



MIMA

Monthly Update

JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year from MIMA

As we move into 2026 together, we send our warm wishes for a safe and healthy year to you and your loved ones. If you haven't seen it already, check out our [annual recap](#) (with [behind-the-scenes staff interviews on social media](#)). And don't miss out on Mayor Brandon M. Scott's [100 Accomplishments of 2025](#) report from across all of Baltimore City government!



UPDATES FROM OUR OFFICE



Baltimore New American Access Coalition (BNAAC) is Enrolling New Families

The Baltimore New American Access Coalition (BNAAC) has reopened enrollment. BNAAC is a three-month program that connects Baltimore City's immigrant and refugee families to

public benefits and local resources throughout the city. This **program is free, and services are available in multiple languages.**

[Refer someone or yourself to BNAAC](#)

Volunteer with Our Office

If you are looking for ways to get involved and support your immigrant neighbors, MIMA is seeking dedicated individuals to join our volunteer team!

As a volunteer, you can assist in various programs and initiatives to provide vital support, remotely or in-person (based on your preferences and our office's needs). Your involvement will directly contribute to empowering immigrant communities to thrive. Join us in making a difference!

[Apply to volunteer with MIMA](#)

Bi-Weekly Community Stakeholders Call

Our Community Stakeholders Calls take place every other Friday from 11:30 AM to 12:15 PM and are hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams. The call brings together a diverse group of partners and stakeholders, including non-profits, faith-based organizations, civic groups, educational institutions, and city agencies.

The call on **January 23** will feature Safe City Baltimore and the Baltimore City Municipal Identification Program, under the Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology, as presenters.



[Join MIMA's stakeholder calls](#)

Community Resource Guide

With the change in federal administration at the beginning of this year, there have been many shifts in the immigration policy landscape. Please see the "National Developments" section below for a summary of federal actions that may impact our communities. Additionally, please continue consulting our office's guide to services and resources.

[Find services and resources for immigrants in Baltimore](#)



CITY SERVICES

Department of Public Works (DPW): Free Christmas Tree Mulching

Mulching: DPW is offering free Christmas tree mulching services to Baltimore City residents now through Saturday, **February 7**. Residents must bring their trees to the Sisson Street Residential Recycling Center during the hours of 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. Residents should bring bags or containers to collect mulch for their use.



Collection: Instead of mulching, residents can also place trees out with their weekly trash collections until Friday, **February 6**. The trees must be placed at the exact location where your trash is collected. Trees placed out with waste will be collected as waste and not reused or recycled.

Before mulching or placing Christmas trees out for collection, please remove all ornaments, tinsel, and other decorations. There will be no Christmas tree mulching or collection on Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Day, Monday, **January 19**.



Department of Public Works (DPW): Sanitation Yards Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

All DPW sanitation yards will be **closed** on MLK Day, Monday, **January 19**. The MLK Day closure does **NOT** impact residential trash and recycling collections.

DPW facilities closed on to residents and haulers on this day include:

- Northwest Transfer Station, 5030 Reisterstown Road
- Quarantine Road Landfill, 6100 Quarantine Road
- Northwest Residential Recycling Center, 2840 Sisson Street
- Southwestern Residential Recycling Center, 701 Reedbird Avenue
- Eastern Residential Recycling Center, 6101 Bowleys Lane

The City's 311 call center is still open on this day from 6 AM to 10 PM. DPW reminds residents and water customers to report water or sewer emergencies to the City's 311 call center.

Live Baltimore: Buy Back the Block Grants Available Again

The Buy Back the Block program provides grants to Baltimore City residents who rent and purchase a home within the grant-eligible Baltimore City area. These grants do not require repayment. To find out if you are eligible, visit the [Buy Back the Block webpage](#).

Speak in person to Live Baltimore staff about the Buy Back the Block program on Saturday, **February 7**, at the [Winter Trolley Tour](#). This free event will give you a chance to ask questions, explore Southeast Baltimore neighborhoods, and attend expert-led workshops.



Mayor's Office of Employment Development: YouthWorks Now Accepting Applications

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development is now accepting applications for YouthWorks, a five-week employment opportunity for Baltimore City youth between the ages of 14 and 21. This program provides participants with meaningful, paid work experience, as well as opportunities for mentorship and to develop professional skills. Learn more on the [YouthWorks webpage](#).

[Apply to YouthWorks by March 7](#)

Businesses, non-profit organizations, community groups, and government agencies can apply to host youth workers. Learn more on the [YouthWorks webpage](#).

Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD): Free Fire Alarms

Does your home have fire alarms? Did you know that BCFD offers [free smoke alarms and free installation](#) to residents of Baltimore City? call 311 and be at home at the time of installation. The Fire Department will come and install ten-year lithium battery smoke alarms on every floor of your home.



Water4All: Discount on Water Bills Available for Certain Households

Water4All is a program that offers discounts on water bills for eligible Baltimore City residents. Baltimore City residential households who meet income and certain other requirements are eligible. Visit the [Water4All website](#) for more information on eligibility and to apply.



LOCAL EVENTS AND RESOURCES



Lawyer in the Library: Immigration Information

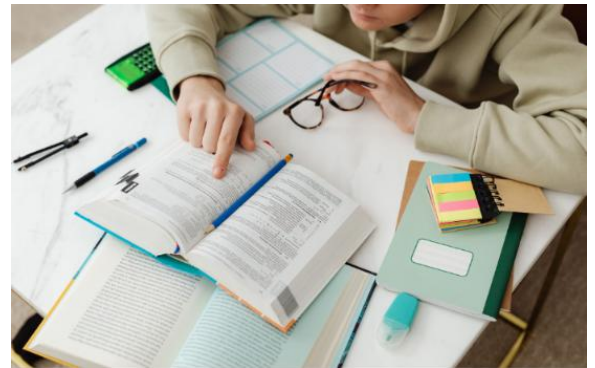
Legal practitioners from Just Neighbors and World Relief will be available to speak with individuals seeking information on immigration-related matters. Practitioners can provide general information on basic immigration-related inquiries, distribute informational materials, provide referrals, and more. Services will be available in Spanish.

These sessions are hosted at the Southeast Anchor Library, 3601 Eastern Avenue, every other Wednesday from 11 AM to 2 PM, with upcoming dates on **January 21** and **February 4**.

Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC): English Classes

CCBC's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program is designed for non-native speakers who want to learn English for life and work. The goal of these classes is to improve the student's speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary.

CCBC offers Beginning and Intermediate, Upper Level, Family Literacy, and Academic ESOL classes. Find more information on [CCBC's website](#).



Esperanza Center: Adult English Language Classes

Classes are taught by volunteers who are professionally trained to teach English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), for all levels of English. The next 10-week begins on **January 26**. To register, please visit [Esperanza Center's website](#).

CASA: In-Person Evening Life Skills English Classes

CASA hosts English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes in-person Monday through Thursday from 7 to 9 PM, with occasional make-up classes on Fridays. Online registration for the Winter 2026 session of English classes at CASA's Baltimore Welcome Center is now open and will close when classes are full. Classes will begin on **February 2**. To register, please visit [CASA's website](#).

Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center: Brief Advice Walk-In Clinics for Crime Victims

Survivors of crime that happened in Baltimore City can get free legal, medical, mental health, and other kinds of support from the ROAR Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

ROAR hosts walk-in clinics twice a month to provide information and guidance. Anyone seeking help can walk-in: no appointment is necessary, and you will be seen first come, first served.



These clinics are held at the Rise Early Learning and Family Support Center, 940 Madison Ave, on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 10 AM to 1 PM, with upcoming dates on **January 20** and **February 3**. Interpreter services are available for ROAR services upon request.

4th Annual "More than Hope" Benefit Concert in Support of Immigrants



Come together in solidarity and remember that there is more than hope: there is action! This annual fundraiser, with live music and dance, will take on the evening of **February 15** at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center.

Event proceeds will be donated to the Amica Center for Immigrant Rights and Comité Latino de Baltimore. Find more information and get tickets on [Eventbrite](#).



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Judicial Immigration Updates

Lawsuits have been filed against many of President Donald Trump's executive orders related to immigration. Follow the development of these and other lawsuits at the [Just Security Litigation Tracker](#).



Executive Immigration Updates

Travel Ban: In mid-December, President Donald Trump issued a revised and expanded list of countries for the earlier travel ban originally issued this past June. The travel ban:

- Maintains full restrictions on twelve countries (Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen);

- Adds full restrictions on five countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, Syria, and Palestine);
- Increases restrictions from partial to full for two countries (Laos and Sierra Leone);
- Maintains partial restrictions on four countries (Burundi, Cuba, Togo, and Venezuela);
- Adds partial restrictions on fifteen countries (Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gabon, the Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tonga, Zambia, and Zimbabwe); and
- Lifts the ban on non-immigrant visas on Turkmenistan but maintains the ban on immigrant visas.

The above restrictions maintain the previous exceptions for lawful permanent residents, existing visa holders, and certain visa categories. However, exceptions will no longer be granted for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, children adopted abroad, and Afghan nationals seeking Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) for their work assisting the U.S. Armed Forces.

USCIS Policy Update: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced in December a pause to the review of all immigration benefit requests from those born in or holding citizenship **from one of the nineteen countries** subject to full restrictions in the recent travel ban, regardless of date of entry.

USCIS also announced a pause to the adjudication of **all** pending asylum applications, regardless of country of birth or nationality.

Benefits granted for individuals born in or holding citizenship of the nineteen aforementioned countries and who entered the United States on or after **January 20, 2021**, are now subject to a re-review process.

Termination of Family Reunification Parole: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ended its Family Reunification Parole (FRP) programs for several countries in mid-December. The countries affected are Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras. If you believe this change affects you, consult a qualified immigration attorney as soon as possible.

TSA and ICE Information Sharing: New outlets have recently reported that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has been and is currently providing the names and birth dates of air travelers suspected of having deportation orders to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including domestic air travel. Consult this [resource from the National Immigration Law Center](#) for travel safety tips for immigrants traveling through U.S. airports.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Community School Coordinator](#) | Southeast Community Development Corporation | bilingual in English and Spanish



**Sign-up to get our
newsletter sent straight
to your email inbox!**



**Do you have an announcement that
you would like included in our next
newsletter? Fill out this form!**

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