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# Immigrant Assistance Services Program (IAS)

MASSACHUSETTS IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVOCACY COALITION

August 21, 2024



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# About MIRA



Mission: convene, serve, and organize together with our members, community leaders, and allies for the advancement of all immigrants across the Commonwealth and beyond. MIRA Coalition places immigrant and refugee voices at the forefront to advocate for the well-being of our communities.

Vision: a Commonwealth – and a nation – where *all* can thrive, no matter where they came from or how they got here, and *all* can fully participate in their community's social, economic, and civic life.

# MIRA Coalition

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- Advocacy (State & Federal)
- Citizenship Assistance
- IAS Program
- Organizing
- Civic Engagement
- Immigrant Inclusion
- National Networks: NPNA, FIRM





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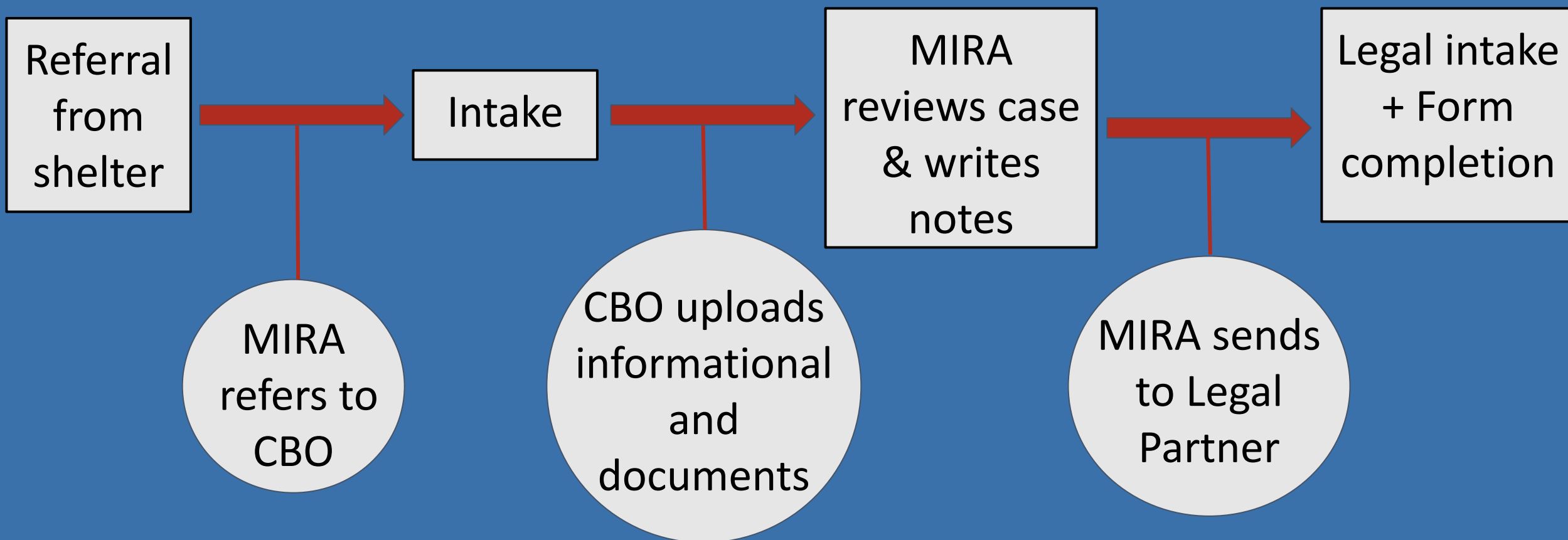
# What is the Immigrant Assistance Services Program?

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts awarded the MIRA Coalition \$1.75 million in 2023 to run a limited case management and legal assistance program in Emergency Assistance Shelters. Together with 16 subgrantees, almost 1,000 families across 35 shelters received services from August 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

Our contract was renewed for the current fiscal year, with a slightly adjusted program model focusing on Legal Case Management and Limited Legal Services. We will be providing services in a subset of Massachusetts Emergency Assistance Shelters.



# Process Overview









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# Services Provided

 <u>The IAS Program CAN Provide:</u>	 <u>The IAS Program CANNOT Provide:</u>
● Orientation to the Immigration Legal System	● Representation in court
● Legal Consultation	● Advice on filed asylum applications
● Change of address with immigration	● In most cases, assistance with TPS and asylum applications
● Change in court location or request to appear in court remotely	
● Work Permit application	
● In VERY LIMITED cases, assistance with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and asylum applications	



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# How to Refer Residents

IAS serves a limited number of hotel/motel EA shelters across Massachusetts. If your shelter is served by IAS, you will receive an email from me in the next week with a referral form

This referral must be filled out by shelter staff - please do **not** share it with your residents. Please make sure they understand what our program can and cannot assist with.

# WARNING RE: NOTARIO FRAUD & UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW

- Only licensed attorneys and Department of Justice Accredited Representatives can give you immigration advice and represent you in Immigration Court
- “Notarios,” visa consultants, and immigration consultants are NOT attorneys or accredited representatives
- Do not pay ANY agency or person money unless you confirm they are licensed attorneys or accredited representatives
- If you have a name: verify licensure at [massbbo.org](https://massbbo.org)  
If you have a phone number: search the # in Google to find the name, and then verify licensure





**Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers  
Of the Supreme Judicial Court**

Admittance Date:

Expiration:

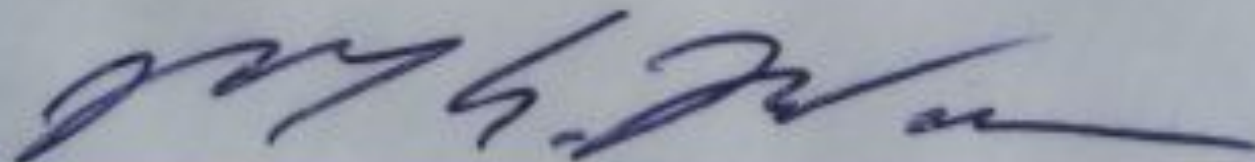
BBO #:

6/10/1987

6/1/2017

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Medford MA 02155

Signature:



Certificate valid for 45 days after expiration date.



# Immigration Advocate Legal Helpline

MIRA



Introducing the 24/7 Immigration Helpline open to all Massachusetts-based providers serving immigrants and refugees.

Through this non-emergency service helpline, the **Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)** aims to provide community-based organizations with answers to the most commonly asked legal questions. By building on the community knowledge, providers will be able to better serve the immigrant and refugee population.

## How does it work?



Callers are asked to leave a voicemail with their contact details and their inquiry (without disclosing any client-specific information).



The MIRA Helpline staff will review voicemails to assess urgency, directing urgent inquiries to our Staff Attorney for immediate response.



If a caller seeks resources, these will be sent via email. For all other matters requiring an attorney's response, the Helpline staff will arrange a callback and provide further instructions.



This helpline will be active starting March 27, 2024 and accepts voicemails 24/7 at (508) 293-1871.

Scan the QR code for more information. Questions? Please email [helpline@miracoalition.org](mailto:helpline@miracoalition.org)