

Baltimore City

Resource Guide for New Americans

MIMA continues to receive your inquiries and concerns relating to developments in immigration enforcement. 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, the people of Baltimore come 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.

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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
Amica Center for Immigrant Rights	1 North Charles Street, Suite 2305 Baltimore, MD 21201	(202) 331-3320	
CASA	2224 E. Fayette Baltimore, MD 21231	(866) 765-2272	info@wearecasa.org
Esperanza Center	430 S Broadway Baltimore, MD 21231	(667) 600-2900	info@cc-md.org
Global Refuge	700 Light Street Baltimore MD 21230	(410) 983-4000	nailsteam@globalrefuge.org
Immigration Outreach Service Center (IOSC)	5400 Loch Raven Boulevard, Floor 3 Baltimore, Maryland 21239	(410) 323-8564	-
International Rescue Committee	1900 N Howard St, Suite 200 Baltimore, MD 21218	(410) 327-1885	baltimore@rescue.org
Just Neighbors	938 S Hanover St Baltimore, MD 21230	(703) 979-1240	info@justneighbors.org
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)	1 South Street, Suite 1100 Baltimore, MD 21202	(443) 470-9437	infobaltimore@supportkind.org
Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland	1500 Union Ave, Suite 2400 Baltimore, MD 21211	(667) 899-5741	-
Tahirih Justice Center	211 E Lombard St, Suite 307 Baltimore, MD 21202	(866) 575-0071	baltimore@tahirih.org
World Relief Baltimore	1220 East Joppa Rd, Bldg B, Ste 400D Towson, MD 21286	(410) 244-0002	viso@wr.org

Your Safety

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 forty-eight 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](#).

Avoiding Immigration Scams

Dishonest individuals 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**,” or “**licenciado**,” 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. Verify your attorney using the American Immigration Lawyers Association’s [lawyer search](#). If you receive legal help from someone who is *not* a lawyer, they must be recognized and accredited by the Department of justice. Verify that your non-attorney representative is accredited on the [website of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Executive Office for Immigration Review](#).

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

Maryland Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division File a consumer complaint	Better Business Bureau Report a scam to the BBB	Ayuda Project END Get free legal assistance for problems with immigration legal services providers or scams targeting immigrants
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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.

Your Rights

It is important to know your legal rights. Everyone in the U.S. has rights under the Constitution. Visit this [National Immigrant Law Center page](#) 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 an immigration judge, who then decides if you are eligible to stay in the United States.

Expedited Removal

However, on January 21, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security announced its plan to expand its use of a process called “Expedited Removal,” which allows the government to quickly deport someone they believe to be lacking legal status, **without granting them the opportunity to see a judge**. Consult [this page from the National Immigration Law Center \(also available in Spanish\)](#) for more information on expedited removal as well as how to prepare against and your rights in such a situation.

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 as soon as possible:

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](#).

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Holders

- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) protections continue while valid, including protection from deportation, work permits, and the option to request travel documents.
- Track upcoming changes at the 60-day mark prior to your designation's expiration at the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\) website](#).
- If your designation is approaching expiration, you should consult with an attorney to screen for and pursue other legal options.

Registration

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began enforcing the required registration of certain non-citizens on April 11, 2025. **This is an enforcement tool, and it does not confer any immigration benefits.** Please note that many individuals are already considered registered. See [this explainer from the National Immigration Law Center](#) for more information, and consult an attorney before registering (submitting a Form G-325R).

Digital Security while Entering the Country

As of early 2025, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has been exercising increased scrutiny at U.S. ports of entry. Green card holders, visa holders, and tourists reportedly have been subject to secondary inspections of their person and possessions, including digital devices, and additional questioning. Consult [this guide from the ACLU](#) about your rights when encountering law enforcement at the airport and this explanation for more specifics on your rights relating to [search of your electronic devices at the border](#).

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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
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*	(410) 244-0002		X	X	X	X	X

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

† Financial lending services available.

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 your family has an emergency plan in place and that all 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.
- [Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Plan](#) from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Path2Papers recommends that DACA beneficiaries consider the following priorities as soon as possible:

1. Evaluate stable immigration options, such as employment-based work visas.
2. Stay updated on DACA developments.
3. Renew DACA promptly.
 - USCIS recommends submitting your renewal request four to five months before expiration.
 - Use this [DACA calculator](#) to determine your renewal window.
4. Consider advance parole travel.
 - Those who entered the U.S. without status can obtain a lawful entry through traveling on advance parole.
 - A lawful entry can assist certain people in obtaining lawful permanent residency through a U.S. citizen spouse or other qualifying family member.
 - Speak with an attorney to assess risks of advance parole travel.

For more recommendations, visit Path2Paper's [website](#).

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Baltimore New American Access Coalition

BNAAC is a 6-month program that connects Baltimore City's immigrants and refugees with public benefits for which they are eligible.

This program helps families with:

- Applications to benefits such as rent, utilities, and food assistance
- Legal counsel to answer questions
- One-time cash assistance

Do you or someone you know need assistance applying with any of the following public benefits?

- Healthcare coverage
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Women, Infants, and Children food support (WIC)
- Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)
- Childcare support
- Home energy subsidies
- Internet service subsidies
- And more

To qualify for the program individuals and households must:

- Be a Baltimore City resident
- Be an immigrant or refugee family with limited English proficiency
- Have at least one child under the age of 18 who is a U.S. citizen or who has an eligible immigrant status
- Agree to the for 6-month benefits navigation program with in-person meetings

Fill out [this referral form](#) to be connected with one of the non-profit organizations based on their capacity.

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Baltimore City Public Schools

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, Bullying & Title IX liaison, or principal designee can assist you with completing the "Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form." They will also ensure the form is submitted through City School's online reporting system.

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 on the BCPS website.](#)

Option 2. Complete a "Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form" by yourself. Reports can be completed and submitted online. [Access the online form here.](#) You can also print out a hard copy ([español](#)) and submit 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
Behavioral Health System Baltimore	1000 S Charles St, Tower 2 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 at Johns Hopkins University	Various	(410) 550-4115 (410) 598-9489 (WhatsApp)	centrosolmh@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](#)

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- 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](#)
- Applying for Emergency Advance Parole as a DACA Recipient (Informed Immigrant): [Website](#)
- Applying for Advance Parole as a DACA Recipient (Cornell Law School): [Website](#)
- Preparing for Re-Entry After Traveling on Advance Parole (Immigrant Legal Resource Center): [Website](#)
- Immigration Options for Victims of Crimes (USCIS): [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (English, Spanish, and 200+ languages available through interpretation services): [Website](#) | 1-800-799-7233

Volunteer Opportunities

- [Various Volunteer Opportunities](#) (Just Neighbors)
- [Various Volunteer Opportunities](#) (Amica Center for Immigrant Rights)
- [Support Asylum Seekers in the DMV Area](#) (HIAS)
- [Maryland Newcomer Support Coalition](#) (Solutions in Hometown Connections)

Organizational Partner Opportunities

- [Become a Pro Bono Partner](#) (Amica Center for Immigrant Rights)
- [PIF Coalition Partner Toolkit](#) (Protecting Immigrant Families)

This document was created by the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Please contact mima@baltimorecity.gov with any questions, comments, or feedback.



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