



Baltimore City

Post-Election Resource Guide for New Americans

MIMA has received many of your inquiries and concerns related to the recent election results and the potential changes this transition may bring for our communities. We want to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the well-being of New Americans in Baltimore City. Our city has a proud history of unity, inclusivity, and resilience, especially in times of uncertainty. When challenges arise, Baltimore comes together as a community to uplift one another.

We recognize that, at this moment, many in our community are feeling uncertain about the future. We are here to say: MIMA will continue standing beside you, providing essential resources and information, and facilitating safe and supportive spaces. We seek to foster a city where everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered. Together, we will uphold the promise of a united and inclusive Baltimore where respect, hope, and support are extended to all, no matter where they come from.

MIMA has developed the following guide based on feedback from community organizations. MIMA will continue to update this guide as resources become available and events unfold.

Finally, please follow [this link](#) to share your thoughts and opinions with MIMA to guide our office's priorities as we navigate this transition together.

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Your Safety

It is important to report any incidents where you or your family feel threatened or have been the victim of a crime.

Reporting Hate Crimes

According to the [U.S. Department of Justice](#), a hate crime is generally motivated by bias against “race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.” The crime is often violent, such as “assault, murder, arson, vandalism, or threats to commit such crimes.”

Call 911 if you or your family has been threatened or been the victim of a crime. You can additionally report hate crimes to and seek resources from the following:

<p><u>Federal Bureau of Investigations, Baltimore Field Office</u></p> <p><i>If you believe that you are the victim of or witness to a federal hate crime, please report it to the FBI.</i></p> <p>2600 Lord Baltimore Drive Baltimore, MD 21244 Phone: (410) 265-8080 E-mail: baltimore@ic.fbi.gov</p>	<p><u>Maryland Office of the Attorney General</u></p> <p><i>If you believe that you are the victim of or witness to a local hate crime, please report it to the Maryland Office of the Attorney General.</i></p> <p>200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202 Hate Crimes Hotline: (866) 481-8361 Español: (410) 230-1712</p>	<p><u>Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center</u></p> <p><i>You can receive advocacy and legal support as a victim of a crime from the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center.</i></p> <p>1001 Prince George's Blvd Suite 750 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 Phone: 301-952-0063 Toll-Free: (877) VICTIM-1</p>
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Avoiding Immigration Scams

Sadly, dishonest people may try to offer you or your family benefits or protections that do not exist.

If someone offers you immigration assistance and identifies him or herself as a “**notario**,” “**visa consultant**,” “**licenciado**,” or “**abogado**,” you may be being targeted for immigration fraud. These people are neither authorized nor qualified to provide legal advice or legal services for immigration matters.

Only seek legal help from qualified legal providers. Organizations and representations that have been recognized and accredited can be found on the [website](#) of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Executive Office for Immigration Review. You can also verify your legal provider using American Immigration Lawyers Association’s [lawyer search](#).

You can report fraud by contacting any of the following offices:

Maryland Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division File a consumer complaint	Federal Trade Commission Report a scam to the FTC	Better Business Bureau Report a scam to the BBB
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For additional advice on protecting yourself and your family from immigration fraud, visit the [FTC’s website](#) for resources in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Korean.

Interacting with the Police

Baltimore Police Department (BPD) officers are not allowed to ask about your immigration status. Additionally, enforcement of civil federal immigration law falls exclusively within the authority of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

If you are questioned by the police, you have the right to remain silent, and you have the right to speak with an attorney before or during any police questioning.

If you are arrested by local police, they must charge you with a crime in court within 48 hours, or else they must release you. Police officers should always treat you with courtesy and professionalism. You may file a complaint if you think that a police officer acted inappropriately while interacting with you with the [Civilian Review Board](#).

Your Rights

It is important to know your legal rights. Everyone living in the U.S. has rights under the U.S. Constitution. Check out the [National Immigrant Law Center](#) for information on your rights in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Korean.

Due Process Protections

If you are in the U.S. with lawful status, you have a right to due process of law. This means that you cannot be deported without being given a chance to present your case to a judge, who then decides if you are eligible to stay in the United States.

Refugee & Asylee Status

If you are a refugee or asylee, you should apply for a green card within **one year** of being admitted to the United States or after being granted your asylum status. Do this as soon as possible with a reputable legal services provider.

If you have qualified for protection under U.S. law, you cannot simply be removed from the country. The procedure to remove an individual if you previously qualified for protection is long, and under current humanitarian law, you cannot be deported.

Due process protections also apply to individuals with pending asylum cases, and individuals cannot be deported unless and until an immigration judge determines that they do not qualify to stay in the U.S. These rights and protections extend to people from all countries. Any change in due process protections would require action from Congress.

Asylum Seekers

The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) recommends that asylum seekers take the following steps before January 2025:

1. Apply for your first work permit if you are eligible, even if you do not plan to work.
2. Apply to renew your work permit if your work permit will expire before 2028.
3. Consider applying for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in addition to asylum, if you are eligible.
4. Consider applying for another immigration status in addition to asylum, if you are eligible.
5. Sign up for free ASAP membership to get urgent immigration updates.

For more recommendations, visit ASAP's [website](#).

Legal Permanent Residency

If you have been a permanent resident for **three or more years**, consult with a qualified legal service provider about preparing to apply for U.S. citizenship. If you have had an encounter with the police, consult with a qualified attorney before applying for U.S. citizenship. Please consult the chart below for organizations that provide citizenship services:

Organization	Phone Number	Citizenship Classes	Legal Assistance	Application Assistance	Interview Prep	Exam Prep	General Information
CASA†	(410) 732-7777	X	X	X	X	X	X
Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance	(410) 467-3751						X
Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities of Baltimore*	(667) 600-2900	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greenmount Senior Center	(410) 396-3552	X					X
Immigrant Outreach Service Center*	(410) 323-8564		X				X
International Rescue Committee*	(410) 327-1885		X	X	X		X
Refugee Assistance Program, Baltimore City Community College*	(410) 986-5427 (410) 986-3201	X			X	X	X
World Relief*	(443) 451-1930		X	X	X	X	X

* Fee waiver assistance available for eligible individuals. Contact the organization to see if you qualify.

† Financial lending services available.

Immigration Legal Service Providers in Baltimore City

Below is a list of organizations that provide immigration legal services to residents of Baltimore City.

Organization	Physical Address	Phone Number	E-Mail Address
<u>Amica Center for Immigrant Rights</u>	1 North Charles Street, Suite 2305 Baltimore, MD 21201	(202) 331-3320	
<u>CASA</u>	2224 E. Fayette Baltimore, MD 21231	(866) 765-2272	<u>info@wearecasa.org</u>
<u>Esperanza Center</u>	430 S Broadway Baltimore, MD 21231	(667) 600-2900	<u>info@cc-md.org</u>
<u>Global Refuge</u>	700 Light Street Baltimore MD 21230	(410) 983-4000	<u>nailsteam@globalrefuge.org</u>
<u>International Rescue Committee</u>	1900 N Howard St, Suite 200 Baltimore, MD 21218	(410) 327-1885	<u>baltimore@rescue.org</u>
<u>Just Neighbors</u>	938 S Hanover St Baltimore, MD 21230	(703) 979-1240	<u>info@justneighbors.org</u>
<u>Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)</u>	1 South Street, Suite 1100 Baltimore, MD 21202	(443) 470-9437	<u>infobaltimore@supportkind.org</u>
<u>Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland</u>	1500 Union Ave, Suite 2400 Baltimore, MD 21211	(667) 899-5741	
<u>World Relief Baltimore</u>	1220 East Joppa Rd, Bldg B, Ste 400D Towson, MD 21286	(443) 451-1930	<u>wrbaltimore@wr.org</u>

Resources for Families & Youth

Family Plans for an Emergency

In the unfortunate event of the detention or deportation of a family member, it is important that other family members, especially children, **know the plan**.

Ensure that your family has an emergency plan assigning an adult to oversee children and other family members who need assistance and that you have any necessary paperwork for those custody arrangements.

For a more information on Family Safety Plans, please consult the resources below:

- [Know Your Rights Guide](#) from CASA (pages 10-15)
- [Family Safety Planning Guide](#) from the Pro Bono Resource Center
- [Emergency Preparedness for Immigrant Families](#) from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

Baltimore City Public Schools

Schools are considered areas protected from ICE actions. In 2011, the federal government issued a [policy](#) designed to ensure ICE actions neither occur at nor are focused on sensitive locations such as schools and churches.

What should I do if my kid is being bullied at school?

Option 1. Contact your child's school to report the incident(s). The school principal (or designee) *must* investigate within two school days of receiving a report, and parents should expect to hear about resolution within two further school days. The principal also reports the investigation and action taken to the district office in this time frame. More information can be found [here](#).

Option 2. Complete a "Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form." Reports can be completed and submitted [online](#) or by printing out a [hard copy \(español\)](#) and submitting the completed form to the school. If you do not have access to a printer, copies can be obtained at your child's school.

If you are not satisfied with the investigation, please contact the complaint line (Ombudsman) for the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools at **410-545-1870** or ombudsman@bcps.k12.md.us.

The Baltimore City Public Schools Police Force works to provide students and staff with a safe environment in which to learn and teach. If you have questions or concerns related to your child’s safety while he or she is in school, please contact the district office at **443-984-2000**. For all other emergencies, call 911.

Mental Health Resources

Organization	Physical Address	Phone Number	E-Mail Address
Baltimore Behavior Health Systems	1000 S Charles St, Tower 2, 8th Floor Baltimore, MD 21201	(410) 637-1900	
Baltimore Crisis Response	5124 Greenwich Ave Baltimore, MD 21229	988 (Crisis Hotline)	
Intercultural Counseling Connection	4500 Frankford Ave Baltimore, MD 21206	(410) 632-6701	intercultural.connect@gmail.com
Esperanza Center	430 S Broadway St Baltimore MD, 21231	(667) 600-2900	esperanzainfo@cc-md.org
Centro Sol, Johns Hopkins University	5200 Eastern Ave, Suite 4200 Baltimore, MD 21224	(410) 550-1129	centrosol@jhmi.edu
Global Refuge	700 Light St Baltimore, MD 21230	(410) 938-4000	migrantmentalhealthmd@globalrefuge.org
National Alliance of Mental Illness	2601 N Howard St, Suite 130 Baltimore, MD 21218	(410) 435-2600	info@namibaltimore.org
Pro Bono Counseling	1500 Union Ave, Suite 2100 Baltimore, MD 21211	(410) 825-1001	

Additional Information and Resources

Please consult the following documents for additional services and resources:

- Welcome to Baltimore Guide (MIMA): [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [Korean](#)
- Citizenship Services (MIMA): [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Burmese](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Nepalese](#) | [Korean](#)
- Know Your Rights (CASA): [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Manual de Defensa Contra la Deportación (Make The Road New York): [Spanish](#)
- Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Plan (Immigrant Legal Resource Center): [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Chinese](#)
- Steps to Take to Prepare Your Family (Informed Immigrant): [English](#)
- Informational Resources (United We Dream): [Website](#)
- Informational Resources (iAmerica): [Website](#)

Partner and Volunteer Opportunities

- [Become a Pro Bono Partner](#) (AMICA)
- [Become a Volunteer](#) (AMICA)
- [PIF Coalition Partner Toolkit](#) (Protecting Immigrant Families)

Disclaimer: The information provided in this guide does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. All information, content, and materials in this guide are for general informational purposes only. Information in this guide may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information. This guide contains links to other third-party websites. Such links are only for the convenience of the reader; MIMA and its staff do not recommend or endorse the contents of the third-party sites.

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This document was created by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Please contact mima@baltimorecity.gov with any questions, comments, or feedback.



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