

NYC launches municipal ID card program

Written by Administrator
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New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio displays his new municipal ID card. (Screengrab: Youtube)

New York City has launched its municipal identification card program, the largest in the country, which will allow immigrants living in the country illegally to access key city services they were previously unable to obtain, according to the Associated Press.

The card, dubbed IDNYC, was approved last year and became available to New Yorkers Monday.

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It is aimed at those who do not currently have an ID, including the elderly, homeless and an estimated 500,000 immigrants in the city who live in the U.S. without legal documentation.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, who worked closely with City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito to create the program, long a liberal goal, called the card “a gateway to city services.”

“It is the key to opening a bank account or getting a library card, and the ticket to many of our city’s finest cultural institutions,” said the mayor, a Democrat.

“More than that, this card represents who we are: New Yorkers who value equality, opportunity and diversity.”

Advocates believe having the photo-embedded cards may make immigrants otherwise lacking documentation feel more comfortable seeking help from law enforcement.

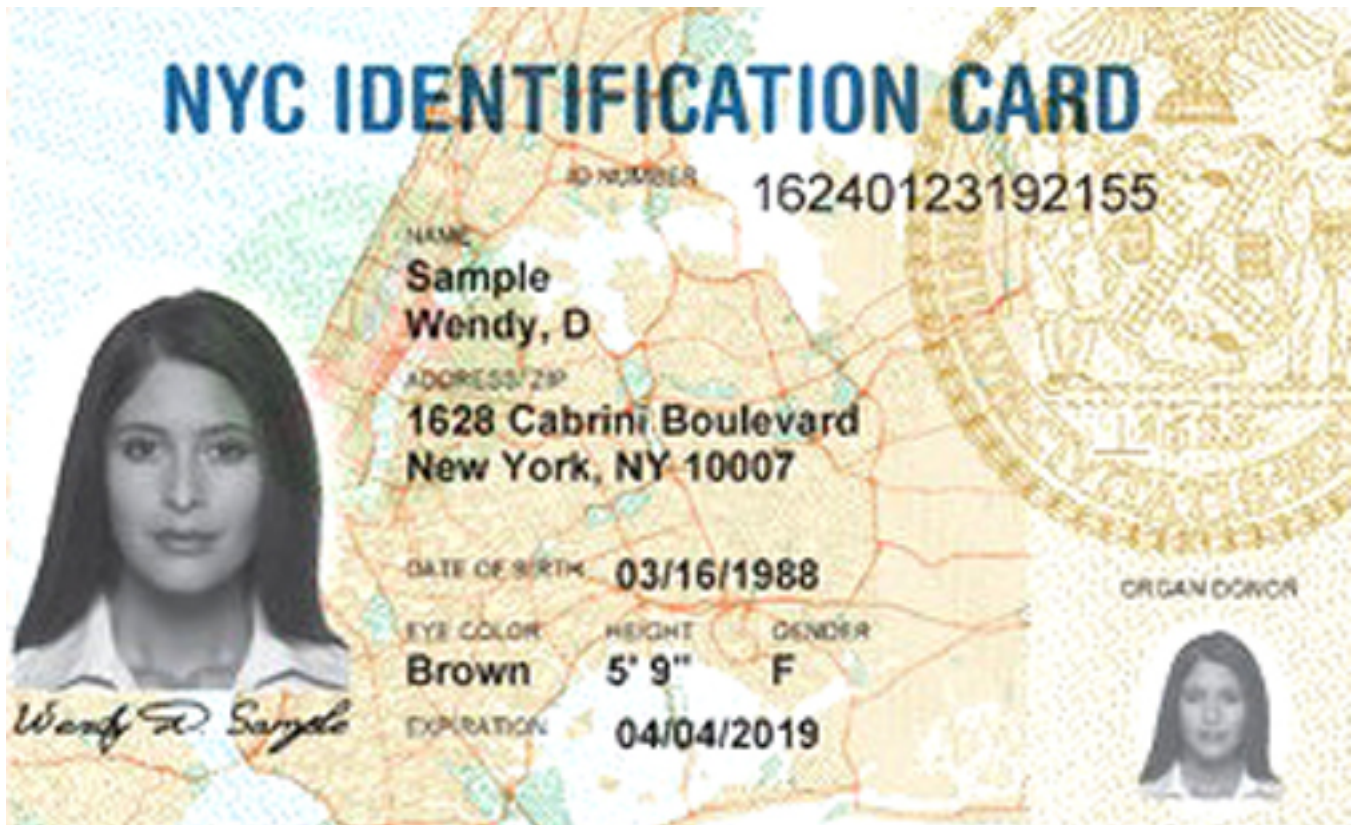
They said the cards also may help the elderly, the homeless and members of the transgender community who don’t have easy access or funds to get state IDs to participate in other aspects of civic life.

“This is a day that we have been waiting for; it speaks to folding everyone into the fabric that is this city,” Mark-Viverito said as she stood alongside the mayor at a Queens news conference.

“It’s more than an ID card, it’s an affirmation. You are a New Yorker.”

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