

## Community Coordination Meeting Notes

March 28, 2024

Boise, Idaho

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 6:** First Thursday (5-7 p.m.) at Boise City Hall Plaza to kick-off World Refugee Day! Featuring Unity, musicians from the DRC.

**June 8:** [Run for Refugees Jog-a-Thon](#) with Agency for New Americans:

**June 12-13:** New Americans in the Classroom – a 1-credit class for educators led by Sara Skinner Associates and Glocal. [Learn more here.](#)

**June 13:** [Glocal Community Partners](#) training on refugee resettlement and being a welcoming community.

**June 17:** Neighbors United Network Gathering. [Register by June 7.](#)

**June 20 to July 1:** International Rescue Committee in Boise online auction! Bid on items such as Shakespeare Festival tickets, Article furniture, luxury skincare, and more. Proceeds directly support the IRC in Boise and the refugees we support. Help us start World Refugee Day strong, and participate in our auction. More details to come on our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

**June 21:** Magic Valley Refugee Day, 6 p.m., Twin Falls City Park

**June 22:** World Refugee Day Boise, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., The Grove Plaza

**September:** Welcoming Week

**October 17-18:** Northwest Conference on Resettlement, The College of Idaho

**October 25:** Agency for New Americans Annual Gala: Honoring. [Details coming soon!](#)

### WORKSHOP APPLICATIONS

The Idaho Office for Refugees is seeking applications from interested workshop leaders for the [Northwest Conference on Resettlement](#).

Our annual two-day conference (Oct. 17-18 at The College of Idaho) will focus on increasing our capacity for compassion and building community that will stand strong in the face of challenges.

Selected workshops will highlight new ideas to improve service, focus on a client-centered perspective and approach, bring art to the foreground, and advance opportunities for healing and a sense of agency for refugees and immigrants.

[Please apply here by June 28.](#)

## JOB OPENINGS

**Idaho Office for Refugees:** Project Manager to focus on housing and Welcome Corps. [Apply by May 31.](#)

**InRoads, Inc** in Meridian is looking for a part-time or full-time mental health counselor to do in-home counseling sessions with American-born and refugee clients, perform diagnostic assessments and CANS assessments for clients in need of intensive in-home services. Required: LPC, LCPC, LMSW, LCSW, LAMFT, or LMFT. This position also requires someone who has the desire to or some experience working with refugee populations and a real desire to understand/adapt to other cultures. If you are interested, please email your resume to Greg Dunkley, Clinical Director, at [grdunkley@gmail.com](mailto:grdunkley@gmail.com).

**Learning Lab:** Full-time and part-time English educators. [Learn more.](#)

Our neighbors at **Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization** are seeking an Eastern Oregon Site Manager. [Details here.](#)

## MEETING DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Arrival Numbers:** The refugee resettlement numbers only represent the portion of people coming to Idaho through refugee resettlement. Those arriving through other forms of immigration are not represented in our arrival data. Some programs due to funding may only serve those with refugee status, while others are more flexible.

For guidance please contact:

- Idaho Office for Refugees, administrator of Idaho's refugee program:  
[iorinfo@idahorefugees.org](mailto:iorinfo@idahorefugees.org)
  - [Our programs](#) including Global Talent and the Refugee Speakers Bureau are open to New Americans from various immigration backgrounds.
- [International Rescue Committee](#) in Boise
- [Agency for New Americans](#) in Boise
- [Ukrainian Welcome Center](#) in Nampa
- [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](#) (USCRI) in Twin Falls:

**Court interpreters** are in demand at the Ada County Courthouse, particular those who speak Kinyarwanda, Karen, Burmese, and Dari. There is required training and testing to become certified. Pay rates range from \$35 - \$45 an hour. To learn more visit the county's [Court Administration website](#) or contact Language Access Coordinator Otto Gramajo at [ogramajo@adacounty.id.gov](mailto:ogramajo@adacounty.id.gov).

**Free and Reduced Lunch:** The Vallivue School District is seeking to inform families from refugee & immigrant backgrounds about the free and reduced lunch program and how to sign up. Language access and getting responses from families have posed a challenge.

- The [Ukrainian Welcome Center's](#) has a new School Impact Grant that is also addressing this type of outreach. Reach Coordinator Joni Leipf at [joni.l@ukrainianwelcomecenter.org](mailto:joni.l@ukrainianwelcomecenter.org).
- USDA has [translated application forms](#) available on its website.

**Funeral Assistance:** Uzima Health Services raised a good question about what resources and guidance are available for resettled families who are laying a loved one to rest. Counties have assistance programs for those who qualify, including the [Ada County's Cremation Assistance Program](#). We are not aware of a refugee liaison in this industry.

**New Bus Routes:** After a long period of public input and education, Valley Regional Transit is preparing to redesign its bus routes starting June 3. The revised routes will focus on frequency-based coverage. [Learn more here](#).

#### **COMMUNITY RESOURCES:**

[Ada County Juvenile Services](#) staff is available to help families understand the juvenile probation system and connect them with resources. Contact Officer Nolan Walker at [nwalker@adacounty.id.gov](mailto:nwalker@adacounty.id.gov) or 208-287-5635.

[Artisans for Hope:](#) Offering popular sewing classes.

[Boise Bicycle Project](#) provides bicycles to kids and adults in the community. There's a sliding-scale rate and opportunities to volunteer to earn a bike.

[Boise Public Library](#) branches offer many resources to community members, including free access to computers, Wi-Fi, free resume printing, and study rooms.

[Boise State University English Language Support Programs](#) serve students who know other languages through tutoring, help finding classes, connecting with other multilingual students, and more. To get connected or refer a student, please contact Professor Gail Shuck at [gshuck@boisestate.edu](mailto:gshuck@boisestate.edu).

#### **[City of Boise Language Access Resources page](#)**

- Request translation and interpretation services
- Find the city's language access plan

- File a discrimination (Title VI) complaint.

[Economic Opportunity by Jannus](#) offers free finance and credit-building classes, microloans for small businesses, and an in-home childcare business start-up program.

Global Gardens farmers, largely from refugee backgrounds, provide fresh, spray-free produce to the community. [You can sign up](#) for a weekly share of produce all throughout the summer, straight from the farmer.

[Global Talent](#) is starting a mentoring program for New Americans in the workplace. Contact: Heather Webster, [hwebster@idahorefugees.org](mailto:hwebster@idahorefugees.org).

[Glocal Community Partners](#) offers support for expecting and new mothers through community baby showers. Glocal also runs a Friendship Partner program to connect newer refugee arrivals with local mentors.

[Head Start](#) is now enrolling for fall. Translation and transportation resources are available. Head Start is a comprehensive "whole child", family-focused preschool program designed to help low-income and at-risk 3- and 4-year-old children and their families succeed in school and life. Contact: Megan Woller, Executive Director of the Idaho Head Start Association: [mwoller@idahohsa.org](mailto:mwoller@idahohsa.org)

[Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force](#) brings trainings to the community on how to sign up for SNAP and WIC benefits. To learn more, contact Kasey Giles: (503) 812-4033 and [kasey@idahohunger.org](mailto:kasey@idahohunger.org).

Idaho Office for Refugees has a running [Community Resource Guide](#) to help navigate local resources.

International Rescue Committee in Boise has a team of mental health professionals who provide services to anyone eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement services. Services are available in home, in office, and in schools. Contact Myja Maki ([myja.maki@rescue.org](mailto:myja.maki@rescue.org)) to learn more.

[NeighborWorks Boise](#): Free homebuyer education, down payment assistance, and homeowner programs for anyone.

Sara Skinner Associates and Glocal are offering a 1-credit class on June 12-13 for educators working with New Americans. [Learn more here.](#)

Southwest Key Programs is proud to announce the award of a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant to launch the first-of-its kind [Refugee & Migrant Technical Assistance Center](#), or RMTAC in the United State.

- Technical assistance
- Case consultation
- Connect with national experts
- Support for serving refugees & migrant communities

WIC's mobile clinic is coming to Desert Sage Elementary. Contact WIC Outreach Coordinator Kristi Lakatos at 208-327-8568 or [KLakatos@cdh.idaho.gov](mailto:KLakatos@cdh.idaho.gov).

The [Women's and Children's Alliance](#) offers youth and young adult education on healthy relationships, including culturally specific curriculum. There will be trainings this summer for community advisors, parents, guardians, and community elders. Contact [prevention@wcaboise.org](mailto:prevention@wcaboise.org) for more information.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Afghan Cultural Center of Idaho** is seeking a childcare volunteer during the women's classes. Contact Nawid Mousa: [nmousa@jannus.org](mailto:nmousa@jannus.org).

**Agency for New Americans:** [Volunteer Orientation Schedule](#)

**English Language Center:** Provides English and cultural orientation classes to newly arrived refugee adults in Boise.

**Glocal Community Partners** - Boise organization that does Friendship Partners, baby showers, and English classes for refugee community members.

**Global Gardens** - Partner with a farmer to help run a CSA pick-up site this summer. Contact: Genny Gerke: [ggerke@idahorefugees.org](mailto:ggerke@idahorefugees.org)

**Idaho Office for Refugees:** [Sign up here](#) to help with our events, such as **World Refugee Day**, culinary classes, and our annual conference.

**IRC Boise:** Next volunteer training is in June, will be posted to their [Facebook page.](#)

Learning Lab: Offers English classes and has some job openings for teachers.