

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RESOURCES

Agencies serving immigrant communities in the Columbus, Ohio area

January 2023

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: 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. The agency offers a youth and family program, health care and prevention, interpretation and translation services, and more.

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

For more information: <https://www.aacsohio.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. Provides English classes for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and has multiple locations.

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

For more information: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/aspire/locations>

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, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-12 p.m. & Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information: <https://www.bccoh.org/about.html> 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. Programs and services aim to 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.

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

Columbus Literacy Council (CLC)

About the agency: 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.

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 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 people the services they need. ETSS offers 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.

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

Jewish Family Services (JFS)

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

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 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. Muslim Family Services 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.

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

Ohio Hispanic Coalition

About the agency: The Ohio Hispanic Coalition (OHCO) 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 and education, and safety.

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

For more information: <http://www.ohiohispaniccoalition.org/> or call (614) 840-9934

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

About the agency: Refugee Program Services Section provides services that help refugees and others granted refugee status achieve economic self-sufficiency and social adjustment within the shortest time possible following their arrival in the U.S.

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.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: Through the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, CSS 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 levels of poverty. Services include a food pantry, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, nutrition classes, preventative health screenings, legal and immigration consultations and referrals and comprehensive case management.

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

For more information: <https://www.colssc.org/our-lady-of-guadalupe-center/> or call (614) 340-706

US Together

About the agency: 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.

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

Our Helpers

About the agency: Our Helpers provides assistance to New Americans to help overcome social and economic obstacles through advocacy, education, job placement and to connect them to community resources that are available. Agency provides case management, educational support, employment help, youth mentorship and language services.

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

For more information: <https://www.ourhelpers.org/> or call (614) 733-9555

Riverview International Center

About the agency: Resource center that provides assistance with some of the basic needs of both new and established immigrants and refugees in the Riverview Drive neighborhood of Columbus. They offer 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, 3-9 p.m., Tuesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m./6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m./6:30-9 p.m. & Friday 10 a.m.-12 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 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.

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 and 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: The Bridge offers ESL and citizenship classes for adults, tutoring for grades 2-12 and GED prep. The Bridge also provides a free legal clinic and hosts a weekly soup kitchen and pantry on Tuesdays.

Hours of operation: Please call agency

For more information: <http://thebridge.io/> or call (614) 272-2949

Vineyard Community Center

About the agency: 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, and music classes, and much more.

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

For more information: <https://www.vineyardcommunitycenter.org/our-service> or call (614) 259-5500