FIRN

www.firnonline.org
Foreign-Born Information and Referral Network

HELPBOOK

For foreign-born persons
living or working in and around
Howard County

Updated version made possible by:
State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship grant
facilitated by the State Farm office of Fred Weaver in Columbia, MD.
This book has been prepared for you by FIRN, Inc. (Foreign-Born Information and Referral Network) thanks to a generous grant from State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship grant facilitated by the State Farm office of Fred Weaver in Columbia, MD.

The book is based on a FIRN publication initially funded by a Howard County Dept. of Citizen Services, Office on Aging, Caregiver Initiative grant.

Versions in English, Spanish, Korean & French are available.

FIRN is a non-profit organization which provides information to immigrants who live or work in Howard County, Maryland.

FIRN provides English tutoring, job counseling and placement, information and referral services, social services, and assistance with immigration and citizenship.

Funding for FIRN comes from the Howard County Government, various foundations, faith-based communities, corporate and individual donors, project-specific grants, and modest fees charged for some services.

Please call FIRN at 410-992-1923 if you have any questions about this booklet, or if you need help finding English classes, jobs, housing, etc. Welcome to your new life here!
# Table of Contents

FIRN ................................................................. pg. 1

Emergencies .................................................. pgs. 2-3

Short-Term Emergency Help ......................... pgs. 4-5

Food Bank & Food Pantries ......................... pg. 6

Clothing ......................................................... pg. 7

Health ............................................................... pgs. 8-11

Housing & Low Income Services ................. pg. 12

Social Security & Tax ID Numbers ............... pg. 13

Legal Information .............................................. pg. 14

Immigration & Citizenship ......................... pg. 15

Driver’s License & Identification ............... pg. 16

Transportation ................................................ pg. 17

Job Information ............................................... pg. 18,19

School Registration .......................................... pg. 20

English Classes ............................................... pg. 21

Howard County Public Libraries ............... pg. 22

Elderly Services ................................................ pg. 23

Other Useful Numbers ................................. pg. 24
FIRN

FIRN is here to help immigrants and refugees adjust to life in the U.S.

Services that FIRN provides include:
- Orientation to life in the United States and to local resources
- Job counseling and placement
- English tutoring
- Interpreters and translators
- Immigration counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Information and referral on health care, housing, transportation and other basic needs

FIRN: Columbia Office
5999 Harpers Farm Rd.
Suite E-200
Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: 410 992-1923
Fax: 410 730-0113
Email: info@firnonline.org
Website: www.firnonline.org

FIRN Entrance: Columbia Office

Hours:
Monday & Tuesday (Walk in Days) 8:30am - 5:00pm
Wednesday Office Closed
Thursday & Friday (General info & appt. only) 10:00am - 5:00pm
*Rotating Lunch Hour for FIRN employees 12:00pm - 2:00pm

FIRN: Laurel Office
Whiskey Bottom Shopping Center Phone: 301-498-7509
9105 All Saints Rd. Fax: 301-498-7027
Laurel, MD 20723

Laurel Hours (Call or walk-in for appointment):
Tuesday- Same day Spanish MVA translations 11:00am - 5:00pm
Wednesday- Non-Immigration Services only 12:00pm - 6:00pm
Thursday- Immigration Services only 12:00pm - 7:00pm
Emergencies

911
Dial 911 on your telephone. Give your name, address, and telephone number. Give the address where the emergency is located. Teach this number to your children in case they need help when you are not at home. If you don’t speak English, tell the operator your language to get an interpreter.

Emergency Health Care
Dial 911. Ask for a rescue squad or ambulance or go to the Emergency Room at...

Howard County General Hospital
5755 Cedar Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
Phone: 410-740-7890
(Phone number is not for emergencies! Dial 911 for emergencies)

Note: Hospital emergency room care and ambulance services are very expensive, and not always covered by health insurance. If the illness is not an emergency, it is better to go to a doctor’s office or walk-in clinic. (See pages 8-11)

Maryland Poison Center: 1-800-222-1222
Accidental poisoning, exposure to poisonous substances, bites, reactions to drugs. Phone interpreters for some languages available. www.md.poison.com

Domestic Violence Center: 410-997-2272
(If your partner is hurting or abusing you or your children)
Spanish speaking counselor available. www.domesticviolencecenter.org

Grassroots Crisis Hotline: 410-531-6677
(If you have any kind of emergency and you don’t know what to do) www.grassrootscrisis.org
Emergencies (continued)

**STTAR Center** (Sexual Trauma, Treatment, Advocacy, and Recovery):  
24/7 Hotline: 410-997-3292  
(If you or someone you know has been raped, sexually assaulted, or suffers from post traumatic stress disorder)  
Office Phone: 410-290-6432  
[www.sttarcenter.org](http://www.sttarcenter.org)

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** 410-663-1922  
(If you or someone you know has a drinking problem)  
[www.baltimoreaa.org](http://www.baltimoreaa.org)

**Addiction Assistance:** 410-313-6202  
For more information see page 11, under “addiction services”

**National Drug Abuse Treatment and Hotline:** 1-800-662-4357

**Howard County Police Department:** 410-313-2200  
(For non-emergencies only)  
[http://www.co.ho.md.us/Police/Police_HomePage.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/Police/Police_HomePage.htm)
**Short-Term Emergency Help**

**Howard County Department of Social Services**  
7121 Columbia Gateway Drive  
Columbia, MD 21046  
*Phone*: 410-872-8700  
(English & Spanish prompts)  
*Hours*: Monday thru Friday  
8:00am - 5:00pm  
Walk-Ins: 8am-11am (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri only)  

Call the Department of Social Services if your family is in need of food stamps, medical assistance, day care information, job information, temporary disability, child support, etc. You will be told if you qualify for government assistance. Be sure to go early in the morning if you are asked or need to go to the office.  

www.dhr.state.md.us

**Community Action Council**  
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 2nd floor  
Columbia, MD 21046  
*Phone*: 410-313-6440  
*Hours*: Monday through Friday (No clients on Wednesday)  
8:30 am – 4:30 p.m. (get there before 2:00pm)  

The Community Action Council administers programs that can help low-income people and screen for eligibility for certain programs. Call first to see if you qualify for the following:  

- *Maryland Energy Assistance Program* - (including Fuel Fund and Weatherization) (410-313-6440)  
- *Head Start* - (410-313-6443) a program to prepare 3 – 4 year olds for kindergarten  
- *Eviction Prevention* - (410-313-6440) to help people stay in housing  
- *Food bank* - (410-313-3752)  
- *First month’s rent for income eligible people*  
- *RAP (Rental Assistance Program)* for those needing short term assistance in paying rent  

www.cac-hc.org
Short-Term Emergency Help (continued)

**United Way First Call for Help:**
(for information on any problem)

Local Callers: 410-685-0525  
Long Distance: 1-800-492-0618  
Hearing Impaired: 410-685-2159

**Salvation Army:**

Able to provide assistance with food, clothing, small household items, toiletries, short term financial relief including: rent/mortgage, utilities, burial, transportation, & prescriptions. Also have caseworkers.

**Howard County Location**  
8722 Town & Country Boulevard  
Ellicott City, MD 21041-0420  
Phone: 443-656-3376  
Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri, 8:30-4:30

**Baltimore City Location**  
814 Light Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
Phone: 410-783-2920  
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30

**Fish of Howard County, Inc.**

Able to deliver food to homes, provide emergency financial relief for prescriptions, toiletries, diapers, rent, utilities and other emergencies.

Phone: 410-964-8660  
Phone Hours: 9:00am-8:00pm

For assistance please call this number. Make sure your caller id is turned off (press *87 before dialing, to turn it back on press *77). If no one picks up leave a slow, clear message stating your **name, phone number, reason of call/need, times/days you can be reached.**

[www.fishhowardcounty.com](http://www.fishhowardcounty.com)
Emergency Food

You must pre-qualify through FIRN or the Community Action Council, and take a referral form to receive assistance from the Howard County Food Bank.

**Howard County Food Bank:**

Clients that qualify are eligible for assistance once a month, and must fill out and bring an application each month. Clients must bring a photo ID when they go to the Food Bank.

**Address:**

Oakland Ridge Industrial Park
8920 Route 108, Suite A
Columbia, MD 21045

**Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday
1:00-4:00pm

**Phone:** 410-313-6440

The following places have their own food pantries.

**Call directly for hours and eligibility:**

- Bethany Lane Baptist Church (Ellicott City): 410-465-0150
- Bridgeway Community Cupboard (Columbia): 410-992-5832 ext. 305
- Celebration Church (Columbia): 410-997-2088
- Church of the Resurrection (Ellicott City): 410-461-9111
- Christian Services (Ellicott City): 410-465-1060
- Columbia Baptist Fellowship (Columbia): 410-730-2026
- Community Action Council (Columbia): 410-313-6440
- Elkridge Food Pantry (Elkridge): 410-796-1456
- Elkridge Independent Christian Community Church: 410-796-1534
- First Baptist Church of Savage: 301-725-3944
- FISH of Howard County, Inc. (Can Deliver Food): 410-964-8660
- Friendship Baptist Church (Sykesville): 410-489-5117
- Gideon House of God, Patapsco Manor (Elkridge): 410-379-2555
- Jessup Baptist Church (Jessup): 410-799-4842
- Mt. Pisgah AME Church (Columbia): 410-730-6688
- Rolling Hills Baptist Church (Clarksville): 301-490-4777
- St. Francis of Assisi (Fulton): 410-792-0470
- St. John Baptist Church: 410-992-6977
- St. Michael’s Catholic Church (Woodbine/Mt. Airy): 410-442-1717
- St. Peter’s Episcopal Church (Ellicott City): 410-465-2273
- United Way First Call for Help (Food Stamp Hotline): 410-685-0525

FIRN HELPBOOK in English - Page 6
Clothing

**Christian Services of Howard County**
3267 Pine Orchard Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

*Phone: 410-465-1060*

*Hours:*
Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-1:00pm
2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month 10:00am–1:00pm

**Salvation Army**
10350 Guilford Rd. (and Route 1)
Savage, MD 20763

*Phone: 301-776-4888*

*For Emergencies Call: 410-685-8878 (after 4:30pm only)*

*Hours:*
Monday – Thursday 10:00am-7:00pm
Friday 10:00am–9:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–7:00pm

**Laurel Thrift Center (Am Vets)**
9880 Washington Blvd. N.
Laurel, MD 20723

*Phone: 410-792-0090*

*Hours:*
Monday - Saturday 9:00am – 9:00pm
Sunday 11:00am - 7:00pm
Health - Howard County Health Dept.

**Howard County Health Department**
The Howard County Health Department (HCHD) has different locations that offer specific services and clinics, which are outlined below. *Call the specific location for an appointment.*

**Administrative Office**
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046
*Phone:* 410-313-6300
*Hours:* Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm
*Services:* Can provide birth and death certificates from 9am-4pm

**Savage Office**
Southeastern Community Center
9525 Durness Lane
Laurel, MD 20723
*Phone:* 410-880-5888
*Hours:* Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm
*Services:* Immunizations, Teen & Adult Family Planning Clinics, Free Pregnancy Testing, Refugee Health Screening, AIDS/HIV Counseling & Testing, Infant & Toddler Program, Healthy Start Program, Pre-exposure Rabies Immunization, TB Clinic, HIV Clinic

**Cancer Control Center**
7178 Columbia Gateway Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
*Phone:* 410-313-4255
*Hours:* 8:00am-5:00pm
*Services:* Breast & Cervical Cancer Programs, Colorectal Cancer Program

**Gateway: ACES**
6751 Columbia Gateway Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
*Phone:* 410-313-6300
*Hours:* 8:00am-5:00pm
*Services:* Screening, Consultation & Referral for Adults with Special Needs & the Elderly

FIRN HELPBOOK in English - Page 8
Health - Howard County Health Dept. (contd.)

Howard County Health Department Locations (continued)

Columbia Health Center
7180 Columbia Gateway Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
Phone: 410-313-7500
Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm
Services: Immunizations, Teen & Adult Family Planning Clinics, Healthy Start Program, HIV/AIDS Counseling & Testing, Free Pregnancy Testing, Maryland Children’s Health Insurance Program, Maternity Clinics that provide complete prenatal care, Colposcopy Services, STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) Clinics & Investigation, Communicable Disease Investigation, WIC – a supplemental food program for eligible pregnant and nursing women, infants & children

Addiction Services
7178 Columbia Gateway Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
Phone: 410-313-6202

Hours: Walk-Ins  Appt. Only
Mon 12pm-2pm  Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm
Tue-Thurs 9am-2pm  Fri 9am-12pm
Fri 8am-5pm

Services: Information & Referral, Screening Services, Outpatient Detoxification Services, Education, Individual/Group Counseling (also have counseling groups for solely adolescents & women), Relapse Prevention Groups, Family Services, Confidential Evaluations and in-court assessments, Prevention Outreach Services

Environmental Health
7178 Columbia Gateway Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
Phone: 410-313-2640
Services: Water supply testing, animal bites, rabies clinics for animals, inspections, environmental complaints, air & water quality, etc.
Health

Children’s Insurance
Legal immigrant children under 18 years of age are eligible for MCHIP (Maryland Children’s Health Insurance Program) if you meet the moderate-income guidelines. Call the Health Dept. for information. 410-313-7500

Chase Brexton
Affordable health care for clients without health insurance, English & Spanish spoken. You must call to apply for services.

Phone: 410-884-7831

Walk-In Clinics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route 40 Walk-in Clinic</th>
<th>Briggs Chaney Medical Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8455 Baltimore National Pike</td>
<td>Route 29 &amp; Briggs Chaney Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellicott City, MD 21043</td>
<td>Silver Spring, MD 20904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 410-465-6300</td>
<td>Phone: 301-890-8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours: Mon–Thurs 8am–7pm, Friday 4pm–8pm, Saturday 10am–3pm</td>
<td>Hours: Mon–Fri 8am-9pm, Sat-Sun 9am-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost: First visit $50</td>
<td>English &amp; Spanish Speakers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centro de la Comunidad</th>
<th>Allcare of Maryland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2720 Pulaski Highway</td>
<td>6955 Oakland Mills Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore, MD 21224</td>
<td>Columbia, MD 21045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 410-675-8906</td>
<td>Phone: 410-290-9990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours: Mon 12pm–6pm</td>
<td>Hours: Mon–Fri 9am-8pm, Sat-Sun 12pm-6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9am–3pm</td>
<td>English, Korean &amp; Spanish Speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English &amp; Spanish Speakers</td>
<td>Health insurance not required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After-Hours Urgent Care

Nighttime Pediatrics- For Adults & Children

| 6334 Cedar Lane | Hours: Mon–Fri 5pm-12am |
| Columbia, MD 21044 | Saturday 12pm-12am |
| Phone: 301-596-NITE | Sunday 11am-12am |
Health

Dental Needs:

For dental emergencies: Contact Howard County General Hospital.

For dental non-emergencies:

Chase Brexton
5500 Knoll North Dr.
Suite 370
Columbia, MD 21045
Phone: 410-884-7831

Catholic Charities
1618 Monroe St. NW
Washington D.C. 20010
Phone: 202-939-2402

For low-income, uninsured persons

University of Maryland Dental School
Please call for an appointment
410-706-2716.

Mental Health Needs:

Services for the Disabled:

Howard County Mental Health Authority
4785 Dorsey Hall Dr., Ste. 111
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Phone: 410-313-7350
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am–4:30pm

Andromeda Transcultural Health
1400 Decatur St. NW
Washington D.C. 20011
Phone: 202-291-4707
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

DORS (Division of Rehabilitative Services)
Helps severely disabled people access life.

3451 Court House Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Phone: 410-461-0387
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm

For more information regarding health services in Howard County, contact FIRN at 410-992-1923
Housing & Low-Income Services

Housing & Community Development
Call for information, applications for low-income rental units, federal Section 8 vouchers, and a homebuyers program.

6751 Columbia Gateway Dr.
3rd floor
Columbia, MD 21046

Phone: 410-313-6318
Hours: Monday - Friday  8:00am - 5:00pm

Community Homes
Information and applications for five subsidized housing developments in Howard county for low income families. There are waiting lists for each size apartment or townhouse.

10339 Twin Rivers Road
Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: 410-730-6595
Hours: Monday - Friday  8:30am–5:00pm
Social Security & TIN

Social Security Administration  
Lake Side Building  
8865 Stanford Boulevard  
Suite 110  
Columbia, MD 21045

*Hours:* Monday - Friday  
9:00am – 4:00pm (office hours)

*Phone:* 410-872-4758 or call  
1-800-772-1213 Mon - Fri,  
7am – 7 pm (telephone hours)

You will need a Social Security card before you can work or open a bank account. You must also list the Social Security number of each child and adult on your income tax return.

**Taxpayer Identification Number**  
If you are ineligible for a Social Security number, you can apply for a TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number) in order to file taxes.

FIRN can help you apply for a TIN to file taxes, you may come on a walk-in day or call for an appointment with the social service counselor.

You will need to bring the following items to apply for the TIN:

- Birth Certificate
- Federal Tax Return from last year
- Government photo ID (passport, drivers license, state ID)

You may also call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)  
1-800-829-1040 for forms and information.
# Legal Information

**Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.**
District Court of Howard County
2nd floor
3451 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

*Phone:* 301-480-1057 (leave a message if no one is there)
*Or call the main office:* 1-888-215-5316 *during the following hours:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Issues &amp; Bankruptcy</td>
<td>Mon. and Fri.</td>
<td>9:00am–11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Mon. and Fri.</td>
<td>1:00pm–3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Benefits</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1:00pm–3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General issues</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1:00pm–3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Law (60 years and older)</td>
<td>Tues. and Thurs.</td>
<td>9:00am–12:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Las personas que hablan espanol pueden llamarnos tambien acerca de cualquier asunto legal los miercoles por la manana desde las 9:00 am hasta las 12:00 del medio dia.*

For criminal cases: a public defender may be available for very low-income people. *Call 410-461-0155 Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am -5:00 pm at least 10 days prior to court date for an appointment.* Bring charge papers and income verification (2 months paystubs, or verification if on SSI, or statement from person supporting you if you are not working)

**Lawyers Referral Service of Howard County:** 410-313-2030
First 30-minute consultation with a lawyer is free.

**Catholic Charities** (drop in legal clinic)
430 S. Broadway, 3rd floor
Baltimore, MD 21231-2409
*Phone:* 410-534-8015
*Hours:* Wednesday 9:00am – 12:00pm, Thursday 1:00pm – 4:00pm
The charge is $40, but fees are based on ability to pay.

**Office of Human Rights**
6751 Columbia Gateway Dr., 2nd Floor
Columbia, MD 21046
*Phone:* (410) 313-6430
*Hours:* Monday through Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm
Call first if you feel you have been discriminated against in matters of housing, jobs, finance, law enforcement, etc.
Immigration & Citizenship

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Address
100 South Charles Street
12th floor, Tower One
Baltimore, MD 21201

Note: USCIS is located in the Bank of America building
Phone: 410-962-1898 (USCIS Automated Information)
To be seen by an immigration officer you should make an appointment through INFOPASS. This can be done on their website or through FIRM.
To request a USCIS form, call 1-800-870-3676 or stop by FIRM.

Official USCIS Website: http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis

FIRN
Provides USCIS forms and information regarding immigration and USCIS processes including professional immigration counseling, and assistance in completing the USCIS forms.

Please come in on one of FIRM’s walk-in days, Monday & Tuesday from 8:30am-5:00pm to speak with an immigration counselor. Try to arrive as early as possible (before 8:30 if possible) to ensure an appointment.
Driver’s License & Identification

Motor Vehicle Administration - Beltsville
11760 Baltimore Ave Route 1
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: 410-768-7000
Hours:  Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
  Saturday 8:30am - 12:00pm
for driver’s license services only

Note: Many documents are required to register a car or obtain a license. Call the MVA or FIRN to see what you need to bring.

MVA Express Office - Columbia

Services restricted to: License renewal, change of name or address on license, photo ID cards, copies of your driver’s record and tag returns only.

Located in the Columbia Business Center:
6490 Dobbin Road
Columbia, MD 21045
Phone: 410-768-7000 or 1-800-950-1682
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm
  Saturday 8:30am -12:00 p.m. for driver’s license services only, no vehicle title or tag services on Saturday.

Official Website of the MVA:  http://mva.state.md.us/
For more MVA locations visit their website or call FIRN at 410-992-1923

Note: You cannot get your first US driver’s license at the Express Office. You must go to a full service office (Like Beltsville or Glen Burnie).
Transportation

Howard Transit Service

Public bus transportation between Clarksville, Columbia, Ellicott City, North Laurel, Savage and Elkridge. Specific routes can go to BWI and select MARC stations.

For route, schedule, and fare information call 410-313-1921 or visit their website (available in English, Spanish & Korean)
www.howardtransit.com

Must have exact fare ready when boarding the bus.

Fixed Route reduced fares available for seniors, people with disabilities, and medicare card holders. For more information, call 410-313-3707.

Urban Rural Transportation Alliance, Inc. (URTA)

Provides transportation services to elderly, limited income, and disabled persons certified through the one of the following organizations…

   Community Action Council    (410-313-6440)
   Department of Citizen Services  (410-313-6400)
   Office on Aging               (410-313-7212).

Neighbor Ride

For those age 65 and older that live within or near Howard County, call 410-884-7433 for more information

Christ Episcopal Church

May be able to provide transportation to medical appointments in Howard County, only for people living in Howard County, you must call in advance of the appointment, 410-381-9365
Job Information

Pinnacle Career Resources
Pinnacle provides career coaching and training and can help you with job placement. You must be eligible to work in the United States to meet with a Pinnacle representative.

Chartwell Professional Park
8180 Lark Brown Road, Suite 301
Elkridge, MD 21075

Phone: 410-799-1098
Fax: 410-799-1098

Pinnacle Services are available at FIRN once a week! Please call our office, 410-992-1923 for more information and to set up an appointment. Interpreters can typically be provided free of charge for clients with limited English ability.

Howard County Employment and Training
Can help you upgrade your skills through computer classes, GED preparation, etc.

10650 Hickory Ridge Rd.
Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: 410-313-4600
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm

Green Thumb, Inc.
For people 55 or over looking for work.

Phone: 410-243-7907

Maryland State Employment Services
For help finding a job, including computerized job listings and workshops.

7060 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Phone: 410-312-5760
For Unemployment claims:
410-767-0954.
Job Information

Casa de Maryland
Workers Centers
*For both day or temporary work and permanent positions
*For more information or locations please call CASA at
410-431-4185

Silver Spring Location: 734 University Blvd. E.
Phone: 301-431-4177

Baltimore Location: 2224 Fayette St

Silver Spring, MD 20903
Phone: 410-431-4177

Baltimore, MD 21231
Phone: 410-732-7777

Wheaton Workers Center: 2729 University Blvd. W.
Phone: 301-933-6674

Center for Employment & Training at Shady Grove: 16642 Crabbs Branch Way
Phone: 301-926-0810

Wheaton, MD 20902

Rockville, MD 20855

Alianza de la Comunidad

Can provide more immediate career placement/employment for Latinos

Phone: 443-812-8486
School Registration

Howard County Public School System:

International Student & Family Services

Assists with school registration and other school related information for international students or families with limited English proficiency

Contact them at the following numbers:

English/Korean - 410-313-1525
English/Spanish - 410-313-7101
English/Spanish - 410-313-7102

Note: Schools may not deny admission to an undocumented student. You do not have to answer any questions about the immigration status of your family or your child. You do not need a social security number to register a child for school.
English Classes

**FIRN**
We provide one on one tutoring for all levels and a group class for beginners. The classes go for 3 month sessions with a 1 month break in-between sessions. You must pre-register. One on one tutoring is offered on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoon and is held at Bridgeway Community Church. The group class is on Monday evenings and held FIRN’s Columbia office. Call 410-992-1923 for more information or for registration information.

**Howard Community College**
Howard Community College offers English classes at two locations. Classes are held in Fall and Spring and are usually free with some cost for books. Registration starts several weeks before classes begin. Register early because classes fill up quickly. Call for specific dates and times.

**Hickory Ridge Building**
10650 Hickory Ridge Rd.
Columbia, MD 21044
*Phone: 410-772-4919*

**Chapelgate Presbyterian Church**
Beginner to advanced classes are offered from September to December and January to April. Registration is open all year.

Classes are Wednesday nights 7:00pm-9:00pm, there is a $25.00 fee for books but no other costs.

2600 Marriottsville Rd.
Marriottsville, MD 21104
Call Nancy Booher at 410-465-0154 for more information

**First Baptist Church**
Call Norma Barkdull:
301-725-6163 or the church's main phone: 301-725-1688 for more information
811 Fifth Street
Laurel, MD 20707

**Project Literacy**
English classes for beginners provided by the Howard County Public Library.
Call 410-313-7900 for more information
(For more information about the public libraries refer to pg. 23)
The library has foreign language books as well as books to help you study English and improve your skills. There are programs for children and adults. You can check out educational toys, cassettes, and videos.

English Classes at the Library
Project Literacy at the Howard County Library (Central Branch) can help beginners learn to read and write English.

Call 410-313-7900 for information.
Elderly Services

The Bain Center
5470 Ruth Keeton Way
Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: 410-313-7213
Hours: Monday - Friday,
     8:00am – 4:30pm

There are many senior centers throughout Howard County. Call the main center to learn of location closest to you.

Members of your family who are 60 years of age or older may find help and enjoyable activities at this and other senior centers.

The staff here can also certify eligibility to ride the URTA buses.

Green Thumb, Inc.
Phone: 410-243-7907
Helps people 55 or over looking for work.

Neighbor Ride

For those age 65 and older that live within or near Howard County, call 410-884-7433 for more information

Office on Aging

Phone: 410-313-6410
Other Useful Numbers

**Telephone Service**
New Service 410-954-6260
For Repair 1-800-275-2355 (24 hours)

**Gas and Electric Service**
Baltimore Gas and Electric 410-685-0123

**Day Care**
Howard County Child Care Resource Center: 410-313-1930.
Open Monday-Friday, 9:30am—3:30pm
Call for names and addresses of licensed day care providers by area, by
language and/or by need

**Financial Counseling**
Consumer Credit Counseling Services: 410-747-6803

**Translators & Interpreters**
Maryland International Center: 410-576-0022
Go to their website (www.wtci.org) for a guide to interpreters and
translators in this region.

FIRN offers limited translation and interpretation services:
410-992-1923

**Weather**
410-936-1212

**Other Information:**
Howard County Information and Referral: 410-313-3000
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm

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**If you lose your passport:**
Contact your embassy in Washington, DC
Call 1-202-555-1212 to obtain the phone number of your
embassy