

One ID Columbus

What is One ID Columbus?

One ID Columbus a coalition of labor unions, worker organizations, LGBTQIA advocates, social service organizations, faith based groups, and advocates for the homeless. We want a municipal ID program that is developed and implemented by the city of Columbus in consultation with *One ID Columbus*. We want the program to be funded and administered by the city of Columbus. We worked with former Columbus City Councilmember, Michael Stinziano, on draft legislation for the program and a feasibility study.

Organizations involved with the coalition:

1. BREAD Organization
2. Central Ohio Worker Center
3. SEIU Local 1
4. National Church Residences
5. Foundations for Families
6. Central Ohio Labor Council
7. The Homeless Coalition
8. The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio
9. Equality Ohio
10. CAIR – Columbus
11. My Project USA

What is a municipal ID?

A municipal identification card is a photo identification card issued by a local government for its residents. The card is helpful for proving identity and could connect residents to services, programs, and benefits. It is beneficial to all residents of the municipality and especially to vulnerable populations who have trouble obtaining traditional forms of ID such as victims of domestic violence, the homeless, immigrants, those re-entering society from prison/jail, and others.

What are the potential benefits of having a municipal ID card?

In other cities one can use the card to gain access to municipal buildings which require ID, such as public schools attended by one's children, and city government offices, and to access city services. Police officers accept the card as valid identification.

Having ID that law enforcement officers accept is important because in instances of minor infractions, police can then merely issue a summons, rather than transporting the person to the ID bureau, police station, or jail.

The cards can be used to open a bank account at certain financial institutions and receive discounts at local businesses and cultural institutions. Another exciting potential of municipal ID cards is that they could provide residents with the convenience of consolidating several common functions into a single card: for example, they might be designed to replace or substitute for library cards and public transit discount cards.

How much would the card cost?

This would depend on how the local government sets this up. In other cities, there is a small cost of \$10-\$15 with the option of filling out a waiver for the cost. In New York City, the card is currently free.

In what instances would the ID not be accepted?

The ID would be limited to use in situations under the jurisdiction of the municipality. A municipal ID card would not provide proof of identity to obtain a driver's license. The card could not be used as proof of age to purchase alcohol or tobacco products. The card would not authorize cardholders to receive public assistance benefits or to board a commercial airline flight. It would not affect immigration status or provide work authorization.

Communities with municipal ID programs include

New York City, Newark, NJ; San Francisco and Oakland, CA, New Haven, Connecticut; Johnson County, Iowa; Detroit, MI; and many others.

For more information, please visit our website at www.oneidcolumbus.org. You may also e-mail us at oneidcolumbus@gmail.com.