Opportunities and Challenges for Tompkins County’s Immigrants and Refugees

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Programs/Services

- Samaritan Center
- A Place to Stay (transitional shelter for women)
- SNAP enrollment
- Justice & Peace Ministry
- Family Empowerment Program
- Health insurance enrollment
- Immigrant Services Program
Immigrant Services Program

Who do we serve?

• Client demographics

Core Services

• Legal Immigration Services
• Refugee Resettlement Program
• Support Services
• Job Development
Tompkins County’s Immigrant Community

Who is here?

• Skilled professionals, researchers, international students
• Refugees/asylees
• Tibetan community (Namgyal Monastery)
• Undocumented community, pending asylees, TPS, DACA
• Diversity visas
• Family reunification/chain migration
• Secondary migrants (internal migration)
Barriers/Strategies

• Lack of affordable immigration services/DOJ Recognition & Accreditation

• High cost of immigration application fees

• Fee waivers/sliding fee scale/local grants

• High number of non-citizens/citizenship grants, accompany clients to interviews

• Gap in employment services for workers with limited English proficiency/ISP job development services

• Transportation/bus passes

• Computer literacy/computer classes

• Cell phones/cell phone tutorials
Legal Immigration Services

- Adjustment of status
- Alien relative petition
- Affidavit of relationship
- Affidavit of support
- Citizenship
- Consular processing, Visa
- Family Petitions
- DACA
- Employment authorization
- FOIA requests
- Green card renewals
- Provisional waivers
- Refugee relative petition
- Removal of conditions on residence
- Temporary Protective Status
- VAWA self-petitions
Refugee Resettlement Program

- USCCB, Sub office of Catholic Family Center
- Countries of origin
- Core service delivery
  - Airport reception
  - Assistance securing safe, decent and affordable housing
  - Basic needs support
  - Community and cultural orientation
  - Assistance obtaining social security cards
  - Job development services
  - Refugee Health Assessment appointment
  - Assistance accessing medical services
  - School enrollment (K-12 placement, Adult Learning)

- Stakeholders
Challenges for Tompkins County’s Immigrants and Refugees

Local level

- Winter
- Rural area
- Modes of transportation
- Lack of ethnic enclaves
- Affordable housing
- Childcare
- Language barriers
- Living wage
- Language appropriate services
Challenges (national level)

- Widening deportation net
- Refugee admissions
- Executive orders/Travel Ban
- Rescinding DACA
- TPS
- Increasing USCIS fees
What Tompkins County Offers

- Abundance of community support and resources
- Support from local and state government
- Volunteers/Interns
- Faith community
- Sanctuary City
Opportunities for Tompkins County’s Immigrants and Refugees

Quality education

Quality healthcare

Low cost/pro bono legal immigration services

Safe environment

Low unemployment rate

Upward mobility

Entrepreneurship

Community resources

Supportive community
Check out our blog:
The ISP Blog: Serving the Ithacan Immigrant
https://ccttimmigrantservicesprogram.wordpress.com

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