

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RESOURCES

Agencies serving immigrant communities in the Columbus, Ohio area

February 2025

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

Asian American Community Services

About the agency: To improve the well-being and quality of life of Asian Americans and Asian immigrant families in Ohio by providing social services and empowering individuals through education, training and leadership. The services include family support program, youth programs, senior outreach, health care & prevention, interpretation & translation services, computer literacy & ESL classes.

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

For more information: <https://www.acsohio.org/> or call 614-220-4023

ASPIRE

About the agency: 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. Local programs offer classes at flexible locations and times to meet the diverse needs of adult learners. All students are required to attend orientation, where an assessment is given to help determine the individual's educational plan and goals. Services available include: basic math, reading, and writing skills, Adult Secondary Education / High School Equivalence preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), life skills, employability skills, computer literacy, and workplace education, distance & corrections education.

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

For more information: <https://highered.ohio.gov/educators/workforce-adult-ed/aspire>

Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio

About the agency: 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. The 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.

For more information: <https://www.bccoh.org> or call (614) 396-8965

Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)

About the agency: Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS) is an independent non-profit organization that serves the refugee and immigrant populations in Central Ohio. CRIS is a refugee resettlement agency as well as an affiliate of Church World Service, who has a cooperative agreement with the Department of State to directly receive and place refugees in our community. CRIS offers a wide array of programs & services that aim to facilitate sustained self-sufficiency & successful integration for those we serve, including English classes, employment training & placement, health & wellness groups, youth mentorship, family support, advocacy for victims of crime & legal services.

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more information: <https://www.crisohio.org> or call (614) 235-5747

Columbus Literacy Council (CLC)

About the agency: Mission is to increase employability, enable future education, encourage civic involvement and promote family stability and support. The services include free adult education programs, financial literacy, workplace & technology literacy, citizenship classes & GED test preparation. CLC also provides career coaching & entrepreneurship skill building, life & wellness coaching, ASL (American Sign Language) & Spanish classes.

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

For more information: <https://www.clcworks.org/> or call (614) 282-7661

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS)

About the agency: ETSS is a community-based 501(c)(3) organization that helps new arrivals from over 80 countries establish roots and gain self-sufficiency in Central Ohio through programs and services. Our staff members speak over 50 languages to provide individuals and families with the services they need. They provide youth programs, resettlement & adult services. The services include, education, employment, survivor care services, after-school program, summer youth camp program, family school & community engagement.

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

For more information: <https://ethiotss.org/> or call (614) 252-5362

Jewish Family Services (JFS)

About the agency: Supporting the Central Ohio Community since 1908, Jewish Family Services helps people find good jobs and companies find the right talent; supports older adults and caregivers in navigating the challenges of aging; provides critical services for refugees entering the U.S.; connects people to community resources; empowers family self-sufficiency through financial counseling; and engages volunteers in giving back. We welcome individuals of all faiths, races, ages, economic circumstances, sexual orientations and gender identities.

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

For more information: <https://www.jfscolumbus.org/> or call (614) 231-1890

Muslim Family Services

About the agency: 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 & conflict resolution, English literacy & jobs skills training, referrals, resources & advocacy, and seasonal programs.

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

For more information: <https://www.mfsohio.org/> or call (614) 470-2848

Ohio Hispanic Coalition

About the agency: a non-profit agency that is dedicated to helping the Latino community reach their full potential by providing educational programs, language access, community outreach, and legal services. The programs & resources also include an After-School program, Summer Camp, Latinos in Finance, Youth in Action, "Soy Latina" Victim Services Program, Promotores de Salud & Interpretation and Translation program.

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

For more information: <http://www.ohiohispaniccoalition.org/> or call (614) 459-6566

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

About the agency: 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.

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Catholic Social Services

About the agency: Catholic Social Services launched the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center in 2019 in Columbus to meet people & families in the Latino community where they are & to overcome the unique challenges they face. The center offers services like English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, healthy family support, entrepreneurial & legal aid workshops, immigration consultations & referrals, comprehensive case management & access to appropriate food pantry.

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

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

US Together

About the agency: US Together, Inc. is a 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 include employment programs, intensive case management, interpretation, linguistic, victims program, citizenship & immigration services. Services are also provided in Cleveland and Toledo offices.

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

For more information: <https://www.ustogether.us/> or call (614) 437-9941

Riverview International Center

About the agency: A non-profit organization that assist New Americans in the Riverview Drive neighborhood with the basic needs. An agency where people can walk in and get help with any question, they may have about navigating life in America. The goal is to be a flexible and community-oriented resource for whoever comes through our door. The services include community care, English classes, employment services, computer literacy, citizenship assistance, legal clinic, homework help, community events & summer programming.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Wednesday 9 AM – 8:00 p.m., Thursdays: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information: <https://www.riverviewinternationalcenter.org> or call (614) 427-3368

Somali Community Association

About the agency: Agency provides advocacy and promotes self-sufficiency to families through employment, education, cultural and social support and economic empowerment. Services include youth & elder programs, legal assistance, personal needs, early childhood education, immigration & citizenship program, housing resources, ESL classes, employment & job training, interpretation & translation services, case management.

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

For more information: <http://www.somaliohio.org/> or call (614) 262-4068

SomaliCAN

About the agency: 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 & other immigrant groups in Ohio.

Hours of Operation: Please call agency

For more information: <http://www.somalican.org/home> or call (614) 489-9226

The Bridge

About the agency: Offers ESL and tutoring for grades 2-12 students.

Hours of Operation: Please call agency

For more information: <http://thebridge.io/> or call (614) 626-9123

Vineyard Community Center

About the agency: Offers a variety of services and programs, including an early childhood center, after-school and summer programs, sports & exercise programs, a free health clinic, immigration counseling services, food pantry, English as a Second Language (ESL), Counseling & Red Cross Training.

Hours of Operation: Monday & Friday 8 AM - 6 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

For more information: <https://www.vineyardcommunitycenter.org/our-service> or call (614) 259-5238