

NEW AMERICANS INITIATIVE



“I had the chance to participate in the Y’s NAI programs where I started to learn English, and where I made friends and found people who I could count on. At the moment I am in a very exciting culinary program. I hope to work in the culinary field as a chef. This program has had a very big impact on me.”

- Naïka Edouazin, NAI Student

THE CHALLENGE

Immigrants to New York City often struggle with limited English proficiency, a lack of job training, and the difficulty of navigating complex local support systems and services. The recent influx of immigrants in the City has made the need for services even greater.

THE Y’S SOLUTION

For more than a century, the YMCA has welcomed and assisted immigrants as they build roots and establish lives in New York City. The New Americans Initiative (NAI) supports immigrants in reaching their goals while integrating into American society and contributing their skills and perspectives to their communities.

THE URGENT NEED

New York City has always been a city of newcomers with thousands of immigrants arriving weekly. The Y’s NAI classes are key to helping assimilate and integrate these individuals. Additional funds are urgently needed to meet the growing demand.

THE Y’S IMPACT IN 2024



1,200
NAI Participants



588
Students Improved English



57
New Voters



112
Job Training Certifications



408
New, Retained or Improved Employment

27
New Citizens

TRANSFORMING LIVES TOGETHER

- \$10,000: Sponsors an ESOL civics-focused class
- \$5,000: Sponsors a job-training course
- \$1,500: Sponsors case management for an NAI participant
- \$500: Sponsors a cultural celebration for an NAI class



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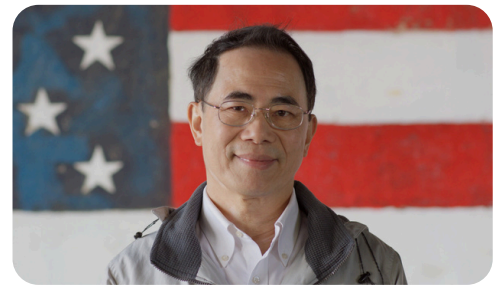
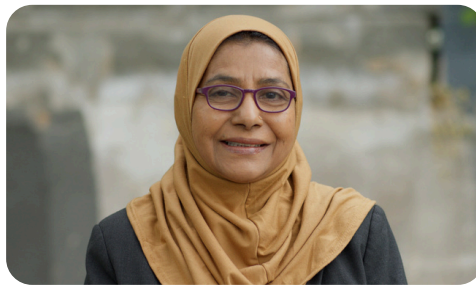
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The Y's NAI program provides resources including case management, Adult Basic Education and ESOL classes, workforce certification, citizenship prep and legal services.

CASE MANAGEMENT: Case managers work with each participant to provide a comprehensive needs assessment, including food, housing, English Language Learning and job-readiness. Each participant sets a goal to achieve within a 10-week period, and as progress is monitored, resources are provided to support goal achievement.

ESOL CLASSES: Classes support non-native speakers in improving their English proficiency, which is strongly linked to enhanced community integration and job success. Classes are designed to address everyday needs, including effective communication at work and school, describing medical conditions, and filling out housing applications.

CONNECTIONS TO EMPLOYMENT: NAI currently offers two workforce certification pathways to connect participants to the hospitality field. Graduates are eligible for positions including wait staff, food safety technician, line cook, or kitchen manager.



YMCA OF GREATER NEW YORK

We're here for all New Yorkers – to empower youth, improve health, and strengthen community.

For over 170 years, the YMCA of Greater New York has been helping all New Yorkers reach their full potential. As New York City's leading nonprofit community service and wellness organization, the Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they're from, by providing access and opportunities for all to learn, grow, and thrive.

We provide a place to play, to be healthy, and to give back. We give parents childcare, young adults job training, seniors a way to connect, and children a safe place to go. By bringing people together from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations, the Y improves overall health and well-being, ignites youth empowerment, and connects and supports diverse communities across New York City.



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