MIMA’s Monthly COVID-19 Update

Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs

Keeping You Informed
As MIMA continues to support the City’s COVID-19 response, we are providing monthly updates related to public services and resources for our communities.

Updates from Our Office
New American Leadership Institute (NALI)
NALI is an annual four-session civics academy for emerging immigrant and refugee leaders to learn about the structure of local government, hone leadership skills, network with peers, and identify opportunities for civic participation. These sessions prepare NALI participants to act as ambassadors for their communities. Sessions include:

Session I: Leadership 101 (September 24)
Session II: Navigating Local Government (September 27)
Session III: Government Entities & Community Resources (October 1)
Session IV: In My Neighborhood (October 6)

Conversational English is required to apply. For more information and to access the application, please visit our NALI web page at mima.baltimorecity.gov/2022-nali or contact Masuma Lonczak at masuma.lonczak@baltimorecity.gov. The application is currently open until September 9.

Baltimore City Hispanic Commission
MIMA is currently accepting applications from individuals interested in becoming Commissioners of the Baltimore City Hispanic Commission. The Hispanic Commission’s central purpose is to advise the Mayor, City Agencies, and City Council on the development of policies and programs to address issues relevant to Baltimore’s Hispanic community. Applications are due on Friday, September 2, 2022 at 5pm. For more information and apply using the Hispanic Commission application at bit.ly/hispanic-commission.
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Language Access Oversight Committee
MIMA is continuing to seek members for our Language Access Oversight Committee. The deadline to apply has been extended to August 14 at 5 pm. For more information, see the Language Access Oversight Committee application page.

Community Engagement Walk with Mayor Scott
On July 28, MIMA joined Mayor Brandon Scott for a community engagement walk in the 1st Council District. This was an amazing opportunity to connect with city residents, engage with local businesses, and facilitate discussions with community members. We are excited to join him for more walks, upcoming events, and programs.

COVID-19 UPDATES
Given recent increases in deaths and hospitalizations associated with the BA.5 variant, everyone should stay up to date with recommended COVID-19 vaccinations, including additional booster doses for those who are immunocompromised and adults over 50.

Enoch Pratt Library locations are still offering free masks and at-home testing kits, and you can receive free testing kits from the federal government at covidtests.gov.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and are having symptoms, there may be treatment available for you. These treatments are only for patients who are at high risk of severe covid illness. Those who may be eligible can complete the Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital COVID Task Force Adult Patient Telehealth Self-Referral Form.

MIMA’s COVID-19 Resource Hub
MIMA’s COVID-19 Resource Hub provides a summary of economic, health, food, and school resources in multiple languages at mima.baltimorecity.gov/coronavirus. For additional COVID-19-related information, visit the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) COVID-19 information site.

COVID-19 VACCINES
All Baltimore City residents ages 6 months and above are eligible for vaccination! To register for the vaccine, visit the Baltimore City Health Department’s vaccination registration web page, available in English and Spanish, or by calling 443-984-8650. Spanish speakers can call and/or leave a voicemail with the Esperanza Center.
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(667-600-2314) to sign up for a vaccine appointment. If you leave a voicemail, you will get a call back within 24-48 hours.

TESTING

Check MIMA’s Facebook page every Monday for the upcoming week’s testing schedule.
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CITY SERVICES UPDATES
To view the current status of city services, visit the city's service status page.

WHAT’S NEW THIS MONTH?

Update on monkeypox
BCHD is here to provide information about monkeypox. For the most up-to-date information, please see the BCHD monkeypox web page, which contains frequently asked questions and can be translated to Arabic, Chinese, French, Korean, and Spanish.

Monkeypox spreads mostly through close, intimate contact with someone who has monkeypox. If you have a new or unexplained rash, sores, or other symptoms:

● See your healthcare provider
● When you see a healthcare provider for possible monkeypox, remind them that this virus may be circulating in the community.
● Avoid close physical contact with anyone until you have talked to a healthcare provider.

Resources from BCHD include:
Infographic: Let’s Talk About Monkeypox (English)
Video: What is the Health Department doing for those that may be exposed to Monkeypox? (English)
Video: Monkeypox Prevention (English)

Other resources include:
Fact Sheet: Social Gatherings, Safer Sex, and Monkeypox (English)
Fact Sheet: The Facts About Human Monkeypox (English)
Fact Sheet: The Facts About Human Monkeypox (Spanish)
Let’s Talk About Human Monkeypox: A Snapshot (3”x5”) (English)
Let’s Talk About Human Monkeypox: A Snapshot (3”x5”) (Spanish)
Let’s Talk About Human Monkeypox: A Snapshot (8.5”x11”) (English)
Fact Sheet: The Facts About Human Monkeypox (English)
CDC General information about monkeypox (English)

Operation Afghan Welcome (OAW) Welcome Center Events
There will be two Welcome Centers in Maryland as part of OAW, with one taking place in College Park on 8/16-8/20 and the other at the Baltimore Convention Center on 8/16-8/20. Resources include information about immigration services, legal services, health information, COVID vaccinations, and other resources. See the OAW Welcome Center flyers (English, Dari, and Pashto) for more information.

Emergency Mortgage & Housing Assistance Program (EMHAP)
EMHAP assists Baltimore City homeowners whose homes are at risk of foreclosure due to economic hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistance is provided as a grant in the form of a direct payment to the mortgage company to pay past due mortgage charges. Homeowners without a mortgage can still receive assistance for past due homeowner’s insurance, property taxes, and water bills. Payments can be applied toward arrearages for any consecutive six-month period since March 1, 2020. For more information and to apply, visit the EMHAP web page. Use the EMHAP flyer to share with your network.
Immigration Outreach Service Center (IOSC) Immigration Consultations
IOSC is now offering a weekly legal clinic for immigrants and their families to access a low-cost consultation with a qualified immigration attorney. Immigrants can learn about their immigration options, understand what benefits or relief they may be eligible for, and become aware of potential obstacles before they submit their immigration applications. The cost for the consultation is $80. Walk-in sessions without appointments are available on Wednesday mornings and participants must arrive between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Limited in-person and Zoom appointments are available at other times. For more information, visit the IOSC immigration consultations web page and flyers.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) Career Upskilling Program
LIRS is implementing their Career Upskilling program. For more information, please contact Stephanie Starr at sstarr@lirs.org or Hadeel Aljuboori at haljuboori@lirs.org.

Volunteer with PDRC International
PDRC International is seeking a volunteer to support website content, news, and social media. For more information, please contact Bhim Bahadur BK at bhimbk@pdrcus.org or 443-519-9423.

Services from CASH Campaign of Maryland
The nonprofit CASH Campaign of Maryland is now offering Spanish-language services. "La Clinica de Impuestos" provides free tax preparation services for tax years 2018-2021, as well as comprehensive taxpayer education and referrals to other supportive services to the low-income Latino community in their preferred language. La Clinica currently operates every other Thursday out of the BMore CoLab in Downtown Baltimore City and can help the community access economic impact payments and other helpful tax credits they may have missed by not filing. To register for an appointment with La Clinica, please complete CASH Campaign of Maryland’s brief interest form.

CASH is also hosting "Impuestos y Su Negocio," a monthly Spanish-language free financial education webinar designed to educate self-employed workers and small-business owners about self-employment tax compliance. Participants will learn about basic tax concepts for small-businesses, quarterly estimated tax payments, record-keeping practices, and more. To register for the next Impuestos y Su Negocio class on August 23 at 5 PM, please visit the "Impuestos y Su Negocio" sign registration page.

Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) Community ESL Program and Citizenship Preparation Classes
The BCCC Community ESL Program provides beginning and intermediate level courses to Maryland residents with limited English language and literacy skills. Free courses provide instruction and practice in conversation, grammar, listening, reading and writing in the context of both life and work skills. Emphasis is placed on developing proficiency as part of students’ career pathways. This diverse program serves adult students of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Many classes are held online via Zoom. Classes are also held at our downtown Harbor and Reisterstown Plaza locations, as well as various community sites. For more information and to register, see the BCCC Community ESL schedules and flyers (English and Spanish).

BCCC also offers citizenship preparation classes. For more information, see the BCCC citizenship preparation classes flyer (English).
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National Suicide Prevention Hotline
988 is here to help. The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available 24 hours a day and is free and confidential. Calls are responded to immediately by mental health specialists offering safe, supportive care.

Getting emergency emotional support is now easier than ever. You can now call your local crisis line or the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255, or simply dial 988. You can share this Spanish 988 flyer with your network.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Baltimore City Trauma Informed Care Training Grant
The Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) is now accepting applications for Baltimore community-based organizations to receive ARPA funds to conduct trauma-informed care training. For more details on eligibility, see the MONSE grant flyer. For more information and to apply, visit the MONSE Grant Portal for more information and to apply by August 17, 2022.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
AUGUST 20—Mayor’s Back to School Event
The Mayor’s Back to School Event will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2022. Free backpacks and school supplies will be provided on a first come first serve basis. The event will also offer arts and crafts, food and fun activities. For more information, please see the Back to School Event flyer.

NATIONAL HAPPENINGS
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Updates to Guidance and COVID-19-Related Flexibilities
USCIS has updated its guidance regarding Afghan and Iraqi nationals seeking special immigrant classification and guidance for those petitioning for an O-1A nonimmigrant of extraordinary ability with a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. For more information, visit the USCIS July 20 press release and the July 22 press release.

In addition, USCIS has extended certain COVID-19-related flexibilities, including considerations for responses to requests or notices received after the deadline. For more information, see the July 25 press release.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
[NEW] Economic Development Officer, Baltimore Development Corporation

[NEW] Community School Coordinator (Bilingual Spanish-English), John Ruhrrah Elem/Middle School, Southeast CDC

Bilingual Diabetes Lifestyle Interventionist, Johns Hopkins Brancati Center for the Advancement of Community Care

Bilingual Case Manager, Johns Hopkins University Project BHEAM
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Bilingual Mental Health Therapist, Johns Hopkins University Project BHEAM

Bilingual Claims Processor, Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth & Victim Services

Housing Education Coordinator, LEDC

Bilingual Housing Counselor, Maryland, LEDC

Bilingual Housing Counselor, Baltimore, LEDC

YouthWorks Unit Supervisor - Bilingual Spanish/English, MOED

Mobile Career Navigator - Bilingual Spanish/English, MOED

Public Relations Officer, MOED

Want the latest information and resources for immigrant communities on the City’s COVID-19 response?

Visit MIMA's COVID-19 Resource Hub and Baltimore City's COVID-19 information site

Follow MIMA on Facebook and Instagram!

To sign up to receive our monthly update via email or suggest announcements to include, please contact mima@baltimorecity.gov.