

Refugee and Immigrant Support and Education (RISE) Family Literacy Program: Seeking ESL Volunteers

Refugee/Immigrant Participant/Client Profile

- ❑ All participants must be refugees or immigrants from Africa, or Iraq, Burma, or Bhutan having arrived to the US within the last 5 years.
- ❑ The program is open to refugee/immigrant families and their children 3-18 years old.
- ❑ Participants must have low-beginning English skills (ESL Proficiency Level I –II) or seeking specialized ESL for vocational/professional re-training.
- ❑ Participants are matched with a volunteer who will work with the parents and the children in their homes 3-5 hours a week.

Volunteer Job Functions: Life Skills and English as a Second Language (ESL) Program and may include any of the following depending on the family:

- ❑ The program is goal-based so the lessons that the volunteer works on with the participant are based on the goals set by the participant.
- ❑ Appropriate ESL and Life Skills lessons for enrolled mother, father and/or child/children.
- ❑ ESL and general school support for children. This may include supporting parent's communication with teachers and schools (e.g., parent teacher conferences, homework help, form filling, etc.).
- ❑ Volunteers take participants on outings to places such as the library, local parks, and grocery stores to help the participants understand the resources that are available in their community to practice English and life-skills.
- ❑ Some participants will have ESL needs above a beginner level. Some need specialized vocabulary for vocational training or professional job searches.
- ❑ Information and referral to other culturally appropriate services based on their needs.
- ❑ Referral to culturally appropriate mental health services.

Volunteer Job Requirements and Preferred Qualifications

- ❑ Volunteers work with families approximately 3-5 hours a week, are required to complete 72 hours of service, and must be able to commit to a minimum of one six-month cycle with a family.
- ❑ Volunteers should have excellent English language skills and some previous cross-cultural experience and be comfortable working with people who may have very minimal English language skills.
- ❑ Volunteers should feel comfortable working in a home setting with adults and children ages 3 – 10.
- ❑ Volunteers are required to attend the first mandatory volunteer ESL and cross-cultural training at the beginning of their 6-month cycle offered at LCSNW
- ❑ Volunteers are expected to attend at least 80% of the on-going monthly volunteer-support meetings, and remain in communication with the Family Literacy Coordinators and other staff LCSNW as appropriate.
- ❑ Volunteers shall submit a monthly progress report (by the last Thursday of the month) to the Family Literacy Coordinator (email is fine).
- ❑ Volunteers will arrange all meetings (and cancellations) with their African families and will remain in contact to follow –up with their families, as appropriate.
- ❑ Volunteers must pass criminal background checks and may be fingerprinted.

Contact information for all RISE Family Literacy Program questions:

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