

Governor's Office of New Americans

For two centuries, Illinois has been a destination for immigrants from around the globe. In order to make the Land of Lincoln the "most welcoming state in the nation", Governor Pat Quinn has expanded the Office of New Americans and increased the number of "Welcoming Centers" around Illinois.

New★Americans

Office of Policy and Advocacy

Since 2010, the Illinois Office of New Americans has become a national model in promoting stronger immigrant integration. Through advocacy, partnerships and direct services, the Office of New Americans is helping Illinois' two million refugees and immigrants make the often-difficult transition to a new community and reach their full potential.

Illinois DREAM Fund for College Students

The Office of New Americans was instrumental in the creation of the Illinois DREAM Fund Commission. The purpose of the DREAM Fund - which became law in 2011 - is to enable more children of immigrants to attend college. The DREAM Fund Commission was appointed by Governor Quinn to raise private dollars and work with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to establish guidelines. In its first year, the DREAM Fund helped 33 Illinois students with more than \$100,000 in scholarships.



Driver's Licenses for Immigrant Motorists

In 2012, the Office of New Americans led a broad coalition to win approval of Senate Bill 957 to help ensure that every Illinois motorist is properly licensed to drive. The legislation - which passed with bipartisan support - is designed to improve highway safety and enable immigrants to drive to work or school without fear of incarceration. The Office of New Americans is also active in implementing the new law.



iwc@illinois.gov

ILLINOIS
Welcoming CENTER
MAKING ILLINOIS YOUR HOME

New★Americans



iwc@illinois.gov

CENTRO DE
Bienvenida DE ILLINOIS
HAGA A ILLINOIS, SU HOGAR

ILHS
Illinois Hispanic Leadership Society



Welcoming Centers

The Office of New Americans coordinates services from a range of State agencies at the six Welcoming Centers. New arrivals undergo family-based intake assessment and can utilize dozens of services and programs in a convenient "one-stop-shopping" environment.

And for immigrants who live too far from a bricks-and-mortar Welcoming Center, the innovative Mobile Unit provides an "office-on-wheels" at service fairs around Illinois. Last year, more than 11,000 new Americans received direct services at the Welcoming Centers.

SERVICES OFFERED BY THE WELCOMING CENTERS

DIRECT ACCESS TO AND INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS:

- ❖ Medicaid
- ❖ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP")
- ❖ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF")
- ❖ Women, Infants and Children ("WIC")
- ❖ Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled
- ❖ All Kids Health Insurance
- ❖ Unemployment benefits
- ❖ Employment search/Illinois Skills Match
- ❖ Workers' Compensation
- ❖ Family Care
- ❖ Elder abuse and prevention
- ❖ Rehabilitation services
- ❖ Community college enrollment and financial aid
- ❖ Circuit Breaker

WORKSHOPS ON:

- ❖ Housing and financial literacy
- ❖ Health and nutrition
- ❖ Predatory lending
- ❖ Mental health Issues
- ❖ Substance and domestic abuse
- ❖ Adolescent development
- ❖ Parenting skills

DIRECT REFERRALS, ASSESSMENTS AND ENROLLMENT:

- ❖ Local food pantries
- ❖ English classes
- ❖ Citizenship classes
- ❖ Legal assistance
- ❖ Health screenings and immunizations
- ❖ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP")
- ❖ Small Business Center

Welcoming Center locations:

NORTH RIVERSIDE

State of Illinois
7222 W. Cermak Rd, Ste 501
North Riverside, IL 60546
708-442-8640

CHICAGO - SOUTHWEST SIDE

Latino Organization of Southwest (LOS)
4051 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60629
773-581-1900

CHICAGO - NORTHWEST SIDE

Family Focus-Nuestra Familia
4145 W. Armitage Avenue
Chicago, IL 60639
773-276-0940

MELROSE PARK

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
1115 N. 23rd Street
Melrose Park, IL 60160
708-345-3632, ext 301

AURORA

Family Focus
550 E. Second Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505
630-256-7055

CHICAGO - SOUTHEAST SIDE

(Opening on November 1)
Latino Resource Institute
8910 South Commercial Avenue
Chicago, IL 60617
773-356-5923

Honoring Latino Heritage in Illinois
latinoheritage.illinois.gov