

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Welcome Back Center Overview



DHHS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Department of Health
and Human Services

**Latino
Health
Initiative**
Welcome Back Center



JUNE 2025

What is the Welcome Back Center?

The Welcome Back Center of Suburban Maryland (WBC) supports internationally trained health professionals in obtaining their recertification to enter the U.S. healthcare workforce. The WBC serves internationally trained nurses, medical graduates, and behavioral health professionals.

What is the WBC goal?

Many highly educated and experienced immigrants in Maryland hold health-related degrees and certifications from other countries but remain underemployed and unable to fully use their skills. The WBC is founded on the belief that a more diverse healthcare workforce can improve health outcomes by expanding access to care for underserved communities and fostering more effective interactions between patients and providers.

By helping skilled internationally trained health professionals navigate licensing, training, and job placement, the WBC addresses workforce shortages, promotes diversity, and improves community health. The WBC goal is to turn experience into opportunity—and build a stronger, more inclusive healthcare system.

What is the WBC history?

The Foreign-Trained Health Professionals Program was launched by the Latino Health Initiative of Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services in 2006 with the goal to support internationally educated health professionals in navigating Maryland's licensure process.

In 2010, the program became the **Welcome Back Center of Suburban Maryland (WBC)**, joining the national **Welcome Back Initiative network**—a coalition of centers dedicated to helping skilled immigrants enter the U.S. healthcare workforce. The WBC collaborates with local and state government agencies, academic institutions, and healthcare employers.

Who can participate in the WBC?

The WBC serves internationally trained nurses, medical graduates, and behavioral health professionals who currently live or work in Maryland.

What services does the WBC provide?

The WBC provides:

- **Individualized case management** with personalized guidance and support
- **Academic training**, such as English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction and board exam preparation
- **Practical exposure** to the U.S. healthcare system through on-the-job experience and mentorship at Maryland hospitals and other healthcare facilities
- **Job readiness services** for health-related careers, including career development support, interview preparation and workforce integration guidance

To learn more about how you can get involved, call 240-777-3221 or visit:

<https://www.lhiinfo.org/programs-projects/welcome-back-center-of-suburban-maryland/>