Welcoming and Integrating Immigrants and Refugees

Community Outreach, Education, and Engagement

CCCS staff provide expert outreach and education support in communities and agencies throughout New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley on a broad range of matters, including immigration benefits, enforcement, and integration. Staff also develop and coordinate volunteer opportunities in a variety of integration programs to help refugees resettle and engage pro bono legal support for immigrants and asylum-seekers in need of representation. Particularly when there are new laws, announcements, or other developments, CCCS staff are able quickly to coordinate with Catholic Charities affiliates and other partners to organize and present informational programming and volunteer assistance where needed and requested.

Immigration Legal Services

CCCS provides legal services and representation to thousands of documented and undocumented immigrants in New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley through one-on-one support, pro bono resourcing, and large-scale clinical programming. A staff of lawyers and paralegals handle matters that include, but are not limited to, family reunification petitions, legal residence applications, work authorization, naturalization/citizenship, applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, residence for victims of crime, trafficking or domestic violence, political asylum and deportation defense in immigration and federal courts.

Refugee Resettlement

CCCS offers a broad array of refugee resettlement services. These services include the reception and placement of new arrivals from all parts of the world, a Safe Passages Program to provide initial family reunification services to unaccompanied children who have fled from abuse and violence, as well as social, employment preparation, job development, and transitional support services to asylees, refugees, and victims of human trafficking who are resettling and building their lives again. The program recently extended its expert case management services to vulnerable Central American parents and children who have been released from family detention facilities at the Southern border.

Services for Unaccompanied Minors

CCCS services to unaccompanied children in federal shelter facilities who entered the United States seeking protection from persecution or to reunite with a family member. CCCS lawyers, caseworkers, and paralegals conduct child-appropriate presentations about the extent of the children’s legal rights and the court process and provide extensive case management support for children who are especially vulnerable. Legal staff consult with each child and provide representation in hundreds of cases for appearance before family court judges and the immigration court. Custodians of children released from detention are given a group orientation about their responsibilities and rights and are also represented in proceedings.
English Language Classes
Immigrant and Refugee Services provides ESOL classes at multiple proficiency levels, citizenship preparation classes, one-to-one conversation practice, and specialized community-based programs with partner organizations throughout New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley. Programming is designed to provide the language skills and confidence necessary for all English language learners to communicate effectively in their personal, professional & academic lives in New York City.

Hotline Information Services
**New Americans Hotline: 1-800-566-7636; Children's Call Center : 888-996-3848**
CCCS operates two telephone information call centers. The first is the New York State New Americans Hotline, which is active from 9:00am to 8:00pm weekdays. This service responds to over 25,000 calls statewide each year and provides information and referrals on all immigration questions, which are kept anonymous and confidential. Operators speak nine languages with access to language service support in 200 more languages. In times where there are important, new legal announcements or other immigration or refugee developments, CCCS expands operations and works with media partners to offer broader, live coverage. CCCS also operates the Children's Call Center, where the parents and custodians of unaccompanied children located anywhere in the United States can receive detailed one-on-one assistance about their rights and responsibilities in the custody and immigration court processes.

Support for Day Laborers
CCCS works in partnership with immigrant men and women workers—day laborers—to provide educational workshops, leadership training, and opportunities for economic empowerment at two centers, one in the South Bronx and the other in Yonkers. Our programming offers OSHA-approved on-the-job safety classes and skills classes in various other occupations. Services also include English as a Second Language, G.E.D. and literacy classes, immigration legal assistance, recovery of lost wages, and emergency help with social services. The two community centers operated by CCCS provide both a space for training and teaching as well as a safe location from which to access jobs and services.