



# MIMA

## Monthly Update

FEBRUARY 2025



## Happy Black History Month!

February is National Black History Month, a tradition established almost one century ago by historian and author Carter G. Woodson. This occasion provides the opportunity to celebrate the pivotal contributions of Black communities and individuals to American history.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History releases a theme for each year, with this year's theme being African Americans and Labor. This theme highlights the role of Black labor in building the U.S. through industry and community work.

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs invites you to join in solidarity to recognize Black History Month, both in February and throughout the entire year. The efforts of Black civil rights activists in the mid-twentieth century built the bedrock of anti-discrimination protections in federal law. Today, these laws serve as the foundation of our own office's work and other immigrant-serving organizations to advance the rights of New Americans.



### UPDATES FROM OUR OFFICE

#### MIMA's Community Resource Guide

With the change in federal administration at the end of January, there have been many shifts in the immigrant policy landscape. Please see the "National Happenings" 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](#).

## 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. Each session features two guest presenters who share information about their organizations and the services that they offer to the immigrant community in Baltimore City. We focus on timely topics, such as healthcare insurance open enrollment, tax return preparation, and other topics relevant to the New American community.

The call brings together a diverse group of partners and stakeholders, including non-profits, faith-based organizations, civic groups, educational institutions, and city agencies. With over forty attendees, the call provides a valuable space for networking, collaboration, and information exchange. We also offer time for questions between presentations and for announcements from participants. We share meeting minutes and materials to our email list even if you are unable to attend.

[Join MIMA's stakeholder calls](#)

The next two upcoming calls will feature the following presenters:

### February 21

- New Americans and Immigrant Communities Comptroller of Maryland

### March 7

- Action Baybrook
- Centro SOL (Johns Hopkins Center for Health and Opportunity for Latinxs)

## Baltimore Immigration Summit Presentation Application Closing Soon

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Baltimore Immigration Summit, "Baltimore United: Action and Solidarity in Uncertain Times," is accepting proposals for both panel and poster presentations until 11:59 PM on February 14.

Key Dates:

- **February 14:** Deadline for proposal submission
- **March 10:** Notification of acceptances
- **March 24:** Presenters must register by this date

[Apply to present by February 14](#)



## Internship Opportunities



Our office is now accepting applications for Summer 2025 internships. We offer valuable opportunities for hands-on experience in areas such as communications, language access, and other key roles supporting our mission. These internships are designed to offer academic credit for your work and contributions.

If you are passionate about making a positive impact in immigrant communities and eager to build your skills, we encourage you to apply!

[Apply to intern with MIMA by April 10](#)

## Baltimore New American Access Coalition Accepting Referrals

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

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

Fill out the referral form below to be matched with one of BNAAC's non-profit partner organizations, based on their capacity. Language support is available.

[Refer someone or yourself to BNAAC](#)



## CITY SERVICES

### Youth STEM Programs at Recreation Centers

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is hosting Mad Science, a dynamic, hands-on learning experience for children aged 5 to 7. In this program, young learners will create a variety of take-home projects while discovering the fascinating world of science and its impact on everyday life.



This program will be held at the Carroll Park Rec Center every Wednesday, from **February 19** to **March 12**, 4 to 5 PM. For more information and to register, visit the [Recreation and Parks website](#).

## Baltimore City Tax Sale Notices

On **February 3**, the City of Baltimore mailed notices informing Baltimore city residents who are late on paying their property taxes to take certain steps to avoid having their home go into the tax sale process.

Baltimore City residents who receive this notice should take action and should not ignore this notice. The notice includes payment tips, how to make a payment, and how to get free help with your property taxes. Residents can access the notice in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, French and Arabic by scanning the QR code on the back page of the notice.

## Virtual Sessions on Baltimore City's New E-Permits System Launch

On February 3, the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development launched a new E-Permits process. This new process is an upgrade to the City's permit application system, designed to deliver a more efficient and user-friendly experience for residents and businesses.

The Department of Housing and Community Development will host two virtual "How-To" sessions on **February 12** and **February 20**. These sessions will showcase the system's features and guide users through the application process. For more information and to register for a session, please visit the [Department of Housing and Community Development website](#).

## 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 April 4](#)

## Winter Shelter and Warming Shelter Locations Open

During the winter season, the [Mayor's Office of Homeless Services](#) and community shelters provide hypothermia shelters and vital, life-saving services for Baltimore residents experiencing homelessness. When the temperature with wind chill reaches **32 degrees Fahrenheit or below**, extended emergency shelter will be available for people experiencing homelessness.

To identify emergency shelter, please call the Baltimore City Shelter Hotline at (443) 984-9540. Please note that the hotline will be closed on **February 17** for Presidents' Day. To access emergency shelter, please call 2-1-1 or call City-funded shelters directly at [the phone numbers found on this page](#).

## Buy Back the Block Grants Available for Homebuyers

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.

The \$10,000 “Home Purchase” grant reduces upfront costs for purchasing a home, while the \$20,000 “Home Purchase and Renovation” grant reduces upfront costs if you are renovating in addition to purchasing a home. To find out if you are eligible, visit the [Buy Back the Block webpage](#). Information about this program in [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), and [French](#).



## B'More Fresh Provides Additional Food Assistance for SNAP Recipients

Baltimore City residents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can earn \$30 per month to purchase fruits and vegetables when they shop online with a participating grocery store. After spending \$5 on SNAP-eligible items, shoppers will receive a \$30 produce voucher in their online account. Visit the [B'More Fresh Voucher Program webpage](#) for more information.



## Discount on Water Bills Available for Certain Households through Water4All

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 webpage](#) 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, every other Wednesday from 11 AM to 2 PM, with upcoming dates on **February 12** and **February 26**.



## “How to Use Your Health Coverage” Seminars

Have you recently purchased or are you considering a health insurance policy from the Maryland Health Connection? Join the Maryland Health Connection and the Maryland Insurance Administration for a virtual presentation on how to use your health coverage and get your questions answered, such as:

What is a deductible?

- What is a co-pay?
- Do I need to stay in-network when I see a doctor?

Registration is free. All are welcome to attend.

- [Register for a seminar in English](#) on February 25 at 12 PM
- [Register for a seminar in Spanish](#) on February 27 at 12 PM

## “More Than Hope” Fundraiser for Luminus Network for New Americans

More than Hope is a multicultural performance event in support of refugees and asylum seekers. The music and dance performances will incorporate what it means to flee one's home and the meaning of “home.” The event's programming will touch on issues of belonging, assimilation, resettlement, financial and employment adjustments, cultural differences, what it means to belong, social injustice, and societal attitudes towards “others.”

All proceeds from the event are donated to Luminus Network for New Americans, and the event will take place on **February 23** at 5:30 PM at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center. Find more information and purchase tickets on the [Luminus website](#).



## Teen Science Café

The Let's Go Teen Science Café Leadership Program invites high school students to plan and execute exciting STEM events, collaborate with your peers, and work with guest speakers. Gain real-world skills, build your resume, and make a lasting impact on your community.

This program will meet weekly on Wednesdays for 12 sessions, from **February 12** to **May 10**. Find more information at and apply with [this form](#).

## Weekly Language Exchange Classes

Patterson Park Public Charter School, located at 27 North Lakewood Ave, will host a weekly language exchange class in English and Spanish. This class will take place weekly on Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 PM, starting **January 29**.

Classes will include a short English and Spanish lesson for all levels, small group conversation practices, light refreshments, and childcare. Classes will be held in Basement Room #12. Enter through the Pre-K side door located on North Belnord Avenue.



## Virtual ESL and Other Language Courses through the Enoch Pratt Free Library

The Enoch Pratt Free Library offers free, virtual classes for personal and professional development. These instructor-moderated, six-week online classes can be accessed in all Pratt Library locations and on personal computers with a library card.

New sessions start every month, and courses include [Grammar for ESL](#), [Writing for ESL](#), [Spanish for Medical Professionals](#), and [Spanish for Law Enforcement](#). The next two sessions begin on **February 12** and on **March 12**, respectively.



## NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

### Updates to H1-B and H2 Visa Programs

On January 17, the Department of Homeland Security issued updates to H-1B and H-2, modernizing and improving requirements for the H-1B and H-2 visa programs.

Changes to the H-1B program include streamlining the approval process, increasing its flexibility to better allow employers to retain talented workers, and improving the integrity and oversight of the program. Changes to the H-2 program include strengthening worker protections by imposing new consequences on companies that charge prohibited fees or violate labor laws and providing greater flexibility for H-2A and H-2B workers.

### Temporary Protected Status Extensions

On January 10, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced extensions of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of El Salvador, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela. However, on January 29, the DHS revoked the TPS extension for nationals of Venezuela.

As of now, individuals from El Salvador, Sudan, and Ukraine will be able to renew their TPS and work permits for an additional eighteen months. Please note that these extensions do not expand eligibility and only apply to those who already qualify based on their country of origin.

- **El Salvador:** Existing TPS recipients will be able to apply to extend their TPS and work permits through September 9, 2026.
- **Sudan:** Existing TPS recipients will be able to apply to extend their TPS and work permits through October 19, 2026.

- **Ukraine:** Existing TPS recipients will be able to apply to extend their TPS and work permits through October 19, 2026.
- **Venezuela:** TPS has reverted to its original expiration date of April 2, 2025.

## Executive Actions Taken by the President of the United States

On January 20 and 21, President Donald Trump issued several executive orders affecting immigration. Please note that many of these executive orders are currently being challenged in the courts and are being enforced at varying levels.



- [Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats](#)
- [Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship](#)
- [Securing Our Borders and Declaring a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States](#)
- [Clarifying the Military Role's in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the United States](#)
- [America First Trade Policy](#)
- [Executive Order Protecting the American People Against Invasion](#)
- [Executive Order Guaranteeing the States Protection Against Invasion](#)
- [Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program \(USRAP\)](#)
- [Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions](#)

Please see [this summary](#) of the recent executive orders related to immigration for more information.

## Laken Riley Act Passed and Signed into Law

In January, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law the Laken Riley Act. This law mandates the *detention* of individuals who are arrested for, charged with, or admit to committing specific crimes, if they are not legally authorized to be in the United States.

The crimes include burglary, larceny, theft, shoplifting, assaulting a police officer and any crime that results in death or bodily injury. The law does not require that individuals first be convicted. The full text of the law can be found on [Congress' website](#), and an explanation of the law can be found on the [National Immigration Project's website](#).



## COVID-19 UPDATES

### Where To Get Vaccinated in Baltimore City

An updated COVID vaccine for 2024-2025 is now available. This vaccine targets the most widespread strain of COVID currently circulating. Get this year's vaccine for the greatest protection against COVID-19. Visit the Baltimore City Health Department's page for a [weekly schedule of COVID vaccination clinics](#).



# GET VAXXED WALK-UP CLINICS

You do not need an appointment to get vaccinated at these walk-up clinics. Vaccines are also widely available in local pharmacies. Search [the national database of pharmacy locations](#) for vaccine availability.

## Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

As of late September 2024, residential households in the U.S. are eligible for another order of four free at-home tests from USPS.com. Each order includes four individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests. Find more details about at-home tests, including extended shelf life and updated expiration dates, on [this page from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#).

Orders will ship free. To order free COVID-19 tests, fill out [this form with the USPS](#).



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Junior Clerk](#) | Embassy of India, Washington, D.C.
- [Food Ministry Coordinator, Part-Time](#) | Amazing Grace Lutheran Church | English and Spanish proficiency required (scroll to the bottom of the linked page)
- [Event Producer](#) | Highlandtown Arts | English and Spanish proficiency required
- [Therapist](#) | House of Ruth | English and Spanish fluency required
- [Administrative Coordinator](#) | House of Ruth | English and Spanish fluency required
- [Student Conduct and Attendance Staff Specialist](#) | Baltimore City Public Schools | bilingual skills required
- [Account Development Executive](#) | Western Union | English and Spanish fluency required
- [Sales Specialist](#) | Clark Associates | English and Spanish proficiency required
- [Teacher](#) | Baltimore City Head Start | English and Spanish fluency required
- [Family Nurse Practitioner](#) | Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities of Baltimore | English and Spanish fluency required
- [Lead Case Manager](#) | Esperanza Center | English and Spanish fluency required
- [Job Readiness and Placement Specialist](#) | Esperanza Center | English and Spanish fluency required
- [Clinical Administrative Assistant](#) | Esperanza Center | English and Spanish fluency required
- [Various Bilingual Positions](#) | Baltimore Medical System | enter "bilingual" in the search field

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