

Ohio and Michigan's Oldest &amp; Largest Latino Weekly

Check out our Classifieds online! www.laprensa1.com

enero de 2025

Spanglish Lazo Cultural Edition

Vol. 22, No. 1 (LP1)

¡TINTA CON SABOR!



**SO YOU'RE AGAINST IMMIGRATION? SPLENDID! WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?**

## MIRC Denounces Rescission of ICE Protected Areas Policy

*End of Protections Threatens Children, Victims of Emergencies and Violence, and Religious Communities*

DETROIT, MI, January 23, 2025: The Trump administration rescinded a longstanding policy that disfavored most enforcement actions around sensitive locations. Since 2011, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has maintained guidance requiring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to refrain from immigration enforcement actions in areas such as schools and places where children gather, health care facilities, places of worship, social service and shelter facilities where people seek aid in emergency situations and to escape violence, as well as religious or civil ceremonies and demonstrations.

The Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) condemns this action from the Trump administration designed to stoke fear among immigrant communities. The protective policy prompted agents to understand the activities that take place in sensitive locations, and "the importance of those activities to the well-being of people and the communities of which they are a part, and the impact an enforcement action would have on people's willingness to be in the protected area and receive or engage in the essential services or activities that occur there." The policy acknowledged this "is a determination that requires the exercise of judgment." This layer of protection meant that communities could focus on prayer, healing, and learning rather than worry about enforcement actions in these few places. Doing away with the policy may endanger public safety and health.

It is also important not to overstate the impact of this change. Law enforcement agencies, including

ICE, generally plan operations that are focused on specific individuals, rather than general populations. While that approach may change, MIRC does not interpret the rescission of this policy to signal that previously sensitive locations are now going to be the focus of generalized enforcement operations in our region.

In tandem with rescinding the protected areas policy, ICE also outlined guidance to officers engaging in enforcement operations in and around courthouses. The new guidance states that such operations are against targeted individuals but can include non-citizens with a prior removal order. The agency also continues to discourage civil immigration enforcement actions associated with courthouses dedicated to non-criminal proceedings, such as family court.

Communities should be aware that several legal protections remain in place despite the removal of the protected areas policy. Individuals are still protected by the Fourth Amendment from unreasonable searches. In most cases, private spaces in areas that are no longer considered sensitive locations may still request that enforcement agents show they have proper legal authority (such as a search warrant) allowing them to enter sensitive areas. People in those areas are also protected by the Fifth Amendment and have the right to remain silent. It should be noted, however, that because Michigan is within 100 miles of the border, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has special legal authority to search for individuals without lawful status on buses, trains, and boats. Additionally, survivors of domestic and sexual violence have specific statutory protections regarding enforcement around court-

house proceedings associated with escaping violence.

A resource guide is available at [www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org) which highlights recommendations for affected community locations. Immigrants in Michigan who have questions about their rights can consult MIRC's Know Your Rights resources at [bit.ly/MIRCKYR](http://bit.ly/MIRCKYR) or call (734) 239-6863.

**Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC)** is a statewide legal resource center for Michigan's immigrant communities that works to build



a thriving Michigan where immigrant communities experience equity and belonging. MIRC's work is rooted in three pillars: direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and community engagement and education.

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

## Recursos para Inmigrantes en Michigan

### 1 Conozca sus Derechos

Aquí encontrará información específica de Michigan sobre sus derechos, cómo preparar a su familia para la aplicación de la ley, qué hacer si ICE viene a su puerta y qué hacer después de que alguien sea arrestado o detenido.



[bit.ly/MIRCKYR](http://bit.ly/MIRCKYR)

### 2 Servicios legales de inmigración

Si necesita servicios legales de inmigración, llámenos al 734-239-6863. Si las líneas están ocupadas, deje un mensaje y le devolveremos la llamada.



### 3 Todos los detenidos pueden llamar a MIRC por gratis desde el centro de detención



[michiganimmigrant.org](http://michiganimmigrant.org)



# 'We've got to move forward' - Michigan electric vehicle industry responds to policy changes

By ALEXA ST. JOHN Associated Press

DETROIT, Jan 24, 2025 (AP): While President Donald Trump took aim at the electric vehicle industry this week, there is still optimism about the industry's future in Michigan, a state retooling from America's most recognizable auto hub to its number one destination for electric vehicle investment.

More than \$27 billion is being poured into some 60 EV manufacturing and battery projects in the state, edging out even Georgia, with \$26.6 billion, according to Atlas Public Policy, indicating that the birthplace of the modern auto industry continues to be central to its present and future.

Michigan is home to hundreds of supply companies in addition to the automakers.

There is Factory ZERO, GM's remade assembly plant for electric Hummers and Silverados in the diverse Detroit neighborhood of Hamtramck, on a lot rich with auto history.

There is the \$1.6 billion battery manufacturing campus in Van Buren Township in southeast Michigan that's expected to create more than 2,100 jobs and the equivalent of 200,000 EV battery packs each year once fully running.

And there is the futuris-

tic building in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood, next to the once-blighted Michigan Central train station Ford renovated, now home to Newlab, where entrepreneurs experiment on high-tech equipment, network with other founders and funders and collaborate with automakers.

The list goes on.

"I think that it's still the direction that we're heading," said auto dealer Eric Frehsée of Tamaroff Auto Group.

On the east side of Detroit, Ray Smith runs an EV training program for aspiring auto technicians. At Blast Detroit, would-be apprentices learn to diagnose EV electrical, software

and battery systems and compare them to traditional gasoline-fueled cars.

Regardless of federal policy changes, "We've got to move forward, of course," Smith said.

Monday, the president signed an executive order promising to eliminate an EV "mandate," referring to President Joe Biden's target for 50% of new vehicles sold in the U.S. by 2030 to be electric and Environmental Protection Agency action to slash planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles over the coming years. The policies never required automakers to sell electric vehicles or consumers to buy them.

President Trump's order indicates he will roll back those pollution rules. Perhaps more important to some consumers, he is likely to seek repeal of a \$7,500 tax credit for new EV purchases. He already paused billions of dollars in funding allocated for EV charging stations.

Stellantis, the manufacturer of Jeep and Ram, said in a statement it is "well positioned to adapt to the policy

changes enacted by the new Administration" and that it looks forward to working with the president. Ford had no comment on the changes, and a GM spokesperson did not comment.

Already, the EV industry broadly has faced headwinds. Some automakers have pulled backplans to go electric, and though EVs accounted for 8.1% of new vehicle sales in the U.S. in 2024, the pace of the sales growth slowed from the year before. While EVs are getting more affordable, they still cost more up front than a car that runs on gasoline.

At the nonprofit Eastern Michigan Electric Automobile Association, president Bruce Westlake told The Associated Press that customers are coming in with the desire to clean up the environment. But that demand could dampen with less federal support for EVs and clean energy broadly.

U.S. automakers "may find themselves in a position they can't recover from where they are making what the market doesn't want," Westlake added.

**Resources for Immigrants in Michigan**

- 1 Know Your Rights**  
Find Michigan-specific information about your rights, how to prepare your family for enforcement, what to do if ICE comes to your door, and what to do after someone is arrested or detained.
- 2 Immigration Legal Services**  
If you are in need of immigration legal services, call us at 734-239-6863. If lines are busy, leave a message and we will return your call.
- 3 All detainees can call MIRC for free from detention**

[bit.ly/MIRCKYR](https://bit.ly/MIRCKYR)

**MIRC**  
michiganimmigrant.org

**La Prensa Publications, Inc. Publisher**

**Editorial:**  
Jennifer, Editor  
Isabel Flores

**Advertising:**  
Sales Department 567-315-8549  
Rico Jr. 419-870-6565

**Art/Graphics/Web:**  
Jennifer Retholtz Graphics Manager & Webmaster

**La Prensa Publications, Inc.**  
Mailing: La Prensa, 616 Adams St., Toledo OH 43604  
**DEADLINE: MONDAY AT 5:00PM, Prior to Distribution**  
**SALES: 419-870-6565**  
E-mail: larry@laprensa1.com

• **Web site: www.laprensanewspaper.com** •

Limit: five free copies per reader. Additional copies are \$1.00 each. Hardcopy subscriptions \$150 per year. Emailed link to pdf is gratis. Member of Newsfinder, an affiliate with AP. © by La Prensa Publications, Inc. 1989-2023

**TIME TO OWN YOUR OWN HOME.**

**A MI 10K Down Payment Assistance loan of up to \$10,000 can help.\*** Combine it with our Conventional, Rural Development, or FHA home loan and that house could be yours. Details at Michigan.gov/Homeownership or call 1.844.984.HOME

\*Terms and conditions apply.

**Learn more**

**DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE LOANS**

Equal Housing Lender

**MSHDA**  
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**We accept: Discover, Visa, & MC**



We believe in the power of housing as the foundation for life.



**Volunteers of America®**  
MICHIGAN

As we continue to grow throughout the state of Michigan, it is our privilege to serve low-income seniors, families, and disabled individuals daily, providing a welcoming, comfortable home that they can afford. Most of our communities have programs that offer rental assistance and have income restrictions. Please call us today for more details or an appointment.

<p><b>Buena Vista Senior Community</b> 4530 Hess Ave., Saginaw, MI 48601 989-754-3425</p> <p><b>Coventry Place Apartments I &amp; II</b> 24200 Cathedral, Redford, MI 48239 313-531-5335</p> <p><b>Delta River Senior Village</b> 6090 W. Michigan, Lansing, MI 48917 517-489-2559</p> <p><b>Heritage Park Senior Village</b> 22431 Superior Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 734-486-7000</p> <p><b>Liberty Commons Apartments &amp; Townhomes</b> 180 Carl Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49037 269-962-6209</p>	<p><b>McDonald Senior Apartments</b> 370 Baldwin Ave., Pontiac, MI 48342 248-292-2095</p> <p><b>Oak Village Square Apartments</b> 4241 Burlingame St., Detroit, MI 48204 313-934-0010</p> <p><b>Oak Village Independence House</b> 4401 Burlingame St., Detroit, MI 48204 313-934-0010</p> <p><b>Partridge Creek Senior Village</b> 17200 Dove St., Clinton Twp., MI 48038 586-329-2114</p> <p><b>Sumby Senior Housing</b> 240 Visger Rd., River Rouge, MI 48218 313-357-2891</p>
---	---

[www.voami.org/find-housing](http://www.voami.org/find-housing)  
T.T.Y.# 7-1-1







Winter/Spring 2025

# BUILD-A-PLAY

School of Theatre Class

**IN-PERSON GROUP CLASS AT MATRIX**

**About Our Class**

Be the writer, director, and performer! Create an original play to be performed at the final session.

**With Matrix Teaching Artist as their guides, they will...**

- Engage in creative writing exercises
- Learn the elements of plot and script writing
- Play interactive games and activities to develop their ideas and broaden their performance skills
- Create an original play and perform it at a Showcase on April 10th

**Register Today!**

**Ages 6 - 13 (1st - 8th Grade)**  
**February 6th - April 10th**  
**Thursdays, 4:30 - 6:30pm**  
**Tuition: \$200 for 10 Weeks**

**To Register:**

Visit us at [matrixtheatre.org](http://matrixtheatre.org)  
For more info contact Amy Johnson at [ajohnson@matrixtheatre.org](mailto:ajohnson@matrixtheatre.org) or call (313)967-0999 x 3







MATRIX THEATRE COMPANY / 2730 BAGLEY ST. DETROIT, MI 48216 / [MATRIXTHEATRE.ORG](http://MATRIXTHEATRE.ORG)



Nosotros los CUBRIMOS, MICHIGAN.

READY TO HELP



MICHIGAN

Ya sea que necesite servicios de salud física o mental, en Blue Cross Blue Shield de Michigan y Blue Care Network están preparados para ayudar a brindar acceso a la red de médicos y hospitales más grande del estado, en línea y en persona.

Obtenga más información en [MIBlueDaily.com/ReadyToHelp](http://MIBlueDaily.com/ReadyToHelp)

For J.D. Power 2024 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](http://jdpower.com/awards).  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.



N.º1 en satisfacción de los miembros entre los planes de salud comerciales de Michigan



## It's not too late to enroll in PreK for All

LANSING, Mich., January 7, 2025: The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP) and local school leaders from across the state came together to promote *PreK for All*, as there is still time for families to enroll their 4-year-olds in no cost high-quality PreK this school year.

"We know learning starts well before kindergarten, and families should know that there's still time to enroll 4-year-olds in free, high-quality PreK programs across the state," said *Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea*, director of MiLEAP. "Michigan's balanced, bipartisan budget expanded access to PreK for all Michigan families regardless of income. We are working with our partners to connect Michigan children and families with the lifelong educational opportunities they need on their path to prosperity."

Research shows that a high-quality PreK education improves a child's emotional, social and intellectual skills, providing benefits that last far beyond their time in school. Thanks to a historic investment in the balanced, bipartisan state budget, PreK for All is now available at no cost to Michigan families, saving them an estimated \$10,000 per year.

Michigan's PreK for All program includes the Great Start Readiness Program in schools and community organizations, Head Start, and Young 5s programs. According to preliminary reports from intermediate school districts, 45,171 students were enrolled in the Great Start Readiness Program, the state's primary PreK program, as of November 2024. This represents an increase of nearly 10% over last year's final

enrollment number of 41,120.

"In Wayne County we have seen firsthand that children who start ahead stay ahead," said *Beth Gonzalez*, deputy superintendent of educational services for Wayne RESA. "Children who attend PreK learn crucial social skills as well as early reading, science and math, allowing them to get a head start and be ready for kindergarten. It is crucial that Wayne County parents of 4-year-olds in Michigan take advantage of this opportunity."

"PreK gives children the foundation they need for long-term success in school and work, and research shows they grow into healthier adults earning higher wages over their lifetimes," said *Kenneth Gutman*, superintendent of Oakland Schools. "PreK also teaches children critical social skills, like how to share and get along with others. This initiative is an excellent opportunity for Oakland County families with 4-year-olds."

"A child's brain is 90% developed by the age of 5," said *Ashley Karsten*, director of early childhood for Kent ISD. "Nurturing relationships and stimulating early childhood learning experiences in PreK build a strong foundation for future growth, development and success. For Kent County families, participating in a quality PreK program helps children reach developmental milestones and offers access to free screenings to identify children with autism or developmental delays so issues can be addressed early."

*Families still have time to enroll 4-year-olds in NO-COST high-quality PreK this school year. Visit [MiPreKforAll.org](http://MiPreKforAll.org) to find programs near you that meet your family's unique needs and learn how to enroll.*

## Judge allows Immigrant Survivors' Lawsuit over U Visa delays to proceed

DETROIT, MI, January 13, 2025: A federal district court judge in Michigan has ruled that survivors of crime who are suing the *Department of Homeland Security (DHS)* for unreasonable delays in their U visa applications have enough standing to move forward in their lawsuit. The decision comes after the plaintiffs in the case, *A.M.P. v. DHS (formally known as B.L.R. v. DHS)*, asked the court to reconsider its previous decision to dismiss the case.

The National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC), and Winston & Strawn LLP filed the class-action lawsuit in 2023. The nine named plaintiffs are survivors who assisted law enforcement in criminal investigations, filed U visa applications more than three years ago, and are still waiting for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to make initial decisions, known as "bona fide determinations," which could provide them access to work authorization and protection from deportation while they wait in a years-long backlog for their visa applications to be fully considered.

"Every day, our clients and other noncitizen victims of crime are affected by prolonged U visa processing times caused by USCIS inaction and delay," said *Meredith Luneack*, staff attorney at MIRC. "We have several clients who have waited nearly six years without any updates or news, or even an initial acknowledgment of the legitimacy of their case. The court ruled that our clients have been injured by these delays. We celebrate this recognition of our clients' suffering, and we look forward to continuing our advocacy to address these unreasonable and harmful delays."

Congress created the U visa in 2000, as part of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, to provide a pathway to permanent status for noncitizen survivors who suffer substantial physical or mental harm as a result of rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, or other qualifying crimes and for whom a law enforcement officer certifies that they were helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. The program was intended to allow non-citizens to seek help from law enforcement without fearing they might be deported.

"The main trauma that I have is that for some reason they could deport me, separate me from my



family. My son is here and my wife is pregnant," said *Felipe Emmanuel Dzib Cohuo* in 2023, a plaintiff in the case who has waited more than three years for his application to be adjudicated. "I don't feel free to board an airplane or a train, or walk freely on the street without being worried and alert all the time that there might be an ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] officer because that's my biggest fear."

The court had previously issued an erroneous decision last year granting a motion from DHS that sought to dismiss the case. The court's January 2 decision acknowledged and corrected its error, concluding that the court has the authority to consider whether it should compel DHS to address unreasonable delays in the bona fide determinations process.

"The court's ruling, which recognizes that survivors are harmed by delays in U visa processing, means that USCIS does not have carte blanche to sit on applications indefinitely," said *Richard Caldarone*, senior litigation attorney at NIJC. "The plaintiffs will now have an opportunity to show that it is unreasonable for the agency to take more than four years to provide relief that requires only minutes of staff time."

All of the plaintiffs have suffered severe harm from DHS's delays, often because they are unable to apply for work authorization until they receive a bona fide determination. For example, lead plaintiff *A.M.P.* brought charges against an acquaintance who sexually assaulted her. *A.M.P.* applied for a U visa in October 2021 but has yet to receive a bona fide determination from USCIS — meaning that she cannot legally work and lacks a reliable way to transport her U.S. citizen son, who has eye cancer, to medical appointments.

"We look forward to litigating plaintiffs' claims on their merits and helping U visa applicants avoid needless delays in obtaining the benefits they deserve," said *Winston & Strawn* partner *Kurt Mathas*.

*Immigrants in Michigan who have questions about their rights can call MIRC at (734) 239-6863.*

## Chris Stapleton adds second date at Van Andel Arena

Grand Rapids: Due to overwhelming demand, Chris Stapleton has added nine new dates to his "All-American Road Show" tour this summer including Grand Rapids, MI at Van Andel Arena on Friday, June 13, 2025 with special guest *Mike Campbell & The Dirty Knobs*.

Tickets for the new shows will be available for pre-sale starting Tuesday, January 21 at 10AM with general on-sale following on Friday, January 24 at 10AM at [VanAndelArena.com](http://VanAndelArena.com). Fans can get early access to tickets by signing up at [www.stapletonfanclub.com](http://www.stapletonfanclub.com).

