

# MIRC POLICY PRIORITIES 2024 -2026 Legislative Session Framework

## Transportation Equity

### Background:

Public transportation is scarce around the state with some locations experiencing a lack of drivers. Resources for people in Maine often require people to move between towns and cities without reliable transportation. Interstate mobility is important to people in Maine as they seek to live healthy lives, connect with new employment opportunities, and contribute to their communities.

Goal: Create accessible, affordable, and reliable transportation systems to connect immigrant, BIPOC, low-income, and communities in need to jobs, education, and essential services.

### Talking point:

People need to get from Point A to Point B, and not every town has ALL the resources. Instead of telling people, "You can't get there from here," let's provide those in Maine with the means to get there!

### Policy Objectives:

- **Driver's License Pathways:** Provide pathways for more youths to participate in Drivers Education. Eliminate residency requirements for driver's licenses and state IDs to improve mobility and employment opportunities.
- **Public Transit Expansion:** Advocate for increased funding to expand transit routes, frequency, and language accessibility.
- **Rural Access Programs:** Support innovative solutions such as ride-share programs and micro-transit options for underserved areas.
- **Language Access and Outreach:** Ensure transportation systems include multilingual signage, schedules, and real-time updates to reduce barriers to use.

### Importance:

Without reliable transportation people in Maine can face difficulties in:

- Attending Healthcare appointments
- Accessing necessary resources like grocery, education, and employment
- Others?

## MISSION STATEMENT

**To improve the legal, social, and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants – enhancing their lives while strengthening Maine – through advocacy, information sharing, and collaboration both through and among our member organizations**