



Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor

# MIMA



## Monthly Newsletter

July 2024

Bulletin #67

Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA)

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### MIMA Becomes a Permanent Office!



On June 27th, Mayor Brandon M. Scott, joined by members of the City Council, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA), advocates, and community members signed City Council Bill 23-0438 into law, making MIMA's existence and operations permanent.

MIMA was created in 2014 based on recommendations from a diverse group of community stakeholders seeking to improve the lives of foreign-born individuals in our city. Ten years later, MIMA continues to work with these partners to ensure the wellbeing of our residents, regardless of nationality, language, or immigration status.

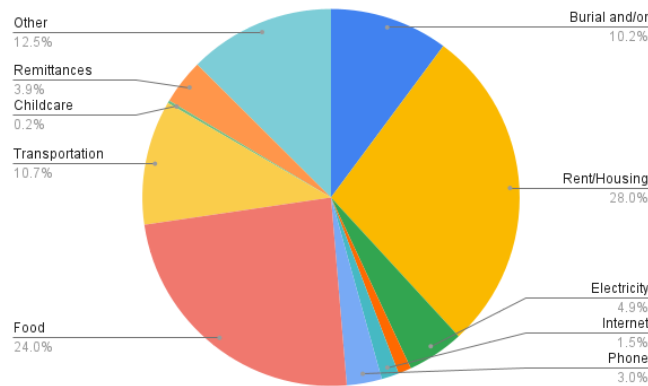
We extend our gratitude to Mayor Scott, Councilwoman Ramos, the City Council, community partners, advocates, and everyone who contributed to making MIMA a permanent office.

As we move forward, MIMA will continue to be a beacon of hope and support, serving as a hub for technical assistance, community and civic engagement, multilingual information, language access compliance, and advocacy, benefiting both our immigrant residents and the broader community.

To see a video of the ceremony, please visit the following [link](#).

## Key Bridge Emergency Response Fund Update

As of July 8th, the Key Bridge Emergency Response Fund had received over 5,555 donations for a total \$969,646.64. Thank you for your generosity and support for the victims' families and survivors impacted by the tragedy. To date, the fund has distributed approximately \$165,000 to cover basic needs such as rent, food, utilities remittances, funeral expenses, traveling and more. MIMA and the Civic Fund will continue to assist these families until funds are exhausted. Please see a breakdown of what these funds have been used for in the graph below.



The Fund will continue to accept donations until August 31, 2024. If you are interested in donating, please visit the Baltimore Civic Fund [website](#). MIMA and the Civic Fund are committed to providing monthly updates to stakeholders, donors, and the wider community on the use of the funds.

## Updates from our Office

### Welcoming New Interns



**Caitlin Cumerma** joins us from Towson University where she studies Anthropology and Human Rights. “In a previous life,” as she puts it, Caitlin worked in the solar energy industry first in customer service and then managing maintenance and repair crews. In 2021, she left that career to pursue her life-long dream of higher education and to transition into refugee and immigrant services, seeking to make a tangible impact on the lives of New Americans.



**Makaila Hyman** joins us from Johns Hopkins University, where she is pursuing a degree in Political Science. She is deeply passionate about creating equitable policies for diverse communities and monitoring policy feedback over the years. At MIMA, she is working on the Language Access Team to better understand agencies within the Baltimore City government and the resources they can offer our immigrant communities when responding to emergencies.



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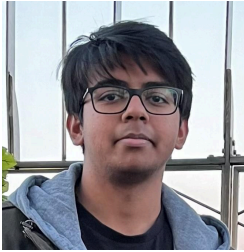


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**Akshat Sinha** joins us from Johns Hopkins University where he is pursuing a double major in International Studies and Economics. He is interested in the dynamics between migration flows and the economy. At MIMA, he is working with the Community Engagement and Outreach team to research and develop resource sheets focused on public benefits, city services and new legislation.

### **New American Leadership Institute (NALI) 2024 Applications are Now Open!**

NALI 2024 applications are now open! Apply now and join us at City Hall to hone your leadership and advocacy skills!

#### **NALI Sessions include:**

- Training and developing leadership skills alongside other emerging immigrant and refugee leaders
- Learning different leadership styles and how to effectively facilitate group decision making
- Introduction to the structure of Baltimore City's local government
- Panels with elected officials and local neighborhood safety organizations
- Presentations from Mayor's Offices and Baltimore City agencies about their services and function
- Information about how federal funds are leveraged and how private/public partners collaborate to provide access to resources for immigrant communities

More details about NALI can be found on our MIMA [website](#). Applications are **due August 16th, 2024!** Apply at [bit.ly/ApplyNALI2024](https://bit.ly/ApplyNALI2024).

**For our emerging immigrant and refugee leaders...**

## New American Leadership Institute

Join our four-session academy to elevate your leadership and advocacy skills alongside a cohort of your peers!

**Applications open now!**  
**Applications close August 16, 2024**  
**Apply at [bit.ly/ApplyNALI2024](https://bit.ly/ApplyNALI2024)**

## COVID-19 Updates

An updated version of the COVID-19 vaccinations is available to anyone older than 6 months of age. The updated vaccine offers the best protection against the current, most contagious strain of the virus. Vaccinations are covered by health insurance and available for those without health insurance through special programs for children and adults. [Use this link to find a vaccination site near you.](#)

- If you do not have health insurance, you can receive a free vaccine at any local CVS or Walgreens Pharmacy using the Bridge Access Program.
- If you or a family member live in Baltimore City and are not able to leave your home for the vaccination, call (443)-984-8650 to schedule an in-home vaccination appointment
- The CDC provides information on the [most recent recommended vaccinations in over 65 languages on their website](#). For more information on how to get vaccinated in Baltimore City, please visit the [Baltimore City Health Department](#). If you need a vaccination at home [please schedule online](#) or call 443-984-8650.

## City Services

### Baltimore City Youth Curfew

From May 26, 2024 to September 2, 2024, the City of Baltimore will have a Youth Curfew in effect. This applies to children 16 years old and younger. To find out more about the plan for youth engagement, rules of the curfew, and accountability measures, please look at the [Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement \(MONSE\) website](#).

### Extended Summer Hours at Recreation Centers // BMORE Night Hoops

Mayor Brandon M. Scott expanded hours at eleven Baltimore City recreation centers for the summer, which will be open until 11 pm on Fridays. For a full list of sites, please visit <https://www.bmorechildren.com/bmore4thefuture>.

### Code Red Extreme Heat Alert

Throughout the summer, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner will issue a [Code Red Extreme Heat Alert](#) when the forecasted heat index is equal to or exceeds 105°F. When possible, the decision to activate the Code Red alert will be made before 6:00 am that day. The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services will coordinate with Continuum of Care providers to spread information about cooling centers, cold water, and other life-saving protection for Baltimore residents experiencing homelessness during the summer. Individuals unsure of whether a Code Red Extreme Heat Alert is in effect can [call 311](#) for details. Those without electricity are particularly vulnerable to heat-related health problems. City residents who need energy assistance can apply through the [State of Maryland's Emergency Assistance](#) portal or call 1-800-332-6347. Call 911 if you have a heat-related emergency.

Organization	Address	Hours of Operation
Manna House	435 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218	Monday - Friday, 11:30 am - 3 pm
My Sister's Place Women's Center - women & children	17 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201	Monday - Sunday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm
Beans & Bread	400 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231	Monday - Friday, 9 am - 1 pm
Franciscan Center	101 W. 23rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218	Monday - Friday, 10 am - 1 pm
Weinberg Housing & Resource Center (WHRC)	620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202	Monday - Sunday, 11 am - 5 pm



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### English Classes

Are you interested in learning English as a second language? The Mayor's Office of Employment Development is seeking interested learners and input on the best time of day to offer classes. If you're interested, please respond to this short survey: [English as a Second Language \(ESL\) Survey \(office.com\)](https://office.com)

### What's New This Month?

#### Baltimore City Recreation & Parks - Pools are back!

City pools are back in operation! Baltimore City park pools are open on Mondays-Thursdays from 12-3pm and 4-7pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am - 3 pm and 4 pm - 8 pm. Baltimore City neighborhood pools are open on Mondays-Thursdays from 12pm - 3pm and 3:30pm - 6:30pm. [Find a pool near you by checking on the Baltimore City Rec n' Parks website!](#)

#### Free Dental Extractions on July 31st at Fells Point Dental!

Fells Point Dental located at 949 Fell Street, Suite A will offer free dental extractions on July 31st, 2024! They will be open from 8-5 solely for donated care and are offering free x-rays, a limited exam and an extraction per person. Treatments are available on a first come, first serve basis, walk-ins only. [Visit their website here.](#)

### Grant/Scholarship Opportunities

#### 2024 LSAT Prep Course Scholarship

The Maryland Hispanic Bar Association (MHBA) is committed to enhancing diversity within the legal profession. A crucial objective in achieving this is to increase the number of Latinx students pursuing law school. MHBA will offer scholarships to college students and recent graduates who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the Latinx community. These scholarships aim to alleviate the financial burden of attending an LSAT preparation course. [Learn more about the application eligibility and process on their website.](#)



#### Baltimore Community Foundation - Key Bridge Grant

The Baltimore Community Foundation continues to offer a grant for those impacted by the collapse of the Key Bridge, namely: port workers and their families, first responders and their families, and surrounding communities. [Learn more about the grant and apply on their website.](#)

#### National Family Support Technical Assistance Center (NFSTAC) Course for Family Peer Specialist Through the Lifespan

This 8-hour course, developed by NFSTAC in collaboration with family peer specialists nationwide, focuses on supporting parents and caregivers of children facing mental health and substance use challenges. It trains participants in best practice competencies for becoming Family Peer Specialists. Completion qualifies as training

towards application for certification, though it doesn't prepare for the exam itself. [To learn more and enroll visit their website.](#)

## National Happenings

### President Biden's Executive Actions on Immigration

On June 18th, President Biden announced two actions on immigration. The first, is a humanitarian parole program that would allow eligible undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens to apply for temporary protections, work permits, and generally allow them to seek legal permanent residence through their U.S. citizen spouses. This new program is expected to impact more than 500,000 spouses of U.S. citizens with the purpose of opening pathways to citizenship and to protect families that have been at risk of separation. You can find more information on the proposed program, eligibility and documents needed to apply, check out these resources from USCIS [here](#), the American Immigration Council [here](#), and FWD.us [here](#). CASA will be offering consultations when the application process opens, so if you are interested in scheduling a consultation, please complete [this form](#).

The same day, President Biden announced a new process for DACA recipients, Dreamers and other eligible college graduates to apply for a waiver that would clarify their path to getting employment-based visas and more stable options. For more information about the process, check out this resource from FWD.us [here](#).

Please be aware that **the government has not yet released the application process** for either the parole program or the new waiver process. **You cannot apply for either program right now.** If you try to apply now, your application will be rejected. Please be very careful of scammers who try to tell you the opposite, or of misleading information. MIMA has compiled a list of trusted legal services providers, which you can find [here](#).

## Employment Opportunities

[Health and Nutrition Program Manager, Grant Services Specialist III \(NCS\)](#) - Baltimore City Health Department

[Bilingual Program Supervisor, Blueprint](#) - Mayor's Office of Employment Development

[Staff Specialist - Family and Community Engagement](#) - District Office, Baltimore City Public Schools

[Summer School \(2024\) - Program Support](#) - Student Monitor Baltimore City Public School

[911 Diversion Behavioural Health Counselor](#) - Baltimore Crisis Response, INC

**Disclaimer: English version of newsletter may be subject to differ from translated versions**

**Want to stay updated with the latest information and resources for our immigrant and refugee communities?**

Follow MIMA on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

To sign up to receive our monthly update via email or suggest announcements to include, [please submit this form](#).