



About Us

Church World Service Lancaster is committed to showing welcome to refugees, immigrants, asylum-seekers and other uprooted people within the United States who are seeking safety and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

For over 35 years, CWS Lancaster has welcomed thousands of new neighbors from around the world to our beautiful country. Through partnerships with faith groups, organizations and individuals, we empower our newest neighbors to build new lives in peace and security, providing up to 5 years of service and support.

Together we are building stronger and more diverse communities where everyone has a voice and a safe place to call home.

4 Ways to Get Involved

- Hiring New Neighbors
- Community Sponsorship
- Volunteering
- Donations

Our Programs

Welcoming to Hope and Home

CWS Lancaster's Welcome Programs empower new neighbors as they build lives in peace and safety. From initial services like housing and benefits enrollment to cultural orientation and community friendships, we support new neighbors in establishing the foundation they need to thrive in the United States.

Stabilization & Integration for Long Term Success

Integration Programs support individuals and families as they build lives they are proud of in their new communities. Through individually-tailored case management and group programming, integration programs ensure new neighbors have the tools they need to navigate complex systems, achieve personal and professional goals, and build critical community connections essential to belonging.

Championing Rights & Freedoms

Immigration Legal Services programs work to preserve the rights of all migrants by increasing legal knowledge and access to legal services. CWS staff members are licensed attorneys and/or accredited to practice Immigration law before the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Immigration Courts.

OUR PROGRAMS

Welcoming to Hope and Home

WELCOME PROGRAMS

- Refugee Resettlement
- Asylees & Entrants
- Matching Grant
- Community Sponsorship
- Housing Services

Integration for Continuing Success

STABILIZATION & INTEGRATION

Economic Empowerment

- Job Readiness
- Job Placement
- Social Services

Health & Family Wellness

- Good Job, Happy Family
- Intensive Case Management
- Youth Mentoring

Home Study, Post Release Services

Championing Rights and Freedoms

IMMIGRATION LEGAL PROGRAMS

Legal Services

- Legal Counseling
- Citizenship & Integration

Children's Program

- Know Your Rights
- Legal Representation

Engagement for Building Community

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- Volunteer Engagement
- Community Organizing
- Leadership Development
- Fundraising & Partnerships



Empower. Partner. Welcome.

All of CWS' work is rooted in partnership. As a community member welcoming new neighbors, your role is vital to ensuring new neighbors are empowered to build meaningful lives in their new communities. Your support ensures that refugee and immigrant neighbors can build new lives they are proud of, reclaim careers, find community with friends and neighbors and contribute their skills and talents through CWS Lancaster programs.

Renting to New Neighbors

As we welcome new neighbors, one of our biggest challenges can be obtaining safe and affordable housing. CWS Housing staff begin identifying possible permanent housing even before new neighbors have arrived and then partner with landlords and their new tenants to ensure clients understand their rights and responsibilities.

Hiring New Neighbors

New neighbors bring a diverse array of skills, expertise, and a great desire to succeed in building stable lives for their families. Reach out to our Economic Empowerment Manager to learn more about how to hire newly arrived refugees at your business.

Corporate Partnerships

From on-site professional development opportunities to corporate volunteer days, together we can create unique opportunities to learn more about refugees and immigrants in Lancaster, develop skills in cultural competency and cross-cultural communication, and strengthen staff development through community service projects like housing set-ups, donation drives, and more.

Community Sponsorship

Community sponsorship is your opportunity to welcome a new refugee family and empower them with friendship and support as they integrate into their new home. As a community sponsor, your group will partner with CWS Lancaster to welcome a refugee family and help them begin life in the United States.

Individual Volunteer Opportunities

NEED TO BUILD TEXT

In-Kind Donations

CWS Lancaster maintains a donation hub of materials new neighbors need as they begin life in Lancaster. Donation drives can be a meaningful way to build camaraderie and ensure our newest neighbors have a safe and comfortable new home.

Welcoming to Hope & Home



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Community Sponsorship

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Refugee Resettlement

CWS Lancaster's refugee resettlement case managers provide initial welcome and core services to new refugee neighbors within the first 90 days after arrival. From airport pick-up, welcome meals, and housing to connecting to social, health, educational, and career services, refugee resettlement case managers are providing the building blocks for long-term success and self-sufficiency.

Asylees & Entrants

Provides employment services to refugees, asylees, Ukrainians, Afghans, Cuban Haitian Entrants, victims of severe forms of trafficking, and Special Immigrant Visa holders.

Matching Grant

This hybrid employment & resettlement case management program provides extended supports for new neighbors after the initial resettlement period has concluded. Employment skills training and job referrals coupled with volunteer support, ensures new neighbors have the skills they need to be financially independent.

Housing

As we welcome new neighbors, one of our biggest challenges can be obtaining safe and affordable housing. CWS Housing staff begin identifying possible permanent housing even before new neighbors have arrived and then partner with landlords and their new tenants to ensure clients understand their rights and responsibilities



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Integration for Long-Term Success

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CWS Lancaster's Integration Programs support individuals and families as they build lives they are proud of in their new communities. Through individually-tailored case management and group programming, integration programs ensure new neighbors have the tools they need to navigate complex systems like health care, achieve personal and professional goals, and build critical community connections to thrive and belong.

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Hiring New Neighbors

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Economic Empowerment

programs support new neighbors on their journey to financial self-sufficiency and fulfilling employment, from initial job readiness support like ESL, resume building, and connections to initial employment to ongoing case management support for career upskilling and advancement for up to five years after arrival.

Health & Family Wellness

programs provide additional support to newcomers who are experiencing challenges or who are ready to pursue longer-term goals. Our case management and health navigation programs support those with ongoing vulnerabilities affecting their stability, while our Youth Mentoring and Good Job, Happy Family programs support neighbors of all ages in achieving financial empowerment, career or academic success, and community engagement.

Home Study, Post Release Services

case managers work with unaccompanied children and their sponsors as they are reunited after the children are released from Office of Refugee Resettlement shelters. Just like refugees and asylum seekers, many unaccompanied children have fled violence and threats to their well-being in their home countries. And just like all young people, they want to go to school, make friends, and pursue their dreams within a safe and loving home. Together, sponsors, children, and case managers create an action plan and identify goals to support the child's safety, rights, and needs.



Championing Rights & Freedoms

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Volunteer Attorneys

Join our network of volunteer attorneys and help us serve our clients across southeast PA by representing their ORR sponsors in state actions to seek custody or guardianship of the unaccompanied children in their care.

Immigration Legal Counseling

Immigrants and refugees have many complicated and expensive legal hurdles on the path to protection, citizenship, and reuniting with their families. CWS Lancaster's Immigration Legal Counseling staff provide low-cost legal advice and representation to refugees, asylum-seekers, and other immigrants in central PA. Our program offers an alternative to the high cost of private immigration lawyers in central Pennsylvania. Church World Service/Lancaster is recognized by the Executive Office for Immigration Review of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Citizenship & Integration

The Citizenship & Integration Program provides free citizenship classes and legal services for eligible permanent residents who are interested in becoming U.S. citizens. Morning and evening classes are offered through the Intermediate Unit 13 (IU13) in Lancaster and Lebanon. Initial screenings for naturalization are provided by CWS legal program staff at no charge.

Immigrant Childrens Program

provides Know Your Rights orientations, legal screenings, court preparation, and free legal representation to unaccompanied immigrant children.

