



Commentary/Op-Ed - August 2020

## Staying a city of immigrants: Newcomers keep us strong

In this New York Daily News op-ed, CUF Executive Director Jonathan Bowles urges the city to take initiative to prevent an exodus of New York immigrants, many of whom are facing unprecedented economic hardships, but are critical to the city's recovery.

by Jonathan Bowles

---

This economic crisis — with its disproportionate impact on low-wage fields like restaurants, hotels and nail salons — could hasten the departures of working New Yorkers, especially immigrant New Yorkers. In many communities, more than half of immigrants have lost their main source of income as a result of the crisis, and only a shockingly small number of the city's immigrants have benefited from the federal government's cash relief efforts. In this [op-ed](#) for the New York Daily News, CUF Executive Director Jonathan Bowles urges the city to prevent an exodus and continue attracting new immigrants by creating a local Excluded Workers Fund and a displaced workers voucher program, opening up city parks for street vendors, and developing a multilingual marketing campaign that urges all New Yorkers to remain in New York.

You can read the op-ed [here](#).

This op-ed builds on the Center's extensive research on immigrants and its recent work on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including [Under Threat & Left Out: NYC'S Immigrants and the Coronavirus Crisis](#) and a recent virtual policy forum series, "[What NYC's Immigrant- and Minority-Owned Small Businesses Need Now.](#)"

General operating support for the Center for an Urban Future has been provided by **The Clark Foundation** and the **Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation**. CUF is also grateful for support from Fisher Brothers and Winston C. Fisher for the **Middle Class Jobs Project**. CUF's ongoing research on immigrants in the arts in New York has been supported by the **New York Community Trust**, **Rockefeller Brothers Fund**, and the **Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund**.

Center for an Urban Future

CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE  
120 Wall Street, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10005

[cuf@nycfuture.org](mailto:cuf@nycfuture.org) © All Rights Reserved.

Image not readable or empty  
[https://nycfuture.org/images/nycf\\_pdf\\_footer.jpg](https://nycfuture.org/images/nycf_pdf_footer.jpg)