

SUBURBAN MARYLAND
WELCOME
BACK
CENTER
FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

What?

The Welcome Back Center of Suburban Maryland is an innovative model that builds on the personal and professional assets of immigrants living in the United States to: further address health professional shortages; diversify the health workforce; provide economic opportunities to underutilized individuals as they return to work in the health field; and enhance health outcomes of the entire community.

When?

In 2006, the Latino Health Initiative (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services) launched The Foreign-Trained Health Professionals Program to facilitate the Maryland health professions licensure process. In 2010, this program became the “Welcome Back Center of Suburban Maryland,” one of several centers comprising the national “Welcome Back Initiative” network.

Where?

The Center serves any internationally trained health professional currently living in Maryland, with a focus on Montgomery, Prince Georges, and Frederick Counties.

Why?

Many highly educated and experienced immigrants residing in Maryland with education degrees and certifications in health professions conferred by other countries are currently under-employed and not utilizing their valuable skills in the health field. The Center supports the notion that greater workforce diversity may lead to improved health outcomes through better access to care by underserved populations and more effective patient/healthcare provider interactions.

How?

The Center model accomplishes its goals by providing:

- Guidance and support, including individualized case management
- Academic training, including English as a Second Language instruction and board exam preparation
- On-the-job practical exposure to the U.S. healthcare system and mentoring at Maryland hospitals and other healthcare facilities
- Pre-employment services for health-related jobs, career development support, and job readiness training
- Leadership development for culturally competent transformative leaders

Who?

The Center partners include local and State government, the academic sector, and healthcare employers. To learn how you can get involved call 240-777-3168 or visit <http://www.lhiinfo.org/en-programs-and-activities/Welcome-Back-Center.asp>.

