



Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Seattle is a Welcoming City

Seattle welcomes immigrants and refugees. City employees do not ask about citizenship status and serve all residents regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

About Us

The mission of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) is to improve the lives of Seattle's immigrant and refugee communities through policies, programs, services, and community engagement.

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Ethnic Media Program

seattle.gov/iandraffairs/EMP

OIRA assists City departments in developing comprehensive outreach campaigns. We strive to ensure these campaigns include partnering with media that serve immigrant, refugee, and BIPOC communities. OIRA also ensures ethnic media outlets have equitable access to City updates.

Immigration-related Inquiries

seattle.gov/iandraffairs

You can contact OIRA if you have an inquiry about an immigration-related issue regarding the government of the City of Seattle, or if you need assistance contacting a specific City of Seattle department, or have general questions.

Immigrant Safety and Access Network (ISAN)

welcoming.seattle.gov/ISAN

Administered in partnership with the King County Office of Equity, Racial and Social Justice (OERSJ), ISAN establishes a coalition of community-based organizations that provide support for immigrant and refugee families who have experienced disproportionate harm from violence.

Language Access Program

seattle.gov/iandraffairs/LA

OIRA provides technical assistance to every City department to ensure their availability and capacity to serve all residents regardless of the language they speak. Our focus includes simplifying language access processes, providing interpretation services, translating important materials, and conducting outreach in languages other than English.

New Citizen Campaign (NCC)

seattle.gov/iandraffairs/NCC

NCC supports local service providers to offer naturalization assistance to eligible Seattle residents through citizenship workshops, collaborative partnerships, policy advocacy, and the training of legal advocates.

New Citizen Program (NCP)

seattle.gov/iandraffairs/NCC#NCP

NCP funds a consortium of local community-based organizations offering assistance with naturalization applications to low-income individuals who have high barriers to obtaining citizenship. Organizations also provide citizenship classes, tutoring, practice interviews, help preparing exam waivers for disabled individuals, and case management throughout the entire process. Services available in a wide range of languages.

Ready to Work (RTW)

seattle.gov/iandraffairs/RTW

RTW is a partnership with organizations offering English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, job training, and case management in three locations to better serve residents facing immense barriers to learning English and gaining employment.

Seattle Legal Defense Network

seattle.gov/LDN

Since 2017, Seattle has supported free legal representation for low-income immigrants and refugees who are in immigration detention, facing removal (deportation), or at risk of removal.