The Charles W. Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center is Montgomery County's welcome center for immigrants. We strengthen the County by connecting our diverse communities with educational, economic, and civic resources so all may thrive.

OUR LOCATIONS

Headquarters until 2017
Mid-County Regional Center
2424 Reedie Drive, Suite 220
Wheaton, MD 20902

240.777.4940

Headquarters starting January 2017
11002 Veirs Mill Road, 5th Floor
Wheaton, MD 20902

240.777.4940

Gaithersburg Library
18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, 2nd Floor
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

240.777.4960

Upcounty Regional Center
12900 Middlebrook Road
Germantown, MD 20874

240.777.6950

East County Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904

240.777.8406

CHARLES W. GILCHRIST
IMMIGRANT
RESOURCE CENTER
Welcome. Connect. Together We Thrive.

Main Number: 240.777.4940

GilchristCenter@montgomerycountymd.gov

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY 1776 MARYLAND

CHARLES W. GILCHRIST
IMMIGRANT
RESOURCE CENTER
Welcome. Connect. Together We Thrive.

QUICK START GUIDE
FOR IMMIGRANTS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center is here to serve you. When you need help, please call us. We will connect you to the resources you need.

Visit us in Wheaton, Gaithersburg, Germantown and Silver Spring.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist

FOR POLICE, FIRE AND AMBULANCE, CALL 911

311 is Montgomery County's phone number for non-emergency government information and services.

Dial 311 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311.

311 telephone operators speak English and Spanish. Interpreters that speak other languages are available.

On the 311 website, use the search box to find the help you need. Results will show in English only.

*info*MONTGOMERY is an extensive online database of health, education, and human service resources throughout Montgomery County.

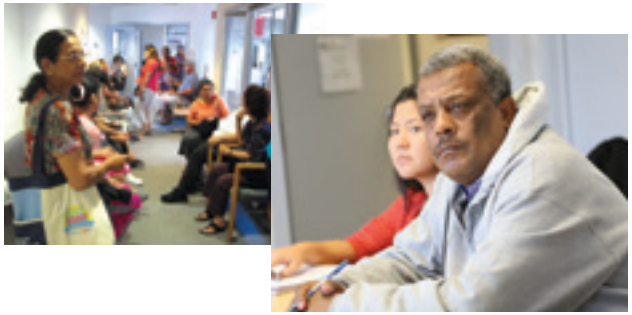
Visit www.infomontgomery.org or call (301) 354-4905.

Go to "Find Help" and click on "Immigrants and Community Newcomers" or use the search box to find the help you need.

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

How Faith Communities in Montgomery County Can Welcome Our New Neighbors
(Provides resources for refugees).
www.montgomerycountyinterfaithmd.org
Click on Media/Events, then Media to view the guide.

Catholic Charities Quick Resource Guide
www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/CommunityResources
Under Maryland, click on Montgomery County.



"Montgomery County is the wonderful place it is today because we have welcomed new people to our community. Because we strive to be one of the most welcoming communities in the nation, Montgomery County has become a talent magnet for people from across the country and around the world. Our Gilchrist Center is here to help immigrants thrive in Montgomery County. This brochure, along with the Center's website and staff, can help you connect to the services you need to succeed."

– Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) AND BASIC COMPUTER CLASSES

We can connect you to quality, free or low-cost ESOL programs and basic computer classes throughout the County.

Directory of Classes: For a directory of classes in the area, visit Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy at www.mcael.org/directory or (301) 881-1338

Montgomery College: The Adult ESOL and Basic Skills for College and Careers offers many helpful classes. Visit cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/aelg.html or (240) 567-5188

Literacy Council of Montgomery County: Offers English classes with more classroom hours and individual tutors. Visit www.literacycouncilmcmd.org or (301) 610-0030

Montgomery County Public Libraries: Offers ongoing English conversation classes and limited computer classes. Visit www.montgomery countymd.gov/library or call (240) 777-0007 to find the branch closest to you

Gilchrist Center: Offers basic computer classes, English conversation classes, and weekly ESOL classes on a limited basis. Visit www.montgomerycountymd. gov/gilchrist or (240) 777-4940

CITIZENSHIP

Eligible permanent residents can apply to become U.S. citizens. Check your eligibility at www.uscis.gov. Several programs provide free classes to prepare you with the English skills and U.S. history, politics, and civics necessary to pass the citizenship test.

Montgomery College: cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/aelg/citizenship.html or (240) 567-8169

Baltimore City Community College: www.bccc.edu/citizenship or (410) 986-3201

CASA de Maryland: www.wearecasa.org/services/citizenship or (240) 560-2272

LEGAL SERVICES

Several organizations offer free or reduced cost help from licensed attorneys.

Free Civil Legal Clinic: Montgomery County Bar Foundation offers free weekly legal clinics on a range of topics. Visit www.montbar.site-ym.com/?ClinicsClinicas or (301) 424-3454

Immigration Legal Services Directory: For a directory of legal service providers in the County helping immigrants and refugees, visit: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships/immigration-legalsupport.html

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) RESOURCES

For more information on community resources and referrals to programs, contact the Neighborhood Centers.

- **Gaithersburg** (Family Services): (240) 773-1151
- **Wheaton** (Catholic Charities): (301) 942-1790
- **Silver Spring** (TESS Community Center): (240) 773-8260

The County provides extensive resources on health and human services. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/ProgramIndex/HealthServicesindex.html

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Many resources exist for children in Montgomery County.

Free Preschool: Children who are 4 years old by September 1 from low-income families can enroll in free Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Pre-Kindergarten and Head Start programs. Visit www.montgomery schoolsmd.org or call (301) 230-0676

Childcare: LOCATE: Childcare is a free referral service with information about all regulated childcare in Maryland. Visit www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/programs-services/locate or call (877) 261-0060

Enrolling in MCPS: Visit the MCPS' International Admissions Office to enroll a student who has not attended school in the U.S. during the previous two years. Children can enroll regardless of immigration status. www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/internationaladmissions or (301) 230-0686

Youth programs: Many groups provide support to youth and their families, including after school activities, mentoring and recreation. Check with your school, local recreation center, or visit www.infomontgomery.org/youth-development for more information.

HOUSING

Montgomery County offers a range of housing help.

Affordable Housing:

- **Housing Opportunities Commission**: www.hocmc.org or (240) 627-9400
- **Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs** : www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca

Emergency Financial Assistance: For help with rent, eviction, foreclosure, or utility disconnection:

- Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs/programIndex/FinHousingServicesindex.html
- **Germantown Regional Office**: (240) 777-4448
- **Rockville Regional Office**: (240) 777-4550
- **Silver Spring Regional Office**: (240) 777-3075
- **East County Regional Office**: (240) 777-4470

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Learn more about saving, borrowing, managing credit, and buying a home.

- **Asian-American Homeownership Counseling**: www.aa-hc.org or (301) 760-7636
- **Latino Economic Development Center**: www.ledcmetro.org or (866) 977-LEDC
- **Coalition for the Advancement of Financial Education**: www.cafemontgomerymd.org or (240) 654-5964

HEALTHCARE

The County provides a wealth of health care resources.

Health Insurance: If you do not have health insurance, and you want to obtain it, call (855) 642-8572 or visit www.marylandhealthconnection.gov

Primary Care: For primary and preventive medical care for uninsured adults, visit the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County at www.primarycarecoalition.org or (301) 628-3405. For a list of medical clinics, visit Montgomery Cares at www.montgomerycares.org. You can also call 311 for more information

Children's Health Care: Care for Kids provides access to health care for uninsured children in the County. You must enroll by visiting one of the County Health and Human Services (HHS) offices. Call (301) 628-3438 for more information.

Mental Health: For mental health information and referrals in the County, contact the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Screening and Referral Program at (240) 777-1770

The County's Minority Health Programs:

- **African American Health Program:** www.onehealthylife.org or (240) 777-1833
- **Asian American Health Initiative:** www.aahiinfo.org or (240) 777-4517
- **Latino Health Initiative:** www.lhiinfo.org or (240) 777-3221

CRISIS SERVICES

Montgomery County provides help during crisis situations.

- All situational and psychiatric crises: (240) 777-4000
- Abused persons and domestic violence: (240) 777-4673
- Adult abuse and neglect: (240) 777-3000
- Child abuse and neglect: (240) 777-4417
- Victim assistance and sexual assault: (240) 777-1355 or (240) 777-4357 (24 hours)

Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs and select "Crisis Services."

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Emergency food assistance is available through the government or food pantries.

- **SNAP (Food Stamps):** You can apply online for food stamps at www.marylandsail.org or by visiting a County office. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs and under "Benefits/Housing," select "Food" for office locations.
- **Manna Food** (various locations): www.mannafood.org or (301) 424-1130
- **Catholic Charities** (Silver Spring): www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/MFC or (301) 942-1790
- **Mid-County United Ministries** (Wheaton): www.mumhelp.org or (301) 929-8675
- **SHARE Food Network** (various locations): (301) 864-3115

EMPLOYMENT

Several organizations provide job skills training that can lead to employment .

Worksource Montgomery: www.worksourcemontgomery.com or (240) 403-4012

CASA de Maryland: www.wearecasa.org/vocationaltraining or (240) 491-5775

Montgomery College Workforce Development and Continuing Education: cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce or (240) 567-5188

Catholic Charities Education and Employment Training: www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/Education-and-Employment or

- Silver Spring: (301) 942-1790
- Gaithersburg: (301) 740-2523
- Washington, DC: (202) 939-2400

A Wider Circle: www.awidercircle.org or (301) 608-3504

Interfaith Works: www.iworksmc.org/vocational-services or (301) 585-4471 ext. 13

TAXES

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides free tax preparation services for low to moderate income County residents, at various locations throughout the County. Call (240) 777-1123 or visit:

- www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/OCA/VITA/VITA.html
- www.montgomerycountymd.gov/CASHBACK/

SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Montgomery County has many resources for seniors and people with disabilities:

- **Seniors:** www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/index.html or (240) 777-3000
- **People with disabilities:** www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/ProgramIndex/DisabilityServicesindex.html or (240) 777-3000

FRAUD/SCAMS/DISCRIMINATION

Laws exist to protect you from unfair and deceptive business acts. You can file a complaint with one of the agencies below:

- **Montgomery County's Office of Consumer Protection:** www.montgomerycounty md.gov/ocp or (240) 777-3636
- **Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation:** www.dllr.state.md.us or (410) 230-6001
- **Federal Trade Commission:** www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

Discrimination and Hate Crimes: Human rights laws protect you from discrimination and crimes of hate/violence. If you think you have been a victim, contact:

- **Montgomery County's Office of Human Rights:** www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights or (240) 777-8450
- **Maryland Commission on Civil Rights:** www.mccr.maryland.gov or (410) 767-8600
- **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:** www.eeoc.gov