

## **Volunteer Opportunity Community Orientation Workshops Classroom Assistant**

Community Orientation Workshops, a new initiative developed in partnership between Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services and the International Institute of Minnesota, provide life skills education for people with humanitarian protection immigrant status and who have been in the U.S. less than five years. Individual workshops cover such topics as transportation and community resources, job readiness, financial literacy, health literacy, education and family adjustment, and are designed to assist adults in their transition to life in the U.S.

Workshops are open to those of all English levels and are conducted by a lead teacher. Professional interpretation is provided as needed. The range of learning and variety of content provide volunteers with an opportunity for meaningful engagement and relationship building with participants.

Workshops take place in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Coon Rapids. Volunteers choose the site which works best for them.

### **Volunteer Profile:**

- Enthusiasm, flexibility, and a desire to listen, talk, and learn with New Americans
- Good communication skills
- Experience working with diverse populations helpful but not required
- Experience teaching or tutoring adult learners helpful but not required

### **Primary Duties:**

- Work with individuals or small groups on reinforcement of particular skills or topics as directed by the lead teacher

### **Time Commitment:**

- 9:30am – 1:00pm once a week
- 3-month minimum preferred

### **Days of the week with locations:**

- **Tuesdays** – St. Paul Eastside YMCA, *875 Arcade Street, St Paul, MN 55106*
- **Wednesdays** – Emma B. Howe YMCA, *8950 Springbrook Drive NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433*
- **Thursdays** – Blaisdell YMCA, *3335 Blaisdell Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408*
- **Fridays** – International Institute of Minnesota, *1694 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108*
- **TBD** – Minnesota Council of Churches, *122 W. Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404*

**To Apply:** Please fill out and submit this [volunteer application](#).

**Training:** Volunteers attend a general orientation session focused on topics such as the global refugee crisis, the U.S. resettlement program, immigrant demographics in Minnesota, working with diverse populations, ways to advocate for immigrants as well as specific training for their particular role.

Volunteers are also encouraged to attend a Minnesota Literacy Council volunteer training session. This four-session, 12-hour training will provide you with the skills and information you needed in the classroom. Please note that there is a \$35 materials fee. All who attend will receive a Minnesota Literacy Council Volunteer Handbook, which provides engaging and effective teaching and tutoring techniques. Please visit the Minnesota Literacy Council website for additional information.

<https://mnliteracy.org/volunteers/training>