

# **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** at **(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 rights.

### **Catholic Charities of Chicago-Immigration and Naturalization Services**

1115 W. 23rd Avenue, Melrose Park, IL 60160, **(312) 427-7078**  
1170 N. River Road, Rectory, Des Plaines, IL 60016, **(312) 427-7078**  
1400 S. Austin Street, Cicero, IL 60804, **(708) 329-4031**

A non-profit organization that provides direct assistance with filing immigration applications; Adjustment of Status, Consular Processing, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA), employment authorization, family-based petitions, Naturalization/Citizenship, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U visas, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions.

### **Centro de Información y Progreso**

2380 Glendale Terrace #8, Hanover Park, IL 60133  
**(630) 550-5131**  
**[www.centrodeinformacion.org](http://www.centrodeinformacion.org)**

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, and linkage to community services and public benefits.

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

53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 1340, Chicago, IL 60604

**(312) 461-0812**

**www.clese.org**

A non-profit partnership of 54 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, English literacy instruction for low-literate elders.

**College of DuPage**

Adult Education

425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

**(630) 942-2800**

**www.cod.edu**

Provides classes for GED in English and Spanish, ESL classes and citizenship preparation.

**Community High School District 94 (West Chicago)**

Adult Education

326 Joliet Street, West Chicago, IL 60185

**(630) 876-6580**

**www.d94.org**

Provides citizenship preparation, GED in English & Spanish access to computer and ESL classes.

**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**

**[www.hamdardcenter.org](http://www.hamdardcenter.org)**

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 Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604

**(312) 332-7360**

**[www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org)**

Provides resources and referrals; 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](http://www.indoamerican.org)**

Provides support and assistance to residents of Illinois with priority given to South Asian population. 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) 426-3335**

2844 W. Ogden Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540

**(630) 426-3335**

**[www.islamiccenterofnaperville.org](http://www.islamiccenterofnaperville.org)**



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

### **Metropolitan Asian Family Services**

954 W. Army Trail Road, Carol Stream, IL 60188

**(224) 208-1130**

1032 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville, IL 60563

**(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. For more details visit **[www.mafsinc.com](http://www.mafsinc.com)**.

### **National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)**

208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60604

**(312) 660-1370**

**[www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)**

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. Legal consultations by appointment only.

### **People's Resource Center (PRC)**

Wheaton: 201 S. Naperville Road, 60187

Westmont: 649 Blackhawk, 60559

**(630) 682-5402**

**[www.peoplesrc.org](http://www.peoplesrc.org)**

Provides adult ESL classes, citizenship and GED preparation through classes and tutorials.

### **World Relief DuPage Office**

1825 College Avenue, Suite 230, Wheaton, IL 60187

**(630) 462-7566**

73 S. LaSalle Street, Aurora, IL 60505

**(630) 906-9546**

**[www.wr.org](http://www.wr.org)**



A non-profit organization that helps victims of war, terror, and persecution build new lives. The staff and volunteers provide assistance with housing, food, clothing, household items, translation, ESL classes, and assistance finding employment. Citizenship application services and classes are provided at the World Relief Office. Also provides senior services and 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](http://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. Also offers after school and weekend activities for children.

## **APPLYING FOR US CITIZENSHIP**

Lawful Permanent residents over the age of 18, with a valid green card for a period of the past 5 years, who meet the eligibility requirements, can file for US citizenship. If married to US citizen you may apply for US citizenship after 3 years with a valid green card. If an applicant has served in the United States armed forces during war, that individual may obtain citizenship without first becoming a permanent resident if they were in the United States upon enlistment into the U.S. military. To become a

naturalized U.S. citizen, you must pass the naturalization test. At your naturalization interview, you will be required to answer questions about your application and background. You will also take an English and Civics test unless you qualify for an exemption or waiver.

There are exceptions and modification to the naturalization requirements that are available to those who qualify such as the **English Language Exemption, Medical Disability Exemption and Fee Waiver**. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) also provide accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXEMPTION:** Client is exempt from taking the Civics Test in English and permitted to take the test in their native language. The requirements are the following:
  - Age 50 or older at the time of filing for naturalization and have lived as a permanent resident (green card holder) in the US for 20 years; client is still required to take Civics Test.
  - Age 55 or older at the time of filing for naturalization and have lived as a permanent resident (green card holder) in the US for 15 years; client is still required to take Civics Test.
  - Age 65 or older at the time of filing for naturalization and have lived as a permanent resident (green card holder) in the US for 20 years, client is given special consideration and given a short version of Civics Test.
- **MEDICAL DISABILITY EXEMPTION:** Client may be eligible for an exception to the English Civics test if unable to comply with Citizenship requirements because of a physical, developmental or a mental impairment.
- **FEE WAIVER:** USCIS established a fee waiver for clients that can demonstrate inability to pay the fee. Client must meet one of the following requirements: Client is only receiving a means-tested-benefit such as SNAP, SSI, SSD, Social Security Benefits; Household income is at or below 150% poverty level at the time of filing; or experiencing a financial hardship that prevents client from paying the filing fee, such as unexpected medical bills or emergency.

## **FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCES**

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

National Customer Service Center

101 West Congress Parkway, Chicago, IL 60605 (by appointment only)

**1-800-375-5283**

**1-800-767-1833 (TDD)**

**[www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)**

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 can be obtained via the website or by calling the National Customer Service Center. Any forms can be obtained through the website and or by calling the forms request line **(1-800-870-3676)**. There is no fee for forms.

**Social Security Administration**  
**1-800-772-1213 (National Office)**  
**[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.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.

**Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS)**  
146 W. Roosevelt Road, Suite 2, Villa Park, IL 60181  
**(630) 530-1120**  
**[www.dhs.state.il.us](http://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.