

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.

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, IL 60604
(312) 461-0812
www.clese.org

A non-profit partnership of 50 community based ethnic organizations, representing more than 70 different language and cultural groups. CLESE does not provide direct

services to individuals, but does offer technical assistance and support to agencies serving older adults who are not fluent in English. Programs include Bright ideas ESL for elders and health education.

College of DuPage County, Illinois

Citizenship Classes

(630) 942-3797

Community High School District 94 (West Chicago)

Citizenship Classes

(630) 876-6580

Exodus World Service

109 Fairfield Way, #101, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

(630) 307-1400

www.e-w-s.org

Educates local churches about refugee ministry, connects volunteers with refugee families through practical service projects, and equips leaders to advocate on behalf of refugees.

Hamdard Center

228 E. Lake Street, Suite 302, Addison, IL 60101

(630) 835-1430

1542 W. Devon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660

(773) 465-4600

A multicultural, multilingual health and human service agency dedicated to serving the Indian, Pakistani, Afghani, Arab, Bosnian, as well as mainstream communities in Illinois. The Center provides mental health, domestic violence, primary healthcare, children's programs, adult day services for seniors, *toll-free 24-hour crisis line (1-866-305-3933)*, ESL classes, community outreach, training and education, and referral and linkage to healthcare and other community services and public benefits. All programs are licensed and/or protocol compliant.

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

55 E. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 332-7360

www.icirr.org

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. Also 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 Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659

(773) 973-4444

www.indoamerican.org

Provides support and assistance to South Asian residents of Illinois. Services provided include immigration services, assistance applying for public benefits, social activities for senior citizens, ESL classes, U.S. Civics classes, after school youth program, translation services, and housing and community referrals.

Islamic Center of Naperville

450 Olesen Drive, Naperville, IL 60540

(630) 355-3733

www.islamiccenterofnaperville.org

Serves the religious and cultural needs of Muslims living and/or working in Naperville and surrounding communities.

Metropolitan Asian Family Services

7541 N. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645

(773) 465-3105

330 E. Roosevelt Road, Lombard, IL 60148

(630) 705-1208

127 Main Street, Roselle, IL 60172

(630) 307-6277



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.

National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)

208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1818, Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 660-1370

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

People’s Resource Center (PRC)

Citizenship Classes
(630) 682-5402

St. Alexis Church

Citizenship Classes
(630) 350-7656

World Relief DuPage Office

1825 College Avenue, Suite 230, Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 462-7566
www.wr.org

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. Also provides mental health services for refugees only, who were abused in their homeland.

Xilin Asian Community Center

1163 E. Ogden Avenue, Suite 301, Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 355-4322
www.xilin.org



Serves the needs of the Asian population in the greater Chicago area. Services include advocacy, Adult Day Services, 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 Boulevard 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 (National Office) www.socialsecurity.gov

Lawfully admitted non-citizens can access 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 62756

1-800-252-8980 (Information Line)

Driver/Seniors 1-888-261-5280 TDD/TTY

www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Issues Illinois driver's licenses and ID cards. For more information, see page 129.

Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS)

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

(630) 530-1120

www.dhs.state.il.us

Determines initial and on-going eligibility for state and federally funded public assistance programs including food stamps, Medicaid, 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: A person who applies for refugee status after arriving in the United States.

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

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

Immigrant: A person who chooses to become a permanent resident of the United States.

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

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.

Refugee: Under U.S. law, a refugee is a person who has fled his or her country of origin because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based upon race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or a membership in a particular social group. Most refugees are admitted to the United States only after referral by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and approval by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

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

Source: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services