

AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN CULTURAL & RESOURCE CENTER



DESCRIPTION

A full-service center for racially marginalized immigrants to create a safe space for those of the African and Caribbean Diaspora to assist in their integration into the Evanston community.

NEED

A safe space for African & Caribbean immigrants to receive language translation services and reduce barriers to integration into the community. Also, to provide a multicultural understanding within the community and create an archive of the lives and experiences of Black immigrants in Evanston.

COST

\$628,500

CO-SPONSORS

Haitian Community Organization, Evanston Cricket Club, Shorefront Legacy Center, Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti

OUTCOME

Create a welcoming go-to location for opportunities to learn, build bonds, and streamline services for newly arrived and existing immigrants in Evanston.

SOLUTION

With French/Creole and Arabic translators (verbal and written), this Center will help many Evanston residents, immigrants, and those growing up in America to learn and grow while maintaining a safe space for fellowship that also creates opportunities for cultural exchange.

FEASIBILITY

This is feasible because similar services are offered at the Family Focus Welcome Center, but they cannot address the needs of this specific population. Having case managers (that can speak Creole, French, & Arabic) offer guidance and outreach to the target population and will allow individuals to utilize the services offered. We will also apply for grants to aid in the center's sustainability.

IMPLEMENTATION

Through partnerships with existing organizations, the African and Caribbean Cultural Resource Center will build on the existing foundation to elevate the services and address the language barriers of newly arrived and existing immigrants in Evanston.

OUR RESEARCH

Many African and Caribbean immigrants feel unwelcome when they attempt to receive services to assist in their integration and/or need assistance overall. There is an anti-Black sentiment that many of these immigrants face in the community.

AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN DIASPORA AFFINITY COMMITTEE

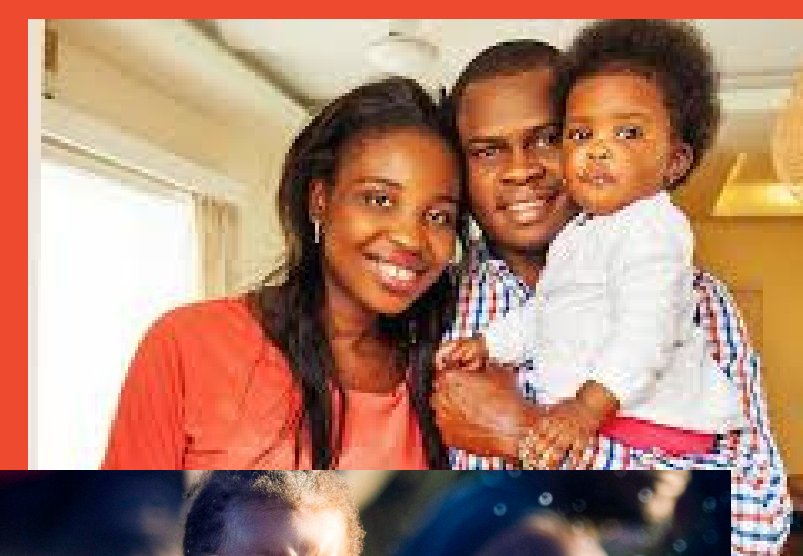
An Affinity Committee comprised of African and Caribbean diaspora community members who are passionate about building bridges for immigrants and bringing new services never tried in Evanston.

EMERGENCY REFUGEE HOUSING

DESCRIPTION The Housing proposal focuses on providing assistance to accessible housing to migrants/refugees and the underserved residents of Evanston.

NEED Evanston reaffirmed its status as a Welcoming City and District 65 passing declarations as a “safe haven” for immigrant students. Evanston will also have a stake in Chicago migratory patterns. We need a plan to assist our migrant demographic.

COST \$645,000



CO-SPONSORS Evanston Welcome Center, Family Focus, Evanston Cricket Club and the Haitian Community Organization, Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti

OUTCOME Assist 10-15 Evanston citizens seeking asylum, holding refugee status, or grantees of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) with obtaining legal housing.

SOLUTION Partner with the City of Evanston Health and Human Services department and with RefugeeOne, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides resettlement and workforce development services to migrants. This will create self-sustaining housing for new and existing migrants.

FEASIBILITY The Illinois Department of Public Health has implemented 30 Immigrant Welcoming Centers (IWCs). These existing models would be implemented in Evanston with a focus on serving Immigrant populations not currently served in Evanston. In partnership with connections for the homeless, six refugee families were provided housing in 2022

IMPLEMENTATION Use ARPA funds to partner with a qualified 501(c)(3) organization(s) to provide assistance. This maximizes efficiency, and cost, and promotes a sustainable initiative.

OUR RESEARCH The city of Evanston does not have the resources available to serve migrant trends, which are increasing for individuals that speak French, Arabic, and Creole. The lack of a plan will worsen homelessness. Facilitating assimilation will reduce these concerns.

EMERGENCY REFUGEES HOUSING COMMITTEE

An Affinity Committee dedicated to providing emergency services for housing for refugees, asylum seekers, and TSP grantees in Evanston.