

WELCOMING CENTERS

What is a Welcoming Center?

The Illinois Welcoming Centers (IWC) are a network of 34 full-service locations across the state, offering free, comprehensive support services to all immigrants and refugees in Illinois—regardless of immigration status.

What to Expect:

- Personalized case management and support in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.
- Assistance accessing benefits and services from state, federal, and local social service agencies.
- Development of Community Alliances to improve service coordination and strengthen local support networks.
- Community education workshops to empower and inform immigrant and refugee communities.

List of welcoming centers: [IDHS: Illinois Welcoming Center \(IWC\)](#)

FOOD RESOURCES

Illinois offers a variety of programs to help individuals and families access nutritious food.

Food Pantries and Kitchens

Community organizations and food banks operate across the state. You can locate a nearby pantry using resources like [Feeding Illinois](#).

SNAP Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides monthly funds to help eligible individuals buy groceries.

- To apply: Visit ABE.Illinois.gov
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HEALTH RESOURCES

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

FQHCs offer medical services on a sliding fee scale based on income, regardless of insurance status.

- Find a clinic: findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov

These clinics are available throughout Illinois and offer services including medical, dental, and behavioral health care.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

If you or someone you know is facing a mental health or substance use crisis, call or text **988** anytime.

- Available 24/7
 - Free and confidential
 - Support for individuals, loved ones, and caregivers
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IMMIGRATION RESOURCES

If your loved one has been detained by ICE, **The Resurrection Project** offers a form to collect key details about the detention. This form serves as documentation and helps the organization respond effectively. Once submitted, they typically provide resources and support within 1–2 business days.

[Detained Loved One Form](#)

Illinois Access to Justice Network

This network provides high-quality legal services in communities across Illinois. Services include help with:

- Immigration matters
- Criminal, civil, and administrative legal issues

Contact for Legal Help:

☎ 1-888-708-6-A2J

Cook County Immigration assistance

The Immigration Division of the Cook County Public Defender's Office works to protect noncitizen clients from deportation. It assists public defenders in identifying potential immigration consequences of criminal cases and suggests alternative resolutions. Additionally, the division's attorneys represent noncitizens in proceedings before the Chicago Immigration Court.

[Immigration Division | Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender](#)

Illinois Immigration assistance

A complete guide to help immigrant communities in Illinois understand their rights and connect with essential services.

[IL IMMIGRATION INFO | Know Your Rights](#)

ICIRR Family Support Hotline

Need Support?

Call the **Family Support Hotline** for assistance:

1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY

(1-855-435-7693)

Support available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Polish

⇨ *Hotline Call Options Include:*

- Reporting **Trust Act** violations
- Reporting **ICE activity** or getting help locating someone in ICE custody
- Connecting with an **immigration attorney**
- Assistance with **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**
- Accessing **healthcare resources** for immigrants and refugees
- Updates on **public charge** policies
- Support with **workplace rights, issues, or safety** for immigrants
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Illinois Immigration Information Hub

illinoisimmigrationinfo.org

Rights Information: Offers “Know Your Rights” materials like wallet cards and flyers.

Legal Help: Provides hotline support and legal aid contacts for detained individuals.

Safety Prep: Includes guides on ICE preparedness, emergency plans, and fraud prevention.

Multilingual: Available in over 10 languages for broad accessibility.

Community-Backed: Created by Illinois immigrant rights groups and local government partners.