Follow up Questions from the Immigrants in Arlington Event on August 11, 2026

Prepared by Arlington County Government with input from the American Immigration Council.

1) **How does Arlington compare to other jurisdictions?**
    - The data shows that Arlington County is significantly immigrant-rich in comparison to other communities. Immigrants make up approximately one in five residents (compared to the national average of 14.8%) and workers. A significant portion (nearly 80%) of the immigrant population is of working age.
    - The immigrant population size has roughly stayed the same size. This differs from some communities, who are seeing decreases in immigration population and from communities across the country that had been seeing more rapid expansion of their immigrant populations.
    - Like many other communities across the U.S., Spanish is the most prominent language spoken other than English, while the County also sees significant portions of the immigrant community speak other languages.
    - Like many other communities across the country, a large swath of the immigrant population has planted long-term roots in the community (nearly 80% have resided in the U.S. for over 5 years).
    - The immigrant population in Arlington County is highly educated when compared with other communities, with most immigrant residents holding a high school diploma and a majority holding a bachelor's degree or higher.
    - The Northern Virginia Regional Commission publishes demographics by jurisdiction. Below are links to an immigration study and foreign-born demographics.
        - https://www.novaregiondashboard.com/immigration-study
        - https://www.novaregiondashboard.com/foreign-born-and-immigrants

2) **How are "international students" defined?**
    - We use the number of international students in each state and congressional district from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NAFSA) . NAFSA's tool uses data from the Open Doors Report, which defines an international student as anyone studying at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States on a temporary, non-immigrant visa that permits academic coursework. As a result, our methodology does not count undocumented students in universities as international students.

- The number of international students at George Mason University (GMU)-Arlington campus has been requested from the university.

3) **Refugees – "most likely" what does this mean?**
   - Since nationally representative surveys that normally provide socioeconomic data to researchers do not include information on respondents' immigration status beyond citizenship status, there is little quantitative data available on refugees and their socioeconomic characteristics after their resettlement.
   - To address this, we use an imputation method, similar to the work of Kallick and Mathema as well as Capps et al, to identify cases in the American Community Survey (ACS) microdata that are likely to be refugees, using each foreign-born respondent's country of birth and their year of arrival.
   - Inherently, this number and our method do not capture every refugee living in the United States.

4) **Who is included in "refugees and asylees"?**
   - We define an immigrant as anyone born outside the country to non-U.S. citizen parents residing in the United States, which includes refugees and asylum seekers. Although refugees and asylum seekers are not "immigrants" in the legal sense, because they are foreign-born, they are included in our estimates.

5) **For languages, when we say Chinese, which linguistic group are we referring to (Mandarin, simplified, traditional, etc.)?**
   - According to the U.S. Census Bureau's language categorization, Chinese includes Mandarin Chinese, Min Nan Chinese (incl. Taiwanese), and Yue Chinese (Cantonese). For a full breakdown, and more background, please reference this U.S. Census resource, About Language Use in the U.S. Population – which also includes the language code list with a further, in-depth breakdown.

6) **Disparity among immigrants:**
   - The 2026 G4G Immigrants in Arlington Report provides data on many disparities that exist in the immigrant community compared to the native-born residents. Additional disparities may exist within the immigrant community. Below is a table showing Arlington County's income distribution of those age 15 years or older with an income.

   - Despite Arlington's overall affluence, foreign-born residents are more likely than U.S.-born residents to have lower incomes. Nearly half (49%) of foreign-born residents with income earn less than $50,000 annually, compared with just 25%

of U.S.-born residents. In contrast, only 38% of foreign-born residents report incomes of $75,000 or more, compared with 62% of U.S.-born residents.

Population Age 15+ with Income		
2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates		
	U.S. Born	**Foreign Born**
Total With income:	140,552	44,848
$1 to $9,999 or loss	8%	12%
$10,000 to $14,999	3%	7%
$15,000 to $24,999	4%	9%
$25,000 to $34,999	4%	10%
$35,000 to $49,999	6%	11%
$50,000 to $64,999	8%	9%
$65,000 to $74,999	5%	5%
$75,000 or more	62%	38%

7) Breakdown of countries and language of Indigenous populations.

- Specific breakdowns of Indigenous populations and languages are not available in U.S. Census Bureau data.

8) For first-generation Americans, how does this impact data (maybe look at households with immigrant parents)?

- Immigrant households often have complex living arrangements, with multiple generations residing together. U.S. Census Bureau data indicates that while parents may be foreign-born, their children are frequently U.S.-born and therefore classified as native-born. However, many of these children may identify strongly with their immigrant heritage or view themselves as part of an immigrant community. As a result, Census classifications may understate the population that self-identifies as having an immigrant background.

Arlington Children with at least one Foreign Born Parent 2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates	
Total Children	**15,074**
Both Foreign Parents	**7,551**
Child is native	75%
Child is foreign-born	25%
One Foreign and One Native	**4,468**
Child is native	96%
Child is foreign-born	4%
One Parent Foreign Born	**3,055**
Child is native	70%
Child is foreign-born	30%

9) **Immigration trends over time – learning what was the share of the population, why did they come here and why did they leave?**
    - Here is a link to Pew Research on how the origins of America's immigrants have changed since 1950. While Arlington attracts immigrants from a wide range of regions, broader national immigration trends have influenced the demographic patterns and population changes observed in the county. https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/07/22/how-the-origins-of-americas-immigrants-have-changed-since-1850/

    - Immigrants are influenced by many of the same factors as native-born residents. They relocate in search of better employment opportunities, more affordable housing, stronger social networks, cultural communities, and in response to major life changes.

10) **General question about families and households.**
    - ACS table S0502 provides information on different characteristics of families and households based on foreign-born year of entry. Here is a link directly to the table: https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2024.S0502?t=Native+and+Foreign-Born&g=050XX00US51013

    - Arlington's foreign-born residents are more likely to be married and live in larger households than the county population. These patterns reflect the prevalence of family-centered and multigenerational living arrangements within immigrant communities and highlight their significant influence on the county's household structure.