

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2008.18

The Maryland Council for New Americans
(Rescinds Executive Order 01.01.1996.18)

- WHEREAS, Throughout our nation's history immigrants have made critical contributions to the overall economic, social, and political vitality of the State of Maryland;
- WHEREAS, Many present day Marylanders are descendants of those who left foreign homelands for the promise of a better life in America;
- WHEREAS, Maryland's immigrant population has grown significantly in recent years, now accounting for 12 percent of all Marylanders, compared to seven percent in 1990;
- WHEREAS, Roughly 175,000 Marylanders are immigrants who are, or will soon be eligible to become American citizens. Increasing the pace of naturalization will allow them to fully participate in civic life and take advantage of the full array of available job opportunities;
- WHEREAS, Learning English is critical to ensuring that foreign-born Marylanders can maximize their earning potential and help alleviate the State's labor shortages by participating in the workforce;
- WHEREAS, A proactive policy for new Americans in Maryland will ensure our economic competitiveness by helping employers meet critical workforce needs and allowing foreign-born Marylanders to have a meaningful opportunity to succeed;
- WHEREAS, Comprehensive federal reforms are needed to ensure that immigration occurs within a fair and legal framework that protects all workers, promotes permanent legal immigration, prioritizes enforcement, and ensures respect for the rule of law;
- WHEREAS, A new federal immigration policy must require that new Americans register for legal status, learn English, and pay taxes;

WHEREAS, The federal government’s failure to enact meaningful, comprehensive immigration reform has placed significant pressure upon state and local governments;

WHEREAS, Maryland faces chronic labor shortages in a number of critical industries;

WHEREAS, Immigrants living and working in Maryland are a vital component of Maryland’s economic engine, tax base, and social and cultural fabric;

WHEREAS, Eighteen percent of federal, State, and local taxes paid by Marylanders come from immigrant households;

WHEREAS, Forty-three percent of immigrants working in Maryland have a college degree or higher, and one in five doctors and one in four scientists in Maryland are immigrants;

WHEREAS, Immigrants’ access to mainstream financial services helps ensure the economic health of our State and promote the full-fledged participation of immigrants in community life; and

WHEREAS, A new Maryland Council for New Americans should be established to promote full immigrant integration into the economic and civic life of Maryland.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O’MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY RESCIND EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.1996.18 AND PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. There is a Maryland Council for New Americans (the “Council”). The Council shall be a partnership among the public, private, and civic sectors to promote full immigrant integration into the economic and civic life of Maryland.

B. Duties. The Council shall:

(1) Review and recommend new policies and practices to expedite immigrant integration into the economic and civic life of the State;

(2) Provide a Maryland Council for New Americans report and recommendations no later than nine months after the date of this Executive Order; and

(3) Perform any other duties that may be requested by the Governor.

C. Membership.

(1) The following members or their designees, shall be ex-officio members:

- (a) The Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Business and Economic Development;
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Planning;
- (d) The Secretary of the Department of Human Resources;
- (e) The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development;
- (f) The Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board;
- (g) The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives;
- (h) The Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs;
- (i) The Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture; and
- (j) The Chair of each of the commissions on ethnic affairs that the Governor has established, or establishes in the future, including but not limited to the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Indian Affairs, and the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs.

(2) The following members shall be appointed by the Governor, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor for up to two consecutive four year terms:

- (a) One Maryland County Executive;
- (b) One additional representative from county government;

- (c) One representative from municipal government;
- (d) Three representatives from nonprofit social service organizations that reflect the ethnic diversity of the State;
- (e) Three representatives from private sector employers;
- (f) Ten representatives from faith-based organizations and the clergy;
- (g) One representative from higher education;
- (h) One representative with expertise in adult education and language acquisition;
- (k) One representative from the banking and financial services sector;
- (l) One representative from the healthcare sector;
- (m) One representative from organized labor;
- (n) One representative from the small business sector;
- (o) One representative from a national organization with expertise in demographic trends and public policy; and
- (p) One representative from the philanthropic sector.

(3) The Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates shall appoint two members from among the members of the House.

(4) The President of the Maryland Senate shall appoint two members from among the members of the Senate.

(5) Members of the Council may not receive any compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations, and as provided in the State budget.

(6) In the event of a vacancy on the Commission, the Governor shall appoint a successor.

(7) State government representatives shall not constitute a majority of members.

D. Procedures.

(1) The Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the County Executive member shall co-chair the Council.

(2) There shall be an Executive Committee of the Council, which shall consist of the Secretary of the Department of Business and Economic Development or the Secretary's designee; the Secretary of the Department of Planning or the Secretary's designee; the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives or the Director's designee; and the Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board or the Director's designee.

(3) The Council shall meet at the call of the Chairs.

(4) A majority of Council members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(5) The Council may adopt such other procedures and by-laws as may be necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

E. Working Groups. In addition to any other groups the Council deems necessary to establish to accomplish its work, it shall establish the following working groups, which may include participants who are not Council members, to make recommendations to the Council to address specific challenges facing immigrants.

(1) Workforce Working Group. The Workforce Working Group will focus on helping to address the State's workforce shortage by examining credential transfer, training, and the attraction of key workers to create the region's most competitive workforce; examining the role of "One Stop" employment centers in streamlining the economic integration of new Americans; and identifying best practices that expedite English as a second language, both for children in the public school system and for working adults.

(2) Citizenship Working Group. The Citizenship Working Group will plan a broad, coordinated citizenship promotion and assistance program to naturalize Maryland's estimated 175,000 legal permanent residents who are eligible for naturalization at a faster pace.

(3) Governmental Access Working Group. The Governmental Access Working Group will focus on how to improve accessibility of State and local government services to new Americans. This will include an assessment of resources necessary for compliance with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements; an assessment of the availability of vital documents in other languages; and identifying best practices at the county, community, and municipal levels. This group is also charged with developing specific government wide StateStat measures to track capacity to serve these communities.

(4) Financial Services Working Group. The Financial Services Working Group will examine strategies for increasing immigrants' access to mainstream financial services, stable homeownership, and family financial planning.

F. Operational Support. The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation shall provide publication, operational, and other support as needed to the Council.

G. The Maryland Office for New Americans within the Department of Human Resources is hereby renamed the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees. Its purpose is to administer Maryland's federally-funded refugee programs.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 3rd Day of December, 2008.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

ATTEST:

John P. McDonough
Secretary of State