

## Resource: Refugee & Immigration Assistance

### RESETTLEMENT Program- Madison, Milwaukee -Lutheran Social Services

<https://www.lsswis.org/LSS/Outreach/Refugee-Immigrant-Services>

#### **About the Program**

Since 1974, LSS has successfully resettled more than 10,000 refugees from 15 countries. The work of our Refugee Resettlement Program starts by welcoming thoroughly vetted refugees at the airport and helping them take their first steps into new lives in America.

We also serve as a continuing resource – providing information, employment support and emergency assistance – to the more than 2,200 refugees we have resettled in the past five years.

### Wisconsin Department of Children and Family Services

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee/CMA>

#### **Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance**

##### ***What is the Refugee Cash Assistance program?***

The Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) program provides temporary cash assistance to refugees during their first eight months in the United States. Refugees generally enter the U.S. without any income to support themselves. RCA helps refugees while they:

- Look for work;
- Learn English; and
- Become a part of their local communities.

##### ***What is the Refugee Medical Assistance program?***

The Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) program provides refugees with health insurance and medical assistance during their first eight months in the United States.

##### ***Who can apply for RCA and RMA?***

- Refugees;
- Asylees;
- Cuban-Haitian entrants;
- Certain Amerasians;
- Victims of Trafficking; and
- Any other groups eligible for refugee benefits under federal law.

##### ***How does a refugee apply for RCA and RMA?***

A local resettlement agency meets with refugees when they arrive in Wisconsin. The local agency helps refugees apply for all programs for which they are eligible. For more information about the resettlement process, please visit the Path to Resettlement page.

#### **What other programs are available for refugees?**

- If a refugee family has children under the age of 18, they may be eligible for Wisconsin Works (W-2).
- Low income refugees qualify for BadgerCare Plus .
- If a refugee is aged, blind, or disabled, they may be eligible for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee/resettlement#overseas>

LINK to Resources: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee/resources>

## United Refugee Services of Wisconsin, Inc.

City Of Madison  
1245 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 256-6400  
[www.ursw.org](http://www.ursw.org)

## Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

### ***Refugee School Impact Grant***

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), within the Department of Health and Human Services, provides funds through state departments of educational agencies in the form of discretionary grants. The purpose of this program is to assist refugee children in improving their academic performance and social adjustment to school. The term newly arrived refugees refers to individuals who were not born in this country and who have been attending schools in one or more states for less than three complete academic years.

### **Grant activities include:**

- (1) After-school/summer programs that support remedial work or promote school readiness;
- (2) Provide parent training on school board, school system, and effective instructional programs for refugee families;
- (3) Improve academic performance by providing after-school tutoring services in content areas;
- (4) Provide technology learning opportunities for children and refugee families;
- (5) Interpreter services for parent/teacher meetings and conferences; and
- (6) Provide college access programs to refugee students.

### ***What is the definition of a refugee?***

Any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Individuals granted refugee status overseas by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are brought to the United States for resettlement by the U.S. Department of State. Voluntary agencies and ORR through their programs assist with their resettlement and integration into the U.S. Refugees are eligible to receive ORR benefits and services from the first day they arrive in the U.S. - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr>.

The Refugee School Impact Grant application period is now closed and applications are being assessed to determine the grants most appropriate for funding.

<https://dpi.wi.gov/english-learners/refugee>

For questions about this information:

Audrey Lesondak (608) 266-7292

Carolyn Kiefer (608) 264-9325

## International Institute of Wisconsin

### **SERVICES**

The International Institute facilitates services and programs for immigrants, refugees, and the community to assist with cooperation and integration into society. The Institute's goal is to help individuals and families obtain self-sufficiency and promote multi-cultural understanding throughout the community. From Immigration and Social Services to Refugee

Resettlement, the International Institute provides educational and social opportunities for new Americans.

### **INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WISCONSIN IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

Since 1936 the International Institute has been providing services to immigrants in the U.S. on their path to permanent residency and citizenship. Our experienced and multi-lingual staff assists individuals and families by providing a variety of low-cost legal immigration and citizenship services, such as adjustment of status for refugees and non-refugees, travel documents, petitions for family members and naturalization.

Services are by appointment, with walk-in hours on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

In addition, IIW's immigration and citizenship has the honor of hosting annual visits from the Russian Consulate to Milwaukee to provide services to Wisconsin's Russian community.

***For more information or to schedule an appointment, please e-mail [info@iiwisconsin.org](mailto:info@iiwisconsin.org) or call 414-225-6220.***

### **INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION SERVICES**

***For more information about our interpretation and translation services and trainings, please call 414-225-6220 or email [info@iiwisconsin.org](mailto:info@iiwisconsin.org).***

The IIW is a proud member of the American Translator's Association. [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

## **What to do if Immigration Agents are at your Door: (by the ACLU)**

1. If officers are at your door, keep the door closed and ask if they are Immigration agents, or from ICE.
2. Ask the agents what they are there for.
3. Opening the door does not give the agents permission to come inside, but it is safer to speak to ICE through the door.
4. If the agents don't speak your language, ask for an interpreter. If the agents want to enter, ask them if they have a warrant signed by a judge. If ICE agents do not have a warrant signed by a Judge, you may refuse to open the door or let them in. An administrative warrant of removal from immigration authorities is not enough.
5. If they say they have a warrant, ask them to slip the warrant under the door.
6. Look at the top and at the signature line to see if it was issued by a court and signed by a judge. Only a court/judge warrant is enough for entry into your premises. One issued by DHS or ICE and signed by a DHS or ICE employee is not.
7. Do not open your door unless ICE shows you a judicial search or arrest warrant naming a person in your residence and/or areas to be searched at your address.
8. In all other cases, keep the door closed. State: "I do not consent to your entry."
9. If agents force their way in anyway, do not attempt to resist. If you wish to exercise your rights, state: "I do not consent to your entry or to your search of these premises. I am exercising my right to remain silent. I wish to speak with a lawyer as soon as possible."
10. Everyone in the residence may also exercise the right to remain silent.

11. Do not lie or show false documents. Do not sign any papers without speaking to a lawyer. If you need more information, contact your local ACLU affiliate at <https://www.aclu.org/affiliates>

**Immigration Legal Services –Spanish Speaking-Catholic Multicultural Center**

1862 Beld Street Madison, WI 53713

608-661-3512

*The CMC attorneys provide immigration legal services by appointment only. Program legal fees are based on household income.*

**Please call (608) 441-0114 to schedule an appointment.**

Los abogados del CMC ofrecen servicios legales de inmigración por cita. Los honorarios del programa son basados en los ingresos del hogar.

**Favor de llamar al (608) 441-0114 para una cita.**

Attorney Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Horarios de los Abogados

Martes a Viernes: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Sábado: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm



**FREE CITIZENSHIP SERVICES**

*Madison Path to Citizenship* is a network of community organizations, businesses, agencies, and individuals dedicated to providing citizenship & naturalization preparation and assistance to help *lawful permanent resident* (people with green cards) to overcome barriers to U.S. citizenship.

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFO	CITIZENSHIP CLASSES	TUTORING & TEST Preparation	LEGAL SERVICES	N-400 APPLICATION Help	Help with FEE WAIVER	GENERAL INFORMATION
Literacy Network	(608) 244-3911 www.litnetwork.org	X	X				X
Community Immigration Law Center (CILC)	(608) 257-4845 http://cpcmadison.org/cli c/			X			X
Centro Hispano	(608) 255-3018 http://www.micentro.org /			X	X	X	X
Catholic Multicultural Center	(608) 661-3512 www.cmcmadison.org	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jewish Social Services	(608) 278-1808 http://jssmadison.org/ser vices/immigration- services			X	X	X	X
Madison Path to Citizenship WORKSHOPS	(608) 263-6735 leave message www.madisonpath.com	X		X	X	X	X

## Madison Path to Citizenship - Partner Organizations

Community Immigration Law Center, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA),  
Catholic Multicultural Center...Centro Hispano...Jewish Social Services of Madison...  
Latino Academy of Workforce Development...Latino Education Council, Inc...  
Literacy Network...Madison Public Library...Community Immigration Law Center...  
UNIDOS Against Domestic Violence...UW Extension...  
UW-Madison Latin American, Caribbean & Iberian Studies...  
UW-Madison Continuing Studies...Wisconsin Latino/a Law Student Association...  
Vera Court Neighborhood Center

For more information: [www.madisonpath.com](http://www.madisonpath.com)

### -- TO ASSESS YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR U.S. CITIZENSHIP--

**Bring these documents to a Citizenship Workshop or Clinic**

#### IDENTIFICATION

- Drivers' license
- Social Security Card
- Permanent Resident (Green) Card

#### TRIPS TAKEN OUTSIDE THE U.S.

- Departure dates
- Return dates for all trips since becoming a legal resident

#### ADDRESSES (Residences):

- Addresses (residence) past 5 years
- Dates you moved

#### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY –

Past 5 years:

- Name of each employer
- Address of each employer
- Start & end dates of each job
- Position held at each company

#### CURRENT MARITAL STATUS

If you are married, bring spouse's:

- Complete name
- Address
- Date of birth
- Date of matrimony (court date)
- Social Security number
- If your spouse is a legal permanent resident, bring "A" number from their green card
- If your spouse is a naturalized U.S. citizen, bring the date and place of their naturalization ceremony

#### PREVIOUS MARRIAGES

- Complete name of previous spouse
- Dates of matrimony & of divorce
- If widowed, date of death
- If your current spouse is divorced or widowed: Name of their previous spouse, date of marriage, & date of death or divorce

#### YOUR CHILDREN

- Complete names
- Dates of birth
- Countries of birth
- Current addresses of residence
- If they are legal residents, bring their "A" numbers from their green cards

#### SELECTIVE SERVICE

- Selective service number
- Date of registration  
(If you need help to find these, call (847) 688-6888 or check at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov))

#### CRIMINAL HISTORY

If you have ever been arrested or have had contact with police, ICE, or immigration service, you must bring: Any & all documents related to your detention, arrest, &/or conviction.

#### TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

You will need a check for \$680 made out to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**. You may qualify for a fee waiver. Ask at the Citizenship Workshop.

**YOUR PARENTS**

- Names
- Dates of birth

**FEE WAIVER.** You may NOT have to pay the \$680 fee. To be assessed for a FEE WAIVER, please bring:

- Food Share/Medical Assistance Award Letter (most recent one--less than 6 months old)
- Most recent tax return