

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RESOURCES

Agencies serving immigrant communities in the Columbus area

January 2024

Please read all information to find the program that is best for you. For questions, call the listed program directly or visit its website.

Asian American Community Services

Asian American Community Services (AACS) is the premier non-profit community-based organization serving the needs of Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islanders in central Ohio. Youth & Family Program, Health Care & Prevention, Interpretation and Translation Services, and more.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.aacsohio.org/> or call 614-220-4023

ASPIRE

Ohio's Aspire programs provide FREE services for individuals who need assistance acquiring the skills to be successful in post-secondary education and training and employment. Provides classes for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and has multiple locations.

Hours of Operation: Please visit website for location and hours.

More Information: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/aspire/locations>

Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio

The Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio (BCCO) is a community-based non-profit organization founded in 2009. It became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2012. BCCO is dedicated to helping the newly resettled Bhutanese refugee population. The BCCO offers post-resettlement direct services to recently arrived refugees from Bhutan and a small number from other countries, as well as ongoing programming, classes, events, activities, mentoring and leadership to the broader refugee community to help strengthen their transition into their new home.

Hours of Operation: Monday- Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.bccoh.org> or call (614) 396-8965

Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)

Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS) is an independent non-profit organization that serves the refugee and immigrant populations in central Ohio. Programs and services facilitate sustained self-sufficiency and successful integration for the people we serve. Among other things, CRIS is a refugee resettlement agency. As an affiliate of Church World Service, we have a cooperative agreement with the Department of State to directly receive and place refugees in our community.

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.crisohio.org> or call (614) 235-5747

Columbus Literacy Council (CLC)

Columbus Literacy Council (CLC) offers free adult education programs, basic literacy classes (including financial, workplace and technology literacy) for families, citizenship classes and GED test preparation. CLC also provides career coaching and entrepreneurship skill building, life and wellness coaching, ASL (American Sign Language) classes, Spanish classes and more.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.clcworks.org/> or call (614) 282-7661

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS)

ETSS is a community based 501(c)(3) organization that helps new arrivals from over 50 countries establish roots and gain self-sufficiency in central Ohio through programs and services that encourage community integration, sustained employment, education, health and strong families. Staff members speak over 30 languages to provide individuals and families the services they need. Youth Programs, Adult Programs, Family Care Department, RIDA (economic independence), Healthy Foods, and Community Involvement.

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

More Information: <https://ethiotss.org/> or call (614) 252-5362

Jewish Family Services (JFS)

Jewish Family Services is a community based organization whose mission is to strengthen individuals, families and the community. Combination of mental health, workforce development services and education.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.jfscolumbus.org/> or call (614) 231-1890

Muslim Family Services

Organization providing comprehensive services and compassionate support in a confidential setting. All services are free. Agency can help you locate community resources, apply for assistance, education, resettlement support, mediation and conflict resolution, English literacy and jobs skills training, referrals, resources and advocacy, and seasonal programs.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.mfsohio.org/> or call (614) 470-2848

Ohio Hispanic Coalition

The Ohio Hispanic Coalition was founded in 1990 as a volunteer-based organization. Agency offers a broad range of direct services that are culturally and linguistically-appropriate for the growing Latino/Hispanic communities throughout Ohio. Programs and services include health, interpretation & translation services, youth development & education, and safety.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

More Information: <http://www.ohiohispaniccoalition.org/> or call (614) 459-6566

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) develops and supervises the state's public assistance, workforce development, unemployment compensation, child and adult protective services, adoption, child care, and child support programs. ODJFS strategies ensure the most efficient, effective delivery of services and programs through seamless alignment with, and support of, the Governor's priorities.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

More Information: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/refugee/index.stmv> or call 1-844-640-OHIO (6446)

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Catholic Social Services

Through the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, Catholic Social Services works to reduce poverty by addressing its root causes within the immigrant Hispanic community concentrated on the west side of Columbus, a population that is growing and experiences disproportionate poverty. At the Center, services including a food pantry, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, legal and immigration consultations and referrals, and comprehensive case management.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.colscss.org/our-lady-of-guadalupe-center/> or call (614) 340-7061

US Together

US Together, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) mutual assistance agency founded in 2003 as a response to the needs of refugees and immigrants in central Ohio. A Refugee Resettlement agency that coordinates, organizes and initiates services to immigrants and refugees through education, advocacy, support services, information, referrals, and networking opportunities. Services are also provided in Cleveland and Toledo offices.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.ustogether.us/> or call (614) 437-9941

Riverview International Center

Resource center provides assistance with some of the basic needs of both new and established immigrants and refugees in the Riverview Drive neighborhood of Columbus. The center offers general advocacy (like help with navigating mail, bills, appointments and federal benefit applications), English classes, employment services, computer literacy assistance, citizenship assistance, legal clinic help, homework help, summer programming and more.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m.–8:30 p.m. and Thursday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.riverviewinternationalcenter.org> or call (614) 427-3368

Somali Community Association

Agency provides advocacy and promotes self-sufficiency to families through employment, education, cultural and social support and economic empowerment. Services include youth development, early childhood education, immigration & citizenship program, housing resources, ESL classes, employment & job training, senior citizen services, interpretation & translation services, case management, and summer programs.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

More Information: <http://www.somaliOhio.org/> or call (614) 262-4068

SomaliCAN

SomaliCAN changes the lives of New Americans for the better through community development and social change initiatives to facilitate the economic, social and political integration of the Somali community and other immigrant groups in Ohio.

Hours of Operation: Please call agency.

More Information: <http://www.somalican.org/home> or call (614) 489-9226

The Bridge

Offers ESL and citizenship classes for adults, tutoring for grades 2-12 students and GED prep. They also provide a free legal clinic and host a weekly soup kitchen and pantry on Tuesdays.

Hours of Operation: Please call agency.

More Information: <http://thebridge.io/> or call (614) 272-2949

Vineyard Community Center

Offers a variety of services and programs, including an early childhood center, after-school and summer programs, sports and exercise programs, a free health clinic and free legal clinic, as well as immigration counseling services (DACA). Other programs include daytime and evening GED prep classes, English as a Second Language (ESL), programs for homeschoolers, men's and women's support and recovery groups, marriage and parenting programs, financial counseling, career development services, dance, art, music classes, and more.

Hours of Operation: Monday and Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

More Information: <https://www.vineyardcommunitycenter.org/our-service> or call (614) 259-5500