



Mason Project on Immigration

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Our guide is not meant to be an exhaustive list of immigration related resources, but a venue to highlight dynamic organizations and share information between non-profits. The following information is drawn from organizations' websites.

Legal Assistance, Community Development & Human Services

Ayuda (D.C)

Ayuda, a Latino community-based organization, promotes social justice and client empowerment through high-quality program activities related to immigration and domestic violence, including legal and social services and national and local advocacy. Specifically, they advocate for and defend the legal and human rights of low-income Latino and other immigrant communities in the Washington, D.C. area. Although, primarily Latino-focused, their staff can communicate with clients in English, Spanish, Polish, French, Italian or Swedish.

Contact Info: www.ayudainc.org, Phone: (202) 387-4848

Boat People SOS (Falls Church)

Boat People SOS (BPSOS), formed in 1980, was based in San Diego, California and conducted many join rescue-at-sea missions with international organizations, rescuing over 3,000 Vietnamese boat people in the South China Sea. In 1990, in response to major shifts in U.S. and international policies toward the Vietnamese boat people, they moved their headquarters to Northern Virginia. By 1997, when most boat people were either repatriated or resettled, they shifted their focus to domestic programs for Vietnamese refugees and immigrants in communities all across the US. Their Fall Church programs include Community against Domestic Violence, Disaster Relief, HIV/AIDS, Mental Health Pre-Screening, Immigration Services, Trafficking, and Youth.

Contact Info: <http://www.bpsos.org/offices/falls-church>, Phone: (703) 538-2190

CASA de Maryland (Silver Springs)

Central American refugees and North Americans founded CASA of Maryland in 1985 in response to the human needs of the thousands of Central Americans arriving to the D.C. area after fleeing wars and civil strife in their countries of origin. They serve immigrants from nearly every country in Latin America, as well as Africans, Asians and U.S. citizens. CASA has legal, day laborer, community organizing, education, health, and women's programs. They also advocate, at the local, state, and national level, for fair legislation for immigrants and refugees.

Contact Info: www.casademaryland.org, Phone (301) 431-4185

Central American Resource Center (D.C.)

CARECEN was formed to respond to and help secure the rights of those Salvadorans and other Central Americans who fled from the wars, turmoil, and human rights violations in their countries and to seek refuge in the United States. They offer legal, educational, housing, citizenship and civic participation programs to the Central American/Latino community.

Contact Info: www.dccarecen.org, Phone (202) 328-9799

Center for Multicultural Human Services (Falls Church)

CMHS is a non-profit organization staffed by multi-ethnic, multilingual social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors, education specialists, art therapists, and graduate interns from local universities. CMHS offers a broad range of mental health, social, educational, health and language services geared to the unique values and characteristics of individuals and families from diverse cultures. Programs include LEAD School Based Program, Project Salva Ninos (anti-youth violence), Program for Survivors of Torture and Severe Trauma, Multicultural Domestic Violence Program, and Immigration and Human rights Program.

Contact Info: www.cmhs.org, Phone: 703-533-3302

Child and Family Network Care Centers (Alexandria and Arlington)

CFNC provides caring, high quality free early education, family support services, and health care to at-risk youth and their families in their own neighborhoods.

Contact Info: <http://www.cfnc-online.org/progSchools.htm>, Phone: (703) 836-0214

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (Arlington)

ECDC responds to the needs of the growing Ethiopian community in the United States, specifically in the Washington D.C. and metropolitan area. However, ECDC serves newcomers and refugees from many parts of the world, providing job assistance, microcredit loans and training, citizenship classes, and health education and outreach.

Contact Info: <http://www.ecdcinternational.org/>, Phone: (703) 685-0510

Freddie Mac (D.C. and Virginia)

Freddie Mac helps minority and low-income families become homeowners. In Virginia, they have performed outreach to the Latino community to provide financial literacy and inform them of predatory lending practices

Contact Info: <http://www.freddiemac.com/>, Phone: (703) 903-2000 (McLean Headquarters)

Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital Linguistic Outreach Program (D.C.)

GSCNC's Linguistic Outreach troops are the product of campaigns targeting children of immigrant families. Their Linguistic Outreach Specialists use their knowledge about the community to inform and recruit both girls and adults. They have a Formal Outreach Program to the Vietnamese Community and Hispanic/Latino Community-based program. They also provide summer day programs that serve youngsters in at-risk or linguistically isolated communities across the D.C. metro area.

Contact Info: <http://www.gscnc.org/outreach/>, Phone: 202- 237-1670

Hispanic Committee of Virginia (Northern Virginia)

HCV is a community-based, non-profit organization located in Northern Virginia, which works to enable Hispanic immigrants to more fully participate in and contribute to American society. The Hispanic Committee of Virginia helps clients overcome barriers of language, culture, isolation, and poverty by linking them to community services and empowering them with new skills in addition to providing other means of assistance such as case management, job matching, and immigration consultations. They also offer ESL and Citizenship classes.

Contact Info: <http://hcva.org/>, Phone: Alexandria, (703) 370-3150, Arlington, (703) 243-3033, Bailey's Crossroads, (703) 671-5666, Falls Church, (703) 534-5353, Gunston, (703) 228-6929

Hispanos Unidos (Falls Church)

Hispanos Unidos works to help raise the economic, educational, and social levels of the underprivileged residents of Northern Virginia who suffer from a substantial level of unemployment. It seeks to achieve this goal by administering services and activities, including training, employment services, and a self-help housing program. Although services are primarily for Hispanics, they are not limited to any ethnic group.

Contact Info: <http://www.nclr.org/content/affiliates/detail/1114/>, Phone: (703) 533-9300

Hogar Hispano-Catholic Charities (Falls Church)

Hogar strives to help Latino and other immigrants to achieve self-sufficiency and become “productive members of American society” by providing ESL classes, emergency help to pay bills, programs for single mothers, and a clinic referral program with financial assistance. They also offer assistance with work papers, political asylum, and citizenship forms.

Contact Info: <http://www.ccda.net/>, Phone: (703) 534-9805

INOVA Health Systems (Northern Virginia)

INOVA Health systems is working to improve language access through the use of “Patient Navigators,” medical interpreters who ensure language needs are served along the access points in the health care system at several INOVA’s facilities. They are also working to identify specific necessary changes to make facilities more accessible to LEP Latinos. A bilingual Spanish-friendly community clinic and two hospitals will be the focus of INOVA’s Hablamos Juntos project.

Contact Info: http://www.hablamosjuntos.org/resource_guide_portal/demonstration_sites/grantee_profiles/inova.asp

Just Neighbors (Arlington)

The mission of Just Neighbors is to provide immigration legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees of all faiths and nationalities. They perform outreach on immigration law to various community organizations (shelters, ESL classes, etc) and offer help with legal cases.

Contact Info: www.justneighbors.org, Phone: (703) 979-1240

League of United Latin American Citizens (D.C)

LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic Organization in the United States. They work to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

Contact Info: www.lulac.org, Phone: (202) 833-6130

Mexicanos Sin Fronteras, Woodbridge Workers Committee (D.C. and Northern Virginia)

Immigrant day laborers, alongside a base of community volunteers, form the Woodbridge worker’s committee. They serve as one of the principal links between the day laborers, their community, and the broader community.

Contact Info: <http://mexicanossinfronteras.org/wwc/index.htm>, Phone: (202) 758-2116

National Alliance for Hispanic Health (D.C.)

This Hispanic health organization offers specific programs including capacity development of community based organizations, diabetes education and outreach, Hispanics in the Sciences, prenatal help lines, family health help lines, cultural proficiency, teen theatre as a tool for prevention, and consumer outreach in the areas of depression, ADHD, immunization, HIV/AIDS, women’s health, osteoporosis, tobacco control, and environmental health.

Contact Info: <http://www.hispanichealth.org/>, Phone: (202) 387-5000

Northern Virginia Area Health Education Center (Northern Virginia)

Community Health Connect focuses solely on meeting needs of this region's widely diverse, multi-cultural population. Its education programs enhance skills and knowledge in cross-cultural health. CHIS now provides trained health care interpreters in over 20 languages at more than 30 locations throughout Northern Virginia and has their own curriculum program to train even more bilingual interpreters.

Contact Info: <http://www.ahec.vcu.edu/northernva.htm>, Phone: (703) 549-7060

Northern Virginia Family Service (Northern Virginia)

NVFS promotes several programs designed to empower families in need. They offer health services, small loans, early education, teen conflict resolution courses, job training, housing services, and trainings for foster care families.

Contact Info: <http://www.nvfs.org/index.htm>, Phone: 703-385-3267

Project Family (Arlington)

Project Family is a free parenting program for speakers of other languages and English-speaking Arlington residents: parents and children from pre-birth to age five. They provide weekly pre-natal, infant and early childhood classes seeking to enhance parenting skills of participants and to prepare children for school.

Contact Info: http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/HumanServices/services/family/proj_family/HumanServicesServicesFamilyProj_FamilyProjectFamily.aspx, Phone 703-228-1549

Reston Interfaith (Reston, Herndon, northwestern Fairfax County)

Reston Interfaith acts as one of the leading social service providers in Northern Virginia. They work to provide food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other services to the community.

Contact Info: http://www.restoninterfaith.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=5801, Phone: (571) 323-9555

Somali Family Care Network (Fairfax)

SFCN serves as a national resource for the growing Somali immigrant community and for the refugee and mainstream service providers who interface with Somali communities in the U.S. SFCN's primary program is Project Himilo or Project Aspire. Through this project, SFCN will establish a strong national network of Somali Community-Based Organizations, which will work together with other refugee service providers to foster and ensure the health and social well-being of Somali refugees resettled in the United States.

Contact Info: www.somalifamily.org, Phone: (703) 560-0005

Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (D.C.)

Project for the Rights of Immigrants and Refugees works to provides representation for asylum seekers; handles cases of discrimination against newcomers to U.S. in employment, housing, lending, education & government services.

Contact Info: http://www.washlaw.org/projects/Immigrants_refugees_sp/default_sp.htm, Phone: (202) 319-1000

Policy, Advocacy, & Research

American Immigration Lawyers Association (D.C.)

AILA conducts trainings for immigration lawyers, maintains updated immigration news through INFONET (members only), and advocates on behalf of their members (immigration lawyers) for fair immigration legislation.

Contact Info: www.aila.org, Phone: 202-216-2400

American Immigration Law Foundation (D.C.)

AILF works to increase public understanding of immigration law and policy. AILF's Immigration Policy Center concentrates on releasing reports and briefs about the benefits of immigration and special topics, such as the border, women, post-9/11, etc. The foundation also has created educational materials for teachers and devised a K-12 immigration curriculum; they even have a traveling exhibit available: America's Heritage: A History of U.S. Immigration.

Contact Info: <http://www.aif.org/>, Phone: 202-742-5600

Amnesty International—Refugee Program (D.C.)

Amnesty has a network of volunteer country specialists who can help with specific verification questions about human rights conditions in asylum seekers' home countries and, on rare occasions, fuller analysis. They also provide intensive weekend trainings that prepare AI members to interview asylum-seekers in detention. Participants learn about asylum law and interviewing techniques, and visit a detention center to interview asylum-seekers.

Contact Info: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/refugee/index.do>, Phone: (202) 544-0200

Asian American Justice Center (D.C.)

AAJC is one of the nation's leading experts on issues of importance to the Asian American community including affirmative action, anti-Asian violence prevention/race relations, census, immigrant rights, immigration, language access, and voting rights. AAJC chairs the Rights Working Group, a coalition of civil rights, civil liberties, human rights and immigrant rights advocates (local, regional, and national) and co-chairs the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights' immigration task force.

Contact Info: www.advancingequality.org, Phone: (202) 296-2300

Break the Chain Campaign (D.C.)

Break the Chain Campaign seeks to minimize the effects of human trafficking, modern-day slavery and worker exploitation through comprehensive direct service, research, outreach, advocacy, training and technical assistance. The Campaign is committed to assisting migrant trafficked enslaved and exploited workers through the provision of case management services offering access to legal, social, mental health, and medical referrals and assistance and a multicultural center dedicated to providing a safe, supportive, and educational environment for trafficked, enslaved and exploited workers.

Contact Info: <http://www.ips-dc.org/campaign/index.htm>, Phone: 202-234-9382

Capital Area Immigrant's Rights (CAIR) Coalition (D.C. and Virginia)

CAIR Coalition sponsors monthly coalition meetings that bring together community groups, immigrants, pro bono attorneys and government representatives to increase the knowledge, skills and impact of member organizations so that they can best meet the needs of the indigent immigrants they serve. CAIR Coalition also facilitates monthly meetings of its members with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to address questions concerning individual immigrants and general DHS policy. CAIR works with individuals detained by DHS in Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area. Through its Detention Project, CAIR Coalition provides legal rights presentations at remote county jails in Virginia, providing advice and assistance to individuals detained by DHS, and advocates for systemic reform on their behalf.

Contact Info: www.caircoalition.org

Farmworker Justice (D.C.)

FJ is a nonprofit organization that seeks to empower migrant and seasonal farmworkers to improve their living and working conditions, immigration status, health, occupational safety, and access to justice. Their legislative department has been focusing heavily on agricultural immigration legislation. The non-profit also focuses on HIV/AIDS and pesticide exposure.

Contact Info: www.fwjjustice.org, Phone: (202) 783-2561

Legal Momentum Immigrant Women Program (D.C.)

The Immigrant Women Program (IWP) advocates for legal protections, social services and economic justice for immigrant women while reforming laws, policies and practices that may harm them. They lead a national advocacy campaign that secures access to legal immigration status, benefits, and legal services for thousands of victims of violence against women and foreign fiancés. They conduct hundreds of trainings for attorneys, advocates, police, prosecutors and judges building skills and knowledge critical to immigrant women receiving legally correct, culturally competent assistance from professionals in their communities.

Contact Info: www.legalmomentum.org, Phone: (202) 326-0040

Migration Policy Institute (D.C.)

MPI is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide. They often provide congressional testimony and are home to the Migration Information Source chronicles global migration movements, provide perspectives on current migration debates, and offer the tools and data from numerous global organizations and governments needed to understand migration in a way that is accessible to researchers, policy makers, journalists, and other opinion shapers.

Contact Info: www.migrationpolicy.org, Phone (202) 266-1940

Tahirih Justice Center (Falls Church)

The Center seeks to enable women and girls fleeing gender-based violence to access justice. Through direct litigation, social service referrals, and public policy advocacy, the Tahirih Justice Center protects immigrant women and girls seeking justice in the United States from human rights abuses. They were instrumental in the effort to include the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005 in the successful Violence against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization. The act creates regulations to decrease the abuse and exploitation of mail order brides. Some of their current programs include Initiative to Ensure Police Protection for Immigrants, Battered Immigrant Women Advocacy Project, Legal Protection from Gender-Based Persecution.

Contact Info: www.tahirih.org, Phone: (703) 575-0070

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (D.C.)

The National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children provides pro bono legal and social services to unaccompanied children released from detention in the United States. USCRI has an anti-warehousing campaign and recently released the 2006 World Refugee Survey. They also publish Refugee Voices, first-hand testimonies of refugees, with the idea that the best advocates for refugees are refugees themselves.

Contact Info: www.refugees.org, Phone: (202)347-3507

Voices for Virginia's Children (Statewide)

Voices works to create practical public policy by employing solid data and passionate advocates in order to meet the needs of children and families. Their key issues are early care and education; foster care and adoption; health, including mental health; and family economic success.

Contact Info: <http://www.vakids.org/>, Phone: 703-955-6325 (Fairfax Station)