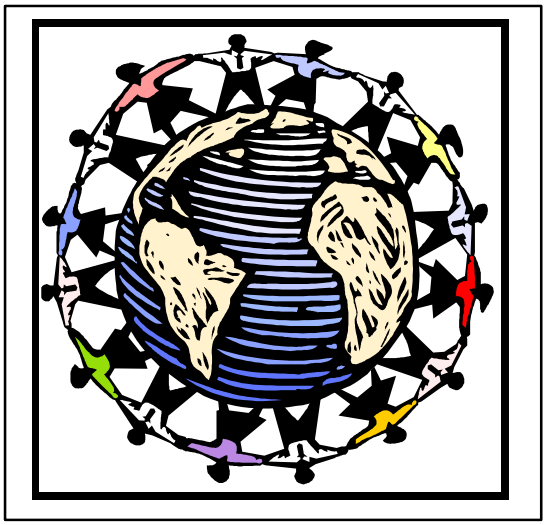
IMMIGRATION RESOURCES



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 rights.

Centro de Información y Progreso
2380 Glendale Terrace #8, Hanover Park, IL 60133
(630) 550-5131
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 Boulevard, Suite 1301, Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 461-0812
www.clese.org

A non-profit partnership of 51 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, Senior Medicare Patrol and health education.

College of DuPage County, Illinois
Adult Education
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 942-3697

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

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 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) 355-3733**
2844 W. Ogden Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 428-3733
www.islamiccenterofnaperville.org

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

Metropolitan Asian Family Services
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**.

National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)
208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1818, Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 660-1370
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.

People's Resource Center (PRC)
201 S. Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 682-5402
www.peoplesrc.org

Provides adult ESL classes, citizenship preparation and basic academic education through classes and tutorials.

World Relief DuPage Office
1825 College Avenue, Suite 230, Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 462-7566, Ext. 1040
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. Ctizenship 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

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 THROUGH NATURALIZATION

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. For more information, visit **www.uscis.gov**.

FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCES

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
101 West Congress Parkway, Chicago, IL 60605 (by appointment only)
National Customer Service Center
1-800-375-5283
1-800-767-1833 (TDD)
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.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.

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