

# IMMIGRATION RESOURCES



Immigrants residing in DuPage County have access to a number of organizations and services committed to assisting them in transitioning to life in the United States. The resources listed in this section can serve as a guide for obtaining assistance with immigration and citizenship services, public benefits, translation services, employment services, advocacy, social activities, and community referral services.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact **DuPage County Senior Services (630) 407-6500**

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The majority of community services and programs are available to Illinois residents regardless of immigration status. The following are community organizations and agencies that focus specifically on serving immigrants and advocating for immigrant issues.

### **Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet/Lombard Office**

26 W. St Charles Road, Lombard, IL 60148  
**(630) 495-9850**

Offers basic needs and case management services through their Refugee Resettlement Program to help families and individuals relocate and begin the process of assimilation into the local culture. Catholic Charities has an agreement with the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops and receives all referrals for refugee resettlement through that office.



**Centro de Información y Progreso**

2380 Glendale Terrace #8, Hanover Park, IL 60133

**(630) 550-5131**

A non-profit service organization committed to providing support and assistance to Spanish speaking families and individuals. Services provided include crisis intervention, health clinics, translation, ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, advocacy, employment services, immigration services, and linkage to community services and public benefits.

**Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly, Inc. (CLESE)**

53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1301, Chicago, Illinois 60604

**(312) 461-0812**

A non-profit partnership of 40 community based ethnic organizations, representing 50 different languages, which serves older people who are not fluent in English. CLESE does not provide direct services to individuals.

**Hamdard Center**

228 E. Lake Street, Suite 302, Addison, IL 60191

(630) 835-1430

1542 W. Devon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660

**(773) 465-4600**

A multilingual, multi-cultural social & health service agency dedicated to serving the South Asian, Middle Eastern, and the Bosnian communities in Illinois. The Hamdard Center provides support services including crisis intervention, case management, advocacy, ESL classes, and referral and linkage to health care and other community services and public benefits. The Chicago office provides services specifically for senior citizens.

**Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights**

36 S. Wabash, Suite 1425, Chicago, IL 60603

**(312) 332-7360**

Educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights; promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors, analyzes, and advocates on immigrant-related issues; and informs the general public about the contributions of immigrants and refugees. The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights publishes an extensive listing of immigration and citizenship service providers including information on the specific services offered and the languages spoken.

**Indo-American Center**

6328 N. California Ave, Chicago, IL 60659

**(773) 973-4444**

Provides support and assistance to Indian-American residents of Illinois. Services provided include immigration services, assistance applying for public benefits, social activities for senior citizens, ESL classes, translation services, and housing and community referrals.

**Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries**

4753 N. Broadway, Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60640-4907

**(773) 989-2256**

Provides advocacy, support, and services to Chicago area refugees, asylees, and immigrants. The Senior Service Initiative program provides case management services as well as linkage to community resources including housing, information on immigration, legal issues, transportation, health and nutrition, and financial management.

**Metropolitan Asian Family Services**

7541 N. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645

**(773) 465-3105**

Metropolitan Asian Family Services is a multicultural organization providing services to individuals and families in need from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Middle East, and European countries. The programs available to seniors include a hot meal program, outreach programs, health education and screenings, social activities, ESL classes, computer training, and immigration assistance.

**Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center (MIHRC)**

208 S LaSalle Street, Suite 1818, Chicago, IL 60604

**(312) 660-1370**

Provides direct legal services to and advocates for low-income and impoverished immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. MIHRC provides comprehensive immigration assistance and an open intake and telephone inquiry service. Staff and volunteers at the MIHRC speak dozens of languages and dialects and can provide services to immigrants from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Europe.

**World Relief DuPage Office**

1825 College Ave, Suite 230, Wheaton, IL 60187

**(630) 462-7566**

A non-profit organization that helps victims of war, terror, and persecutions build new lives. The staff and volunteers provide assistance with housing, food, clothing, household items, translation, ESL classes, and assistance finding employment. Immigration and citizenship application services are provided at the World Relief Office.

**Xilin Asian Community Center**

1163 E. Ogden Ave, Suite 300A, Naperville, IL 60564

**(630) 355-4322**

Serves the needs of the Asian population in the greater Chicago area. Services include advocacy, ESL classes, citizenship classes, social activities, hotline information services, community health workshops and fairs, and linkage to community services and public benefits.

## FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCES

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**

Chicago District Office, 10 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604

**(312) 385-1500**

Processes all immigrant and non-immigrant benefits provided to visitors of the United States including, family-based petitions, employment-based petitions, asylum and refugee processing, naturalization, special status programs, and document issuance and renewal. Immigration process and immigrant status information, as well as application forms can be obtained through this office.

**Social Security Administration**

**1-800-772-1213**

Lawfully admitted non-citizens can get many benefits and services without having a Social Security number. You do not need a number to purchase savings bonds, conduct business with a bank, register for school or apply for educational tests, obtain private health insurance, apply for school lunch programs or apply for subsidized housing. When a Social Security number is required for federal, State, local benefits, or for employment, a card can be obtained by contacting the Social Security Administration. There is no charge to obtain a social security number. Please refer to the Federal State and Local Benefits section of this directory for local office information.

## **Secretary of State**

213 State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62706

**1-800-252-8980**

Issues Illinois driver's licenses and ID cards. For more information, see page 112.

## **Illinois Department of Human Services**

146 W. Roosevelt Rd, Suite 2, Villa Park, IL 60181

**(630) 530-1120**

Determines initial and on-going eligibility for state and federally funded public assistance programs including food stamps, Medicaid, Kidcare, Cash Assistance, and TANF. Most immigrants entering the United States after 8/22/96 are unable to receive certain types of public assistance for their first five years in the U.S. There are exemptions to these restrictions for certain categories of immigrants including asylees, refugees, victims of trafficking, and immigrant victims of domestic violence. Immigrants who are not eligible for other public assistance (ineligible non-citizens) may still qualify for emergency medical coverage, pregnancy related medical coverage, and medical coverage for children under the age 19, regardless of how long they have lived in the U.S.

To apply for public assistance or to obtain further information regarding eligibility, please contact the Illinois Department of Human Services directly.

### **An Immigration Glossary**

**Alien:** Any person not a citizen of the United States.

**Asylee:** An alien already in the U.S. or at a port of entry who is immune from extradition, generally, political refugees from another country.

**Illegal alien:** Any non-citizen in a country without government clearance.

**Green card:** The driver's license-sized document issued to permanent residents as evidence of their status. It is no longer green.

**Permanent resident:** A non-U.S. citizen given permission to permanently live in the United States. They are issued "green cards" to prove their status.

**Visa:** Allows someone to apply for U.S. entry under certain classifications: student, visitor, and temporary worker.

**Naturalization:** When a foreign person takes legal action to become a U.S. citizen. Most have had a "green card" for several years.

Source: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services