

# REFUGEE WORKS

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

## REFUGEE WORKS

### E-NEWSLETTER

April 2009 (Vol. 2, Issue 8)

## NEWS

Make plans now to attend the National Conference on Recertification in East Lansing, Michigan. The first of its kind, this conference will focus on the specific issues related to professional retraining, job-seeking and recertification for refugees resettling in the United States.

--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/conference>

## CITIZENSHIP

New Resources for Citizenship Educators

ProLiteracy and the Verizon Foundation have posted a new set of FREE up-to-date resources for citizenship teachers, tutors, and advocates. The collection includes a series of self-paced on-line courses that explain how to prepare students for the civics test, the literacy test, and the interview.

--> <http://tinyurl.com/ctde4v>

## CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Muslim Americans: A National Portrait. An in-depth analysis of America's most diverse religious community. (The Muslim West Facts Project, 2009)

--> <http://www.muslimwestfacts.com/mwf/File/116074/AmericanMuslimReport.pdf>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Federal Assets for Independence (AFI) Program is offering grant funds for asset-building programs nationwide that provide low-income individuals and families with tools they need for long-term economic success. Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, AFI offers five-year grants of up to \$1,000,000 to non-profits and State, local and Tribal government agencies. The average grant is approximately \$350,000

--> Applications are due June 25, 2009

--> [www.acf.hhs.gov/assetbuilding](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/assetbuilding) (webinars)

--> [info@idaresources.org](mailto:info@idaresources.org) or 1-866-778-6037 (contact)

New Resources for Community Services Block Grant. The \$1 billion in new funds under the Recovery Act is in addition to CSBG's regular annual operating budget of approximately \$700 million. To see a state-by-state description of CSBG Recovery Act funding visit:

--> <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/acf/csbmap.html>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families Open Grants

--> <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open.html>

## GREEN JOBS

A New Safety Net for Working Families: Green Jobs and Low-Wage Workers (The Urban Institute, April 21, 2009)

--> <http://www.urban.org/events/other2/greenjobs.cfm> (audio recording)

From Motor City to Garden City (Planetizen, April 27, 2009)

--> <http://www.planetizen.com/node/38482>

Green Jobs Recovery Act resources, up-to-the-minute. Contact Green for All to learn more about new resources, or to ask questions about leveraging the recovery for green-collar jobs in your community.

--> <http://www.GreenForAll.org/Recovery> (web)

--> [recoveryactions@greenforall.org](mailto:recoveryactions@greenforall.org) (contact)

Going Green - The Vital Role of Community Colleges in Building a Sustainable Future and Green Workforce (The National Council for Workforce Education and the Academy for Educational Development, 2008)

--> <http://www.ncwe.org/documents/GoingGreen.pdf>

Green Job Training Grant Opportunity: The U.S. Department of Labor will be releasing solicitations for grants through this program by June 30th. Now is the time to put yourself in the best possible position to receive funding (Green for All, April 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/dey7rt> (website and video)

Through gardening, refugees plant seeds of self-reliance (The Salt Lake Tribune, April 29, 2009)

--> [http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_12258174](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_12258174)

### **JOB TRAINING**

Steadier Footing. Common Ground program provides refugee job training (Boise Weekly, March 25, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/cb6fxa>

### **HOUSING**

"New Roots in Common Ground," a 55 minute DVD featuring peer-to-peer housing advice from refugee families and interviews with landlords and public safety officers. DVD includes voiceovers in Arabic, Burmese, English, French, Kiswahili, Somali and Spanish (Mercy Housing, 2008). To order a copy, contact Scott Robbins, at:

--> [refugeehouseinfo@mercyhousing.org](mailto:refugeehouseinfo@mercyhousing.org)

--> <http://www.refugeehouse.org/publications.htm>

New Roots in Common Ground Discussion and Activity Guide (Mercy Housing, 2008)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/dgzm2k>

### **LANGUAGE**

Survey: Newcomers face workplace language barrier. Companies see need for more English training (Utica Observer-Dispatch, April 13, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/dkle9e>

Empowered through English- ESL on Long Island

--> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSi2uTGEFp8> (video)

### **LEGAL ISSUES**

Immigration Agents to Turn Focus to Employers (The New York Times, April 30, 2009)

--> <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/30/us/politics/30immig.html?hp>

### **RECESSION**

Economic recession makes life harder for refugees (The Syracuse Post Standard, April 20, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/dyonq4>

Nursing Program Helps Refugees Get Out Of Poverty (Oregon Public Broadcasting, March 31, 2009)  
--> <http://tinyurl.com/clxn2d/>

Refugees find pursuit of economic security derailed by recession (Catholic News Service, April 9, 2009)  
--> <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0901636.htm>

Refugee and immigrant programs receive boost. Community Welcome centers will help integrate newcomers into community (The Salt Lake Tribune, April 26, 2009)  
--> [http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_12228855](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_12228855)

Safe, but not secure: Iraqi refugees struggle to make it in Silicon Valley (The San Jose Mercury News, April 18, 2009)  
--> <http://tinyurl.com/cjakhp>

### **PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS**

Previous e-newsletters are now available for download from our website. The archive can be found in the section "RefugeeWorks E-Newsletter," at:  
--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/about/publications.html>

### **CONTACT US**

Please visit our web site at <http://www.refugeeworks.org>

RefugeeWorks is the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement's training and technical assistance arm for employment and self-sufficiency activities. Submit newsletter contributions to [dsturm@refugeeworks.org](mailto:dsturm@refugeeworks.org)

Would you like to hear about new RefugeeWorks resources and Web site feature each month by email? To sign up for the RefugeeWorks E-Newsletter, visit our subscription page at:  
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