



## IMMIGRATION RESOURCES

Travis County is comprised of a culturally-diverse population, including residents from all over the world. For foreign-born residents, the challenges of adjusting to a new environment can be difficult and stressful, especially when they are non-English speaking. The challenges facing immigrants in Travis County, often times serve as obstacles in seeking out emergency services, such as law enforcement. Fear of reaching out to law enforcement can be a very real issue for many, especially for residents who have suffered criminal victimization.

To this end, the Travis County Sheriff's Office is committed to serving the residents of Travis County, regardless of migratory status. The Victim Services Unit can assist those persons who have been victimized, by providing them with the following services:

- Immediate crisis intervention
- Counseling referrals
- Justice support and advocacy
- Safety planning
- Assistance with Crime Victim Compensation forms

The Victim Services Unit can also provide information and referrals to other community providers for assistance with the following:

- Emergency shelter
- Basic needs (food pantry, clothing)
- Healthcare and social services
- Educational needs (English as Second Language)
- Legal services
- Consular contact information

### **T-Visa / U-Visa / VAWA**

Victims of domestic violence may be eligible to self-petition for lawful immigration status under VAWA, if they are legally married to or are the child of a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident. For victims whose abuser is not a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident, lawful status may be obtained through a T-Visa or U-Visa.

T-Visas and U-Visas are non-immigrant visas created through the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. Both the T-Visa and U-Visa assist non-citizens in obtaining lawful immigration status, if they are willing to cooperate and assist authorities in the investigation of their case.

## Available Resources

American Gateways: (512) 478-0546

314 East Highland Mall Boulevard, Suite 501, Austin, TX 78752-3733

[www.americangateways.org](http://www.americangateways.org)

Free and low-cost legal services and education to promote justice for immigrants and refugees in Central Texas

Casa Marianella: (512) 385-5571

[www.casamarianella.org](http://www.casamarianella.org)

Provides food, shelter, and clothing to recently arrived immigrants

Latina Mami: (512) 689-2340

[www.lagloria.typepad.com/latinamami/](http://www.lagloria.typepad.com/latinamami/)

Support groups, childcare, transportation and parenting classes for Latina mothers and their families

Saheli: (512) 369-5950

[www.saheli-austin.org](http://www.saheli-austin.org)

Assistance to women of Asian descent who are victims of abuse/assault.

Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid: 1 (888) 988-9996 or (512) 374-2700

[www.trla.org](http://www.trla.org)

Free legal services for low-income individuals that qualify