

DRAFT (September 20, 2021)
**A Framework for Arlington’s Commitment to Strengthening Trust with Our
Immigrant Community**

Overview

Arlington County recognizes that the County’s ethnic, racial, and linguistic diversity is a key source of our strength. Our vision is to be a welcoming and inclusive community where every person is important, and every person thrives. The County is committed to protecting the rights of all residents, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status, and to ensuring every person in Arlington has an equal opportunity to participate in our economy.

We believe it is important to reaffirm current County policy and improve community health, safety, welfare, and security and build trust by ensuring that immigrant residents can be assured of access to County benefits and services without fear that the information they share will be disclosed to federal immigration officials.

It is not an appropriate use of Arlington County resources to facilitate enforcement of federal immigration law, which is the sole responsibility of the Federal government. The County will comply with all federal or state regulations mandating cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other federal immigration officials, as well as valid judicial warrants and subpoena, but will otherwise restrict sharing of personal identifiable information that could be used to further immigration enforcement efforts.

Framework Elements

Access to Public Services

Arlington County upholds our obligation to provide equitable access to public services and facilities to all residents.

- Arlington County does not and will not require documentation about legal status to access healthcare, food, shelter and educational services.
- Arlington County does not and will not require any resident to provide proof of legal presence in order to access nearly all county government services, including but not limited to: local police, fire, emergency medical services, parks, recreation, libraries, Arlington aging and disability services, emergency financial assistance, Arlington health, mental health, or substance abuse services. Note-there are some federally funded programs and services that do require legal documentation to meet eligibility requirements.

Law Enforcement

Arlington County commits that enforcement of federal immigration law is the sole responsibility of the Federal government and that the use of Arlington County resources in such enforcement is inappropriate as is cooperation with civil administrative immigration enforcement.

- A person's right to file a police report, participate in police-community activities or otherwise benefit from police services is not contingent upon citizenship or immigration status.
- Arlington County does not monitor, detain, interview or investigate a person solely for the purpose of determining immigration status.
- Arlington County does not enforce Federal Immigration law.

Access to Information

We are committed to ensuring a person's confidentiality and the protection of personal information. Additional elements of the Framework on Trust in Government include:

- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Requesting, Accessing or Disclosing Information
- Access to Public Facilities, Services and Resources
- Use of County Funds for Civil Immigration Enforcement
- Supporting Residents regardless of Citizenship or Immigration Status
- Facilitation of Civil Immigration Enforcement
- Participation in Federal Registries
- Public Engagement and Communication