can register and find additional information here.](#)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### **WORK**

The following resources can assist UHPs in exploring special programs designed to support jobseekers, searching for open job opportunities, posting resumes to increase visibility to employers, and researching various career paths.

- [American job centers](#) help people find work, find training and answer other questions related to employment.
- [The Hope Program](#) empowers New Yorkers to build sustainable futures through comprehensive training, jobs, advancement and lifelong career support.
- [Upwardly Global](#) helps refugees and other humanitarian migrants find professional work in the USA. Their free program includes resume writing, interview preparation, training, certifications, one-on-one coaching, career networking and introducing you to employers.

There are many job search websites in the United States. Some include:

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Indeed](#)
- [SimplyHired](#)
- [Glassdoor](#)

Additional job search websites:

- [Task Rabbit \(Cleaning\)](#)
- [Rover \(animal care\)](#)
- [Care.com \(childcare\)](#)
- [Uber \(driver\)](#)
- [Lyft \(driver\)](#)
- [Doordash \(driver\)](#)
- [Flexjobs \(remote work\)](#)

### **HOUSING**

*Please note that all the websites below operate independently and many have private landlords and postings. Commonpoint Queens does not endorse any individual housing providers, and we encourage all UHPs to clearly research and understand the housing agreements into which they enter.*

Short-term housing websites:



- [Airbnb](#)
- [Craigslist](#)
- [Leasebreak](#)

Long-term housing websites:

- [Apartment list](#)
- [Zillow](#)
- [Trulia](#)
- [Craigslist](#)
- [Bazarynka](#)
- [Streeteasy](#)

[Nova Ukraine](#) and [Ukrainian Habitat Fund](#)- organizations that may be able to support UHPs with securing initial housing. Please understand that their capabilities are limited.

**Homeless individuals and families have a right to shelter in the City of New York. If you are currently homeless, you can seek assistance at the intake shelters listed below which are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

The following list are locations where applications are accepted at this time:

**Single Adult Men**

400-430 East 30th Street, New York (at First Avenue)

**Single Adult Women**

116 Williams Avenue, Brooklyn (between Liberty Avenue and Glenmore Avenue)

OR

1122 Franklin Avenue, Bronx (near 166th Street)

**Families with Children**

PATH - (between Walton Avenue and Gerard Avenue)

151 East 151st Street, Bronx

For more information regarding homeless shelters across NYC, please visit:  
<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-02501>

## **PUBLIC BENEFITS**

**In New York State, UHPs continue to be eligible for Medicaid or Essential Plan health insurance. More about Benefits available [here](#) and [here](#).**

Types of mainstream public benefits that Ukrainian humanitarian parolees may be eligible for:

***Medicaid*** is a government-sponsored health insurance program designed to provide coverage for low-income individuals and families. Medicaid provides coverage for a wide range of medical services, including routine doctor visits, urgent care, chronic care, hospitalization and prescription drugs, and depending on the Medicaid plan underwriter company, coverage for dental and eye services. Please note that not all medical providers participate in a Medicaid plan.

Residents of the five boroughs of New York City can apply for Medicaid at [AccessHRA](#); residents of all other New York State counties can apply [through the New York State of Health Website](#).

***The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*** provides food assistance for low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities. The program helps families and individuals supplement the cost of their diet with nutritious foods. All SNAP applicants that have been approved for benefits will receive an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card in the mail. For information about maximum SNAP benefit amounts, please see: [Access HRA](#). *UHPs residing outside of the five New York City boroughs, can access further information [here](#).*

***New York's Cash Assistance (CA)*** provides temporary financial help to eligible families and individuals who are in financial need and includes allowance amounts for certain basic needs: housing, utilities, food, transportation, etc. The amount of the payment depends on the size and composition of the family and other circumstances. Information about different types of Public Cash Assistance is available on the HRA website. Apply here: [Access HRA](#). *UHPs residing outside of the five New York City boroughs, can locate their local office [here](#).* Official source can be viewed here: [Policy and Guidance - Eligibility of Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#)

***Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*** is a program that provides healthy food and access to medical check-ups for low-income pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as children under 5 years of age. To do this, they must have proof of income (Medicaid, SNAP, or Cash Assistance can be used as proof of income). UHPs can apply through the [WIC website](#).

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** is a federal program for adults and children who meet the definition of disabled and individuals aged 65 or older who have limited income and resources. It provides cash (see [Federal Payment Amounts here](#)) to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. SSI applications are made at a [Social Security Administration](#) office. Typically, eligible UHPs need to present their passport, I-94, and social security number, proof of income and savings as applicable, and expenses, including rent. For more information and to order SSI application forms and make an appointment call 1-800-772-1213. UHP eligibility is listed [here](#)

**Fair Fares NYC** is a program created to help New Yorkers with low incomes manage their transportation costs. Using the Fair Fares NYC MetroCard, eligible New York City residents receive a 50% discount on subway and eligible bus fares. Apply here: [Access HRA](#)

**Childcare Vouchers** help cover the cost of child care for children 6 weeks to 13 years old. Children with disabilities up to 19 years old are also covered. To determine eligibility and apply, UHPs can visit the [ACCESS NYC Website](#). UHPs residing outside of the five New York City boroughs, can access more information [here](#).

***\*Please note that Public Benefits assistance is provided as long as a family meets the income criteria. As soon as the applicant's income changes, they must inform the relevant city or state agency about it.***

## **FREE AND LOW COST SECOND-HAND CLOTHING**

Gently used clothes and furniture can be purchased inexpensively in second-hand stores:

- [Clothing Closet Directory](#)
- [Goodwill](#)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [Savers](#)

## **FOOD BANKS**

Food banks in the United States are charitable organizations that provide assistance to people who are in difficult economic conditions and have limited access to food. These agencies distribute free food and provide support to those in need, helping to reduce food insecurity in various communities.

- [Commonpoint Queens](#)
- [City Harvest](#)
- [Food Pantries](#)

- [Food Help NYC](#)
- [Food Bank for New York City](#)

## **REGISTERING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL**

All children aged 4 to 21 can attend public schools. Children between ages 6 and 16 are required to attend school and access education. NYC public schools provide interpretation services, either at the school/office where the parent is seeking assistance or by telephone. Children can be admitted to the school at any time of the school year.

Children may be enrolled in public school in New York City in-person or online:

- Visit a Family Welcome Center. No appointment is needed. [Family Support Center locations can be found here.](#)

OR

- Visit [NYmyschools](#) to create an account for the school-aged child and receive guidance on the school enrollment process.

NYC public schools can be found using one's home address [here](#). If a UHP family is in search of a daycare, those can be found using this [link](#).

All public schools offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to children for whom English is not their native language. If there are many such students in an elementary school, they can be combined into a separate ESL class. If a child with UHP has entered middle or high school, they will be offered ESL classes in addition to the subjects they choose to study.

## **ENGLISH COURSES**

There are many opportunities to access English classes for free in New York City and the surrounding areas. NYC Department of Education (DOE), community organizations, public libraries, colleges/universities and other institutions have classes for newly arrived immigrants. Classes are often offered in-person or virtually, throughout the day. You can find a few English language providers below:

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>In-Person or Virtual</b>
<a href="#">Commonpoint Queens ESOL</a>	Queens	Both
<a href="#">Community Impact at Columbia</a>	Manhattan	In-Person
<a href="#">Felt NYC</a>	Manhattan	Virtual

<a href="#">Institute for Immigrant Concerns</a>	Manhattan	Both
<a href="#">New International Center (CCCS)</a>	Manhattan	Virtual
<a href="#">NYU</a>	Manhattan	Virtual
<a href="#">Riverside Immigrant Services</a>	Manhattan	Both
<a href="#">NYPL</a>	Manhattan	Both
<a href="#">Jewish Community House (JCH)</a>	Brooklyn	Both
<a href="#">Shorefront Y</a>	Brooklyn	Both
<a href="#">Opportunity Centers</a>	NYC locations	Both
<a href="#">Brooklyn Public Libraries</a>	Brooklyn	In-Person
<a href="#">We Speak NYC</a>	NYC locations	Both
<a href="#">YMCA</a>	NYC locations	Virtual
<a href="#">CUNY</a>	NYC locations	In-Person
<a href="#">LaGuardia Community College</a>	Queens	In-Person
<a href="#">Hearts &amp; Homes for Refugees</a>	NYC locations	Virtual
<a href="#">USUUS Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center</a>	Manhattan	Virtual
<a href="#">Kingsborough Community College</a>	Brooklyn	In-Person
<a href="#">Manhattan School of Computer Technology</a>	Brooklyn	Both

## **IDNYC AND NY STATE DRIVERS LICENSE**

IDNYC is considered a recognized NYC government photo ID card. It is a recognized credential for interaction with the New York Police Department (NYPD), access to all city buildings providing services to the public, identification for employment, and medical benefits. It can be used as a public library card, to access immunization records for yourself and your child, and to open a bank account at certain financial institutions. [Appointments can be made using this link.](#)

## **LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Pro Bono Immigration Services:**

- [HIAS](#)
- [Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York](#)
- [The Legal Aid Society](#)
- [ActionNYC and Immigrant Justice Corps \(IJC\) at Brooklyn Public Library](#)



- [New York Legal Assistance Group \(NYLAG\)](#)

UHPs needing to consult with an immigration lawyer, can call the HIAS hotline, more information can be found here: [HIAS Legal Services](#). The hotline provides comprehensive support and free consultation on legal issues. They can be reached every first Friday of every month from 9am-3pm by phone: 212-613-1341.

***If you are a victim of domestic violence, call the national hotline at 800-799-7233, or text START to 88788, or visit [thehotline.org](https://thehotline.org) to find asylum and legal aid. The line is open 24/7 and has interpreters.***

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**IMPORTANT:** USCIS announced that Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees who were paroled into the United States beginning February 2022 for a two year parole period are eligible for re-parole on a case-by-case basis. All Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees should ensure that all members of their family have legal status to remain in the United States and should seek assistance and information from authorized legal providers.

**DISCLAIMER:** Commonpoint Queens “**Guide for Ukrainian Newcomers**” informational booklet is intended as a guide for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees in New York and does not constitute legal counsel or immigration advice. It is imperative to seek immigration information and assistance exclusively from authorized legal providers, including accredited immigration attorneys or organizations recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).

## **TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)**

The Department of Homeland Security announced the extension and redesignation of Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) on August 18, 2023. For information regarding Temporary Protected Status, please visit the following website: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/TPS-Ukraine>

Eligible UHPs can apply for TPS [online](#) (fill out the form [I-821 – Application for Temporary Protected Status](#)), and by mail.

- For applying with forms I-131 (application for Travel Document) or I-912 (exemption from payment of fees), [only submit by mail](#).
- For the ability to travel outside of the US while in TPS status, fill out the form [I-131 – Application for Travel Document](#) to receive Advance Parole. The cost of filing this form is \$575.

## **RE-PAROLE**

USCIS announced that eligible Ukrainians can now apply online for re-parole. For information regarding Re-Parole, please visit the following website: [https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/re-parole-process-for-certain-ukrainian-citizens-and-their-immediate-family-members?fbclid=IwAR3Uw\\_KT80JG8i-nZy53e52-R2ypNFEd3UHQNQFbXJ6JpBOYyM7DNHsp9HA](https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/re-parole-process-for-certain-ukrainian-citizens-and-their-immediate-family-members?fbclid=IwAR3Uw_KT80JG8i-nZy53e52-R2ypNFEd3UHQNQFbXJ6JpBOYyM7DNHsp9HA)

**HIAS PRO SE RESOURCES:** HIAS Pro-Bono & Partnerships team created a list of resources for Ukrainians seeking to understand their legal rights and responsibilities. The documents are attached below:

The recording of the HIAS session titled "Ukraine: Ukrainian Know Your Rights" is now available:

- [Ukrainian Know Your Rights 2024 - English](#)
- [Ukrainian Know Your Rights 2024 - Ukrainian](#)
- [Ukrainian Know Your Rights 2024 - Russian](#)

HIAS Pro Se Re-parole Toolkit for Ukrainians:

- [English](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)
- [Russian](#)

HIAS Pro Se Fee Waiver Toolkit:

- [English](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)
- [Russian](#)

HIAS Pro Se TPS Toolkit:

- [English](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)
- [Russian](#)

HIAS Pro Se EAD Toolkit:

- [English](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)
- [Russian](#)

HIAS Pro Se Travel Doc Toolkit:

- [English](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)
- [Russian](#)

Thank you!