Background

Since September 1980, Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) has conducted refugee programs to meet the critical needs of refugees and asylees who have settled in the Baltimore metropolitan area. With funding from the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA), the program has served more than 10,000 refugees from Cuba, Ethiopia, Iran, Eritrea, Iraq, Poland, Liberia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, Bhutan, the former Soviet Union, and Vietnam by providing intensive English language, job skills and citizenship preparation instruction.

BCCC refugee programs are adept at serving the variety of needs of our diverse refugee population. English classes range from Pre-Literacy — for those who never attended school in their home countries — to Advanced for those who simply need accent reduction for more marketability in the American workforce. An emphasis is placed on helping students toward sustained employment and self-sufficiency. Students who successfully matriculate through BCCC refugee programs often further their education by obtaining a GED, more advanced English study, or taking credit classes in other departments at the College.

BCCC refugee programs are a part of the English Language Services department of the college's Business and Continuing Education Division. The department serves over 4,000 foreign-born individuals annually through four different ESL and skills training programs.

Partners

Partners include voluntary refugee resettlement agencies which resettle refugees and provide employment services such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society/Jewish Community Services (HIAS/JCS).

Refugee Assistance Program

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Refugee Employment Training Program

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Refugee Youth Project

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Baltimore City Community College

Refugee Programs

BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CHANGING LIVES...BUILDING COMMUNITIES

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RAP)

The Refugee Assistance Program (RAP)

Is designed to improve the English-language ability of refugees and asylees 16 years of age or older. Free classes are held throughout the Baltimore area.

Classes focus on developing the skills necessary to find employment and function in an everyday English-language environment. Enrollment is ongoing.

RAP classes provide a supportive classroom setting with teachers able to respond to individual students' language needs. Flexible day and evening schedules allow students to arrange their studies around work schedules.

To be admitted to the program, you must submit proof of refugee or asylum status.

Registration Information

You must register in person at BCED (710 E. Lombard St.) Room 3, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. or at the Baltimore Resettlement Center (3516 Eastern Ave.) Monday through Thursday, noon-3 p.m.

Registration Contacts:

Baltimore City Community College
Mitra Kemp 410-986-5430
mkemp@bccc.edu

Baltimore Resettlement Center
Anna Shraga 410-558-3174
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REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM (RETP)

WorkStyles

Is a two-week, 60-hour, intensive job preparation course with an ESL component. WorkStyles is competency-based and designed to provide participants with the knowledge necessary to gain and retain employment and self-sufficiency. Refugees and political asylees are eligible.

Topics covered include:
• Culture Shock and the American Workplace
• Steps to Success and Self-Sufficiency
• Interviewing with Employers
• Job Skills

WorkWise

Is a four-week, 120-hour course for extremely limited English language learners. The course helps participants prepare for success on the job by demonstrating American Work Values and developing basic technical skills universal to most entry-level jobs.

Basic Computer Literacy

Computer literacy has increasingly become a key skill in the job searching process and securing employment. RETP offers basic computer literacy classes to help students acquire basic skill of keyboarding, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Internet and E-mail.

WorkKeys

RETP uses the Worldwide Interactive Network (WIN) Software, to provide students to learn on-line, the skills most employers look for when hiring. The WIN Software will allow students to access the training both in the classroom setting and in their own home environment. WorkKeys allows students to learn the skills based on their own level and progress to a higher level as they master the skills at a level.

New Programs

In FY15, RETP has launched new training programs:
• Public Safety/Security Officer
• Warehouse Technician
• CNA/GNA

Registration Information

To enroll in RETP programs, contact:
Amanda Olmstead
Program Coordinator at: 410-558-3266
aolmstead@bccc.edu

REFUGEE YOUTH PROJECT (RYP)

BCCC furnishes a free after-school enrichment program for refugees 4–21 years of age. The Refugee Youth Project (RYP) recruits and trains volunteer ESL tutors to work closely with children on homework, English skills, and acculturation. RYP has partnered with the Walters Art Museum to use arts integration to enliven the social and academic learning experience.

Registration Information

To enroll or volunteer contact:

Kursten Pickup 410-558-3194
rypcoordinator@gmail.com