



Center for New Americans Job Description

Position Title: Health & Wellness Instructor
Department: Refugee Resettlement
Reports To: Kari Liberatore, R & P Coordinator/ICM
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Agency Mission

“InterFaith Works, through education, service, and dialogue, affirms the dignity of each person and every faith community, and seeks to build relationships and understanding among us.”

Agency Vision Statement

“InterFaith Works builds bridges of understanding to affirm the dignity of all people in Central New York. Working with the different faith communities and the diversity of the region’s people, we address deeply embedded social divisions. Informed and influenced by the values and ethics of the faith traditions, we work with the community to find common ground on its issues. Using the tools of interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue, we create life-changing experiences that lead to actions for the creation of a more equitable and loving community.”

Overview to the Program Area

InterFaith Works’ Center for New Americans (CNA) has been in operation for almost 30 years, resettling newly arriving refugees from areas of the world where war, conflict, and political repression have forced mass relocation of people across the border of their homeland. Refugees are annually certified by the United Nations, and accepted by the US government, then settled in 60 communities across the county, Syracuse being one of these. CNA provides support for the first 90-days and meets the refugee/family at the airport, secures and furnishes an affordable apartment, provides immediate spending cash, food, and safety training, then assists the refugee/family in enrolling in school to learn English, in getting connected to medical services, and in preparing for and securing employment. Additional services beyond the 90-days are provided for refugees depending on grant funding for a variety of issues such as citizenship, intensive employment support, integration into neighborhoods, medical and mental health case management, and family literacy. CNA also works to help newly forming ethnic community based organizations establish themselves to support the newly arriving refugees.

Position Summary:

This position will promote wellness in our newly-arrived refugee population through a variety of modalities. The position will plan and coordinate wellness classes targeting specific health topics such as food safety, stress management, personal safety, women’s health, children’s health, dental health, and how to access affordable health insurance. The instructor will work closely with the private Marketplace Facilitated Enrollers who partner with our agency to ensure that all of our clients are able to access quality, affordable health insurance for which they qualify.

The *Health & Wellness Instructor* will work with *Reception & Placement (R&P)* caseworkers to identify families who may need extra cultural orientation and mentoring regarding personal health and wellness after the 90-day mark. She/he will make referrals to the refugee mental health specialist and the medical intensive case manager when he/she identifies cases and individuals who need additional support.

Qualifications:

Individual should have experience in case management and refugee resettlement; high level of initiative and creativity; proven ability to be an effective communicator; ability to handle a variety of tasks and responsibilities simultaneously and effectively; ability to work with diverse groups of people with diplomacy and discretion; and the ability to work with language interpreters.

Additionally:

- An associate's or bachelor's degree is preferred.
- Must have a valid New York state driver's license and reliable transportation.
- Bilingual or multilingual capability beneficial, with preference for a current or projected refugee caseload language (Arabic, Burmese, Chin, Kachin, Karin, Dari, Pashtu, Kinyarwanda, Spanish, and Swahili)
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Windows, Word, and Excel is expected.

Essential Functions:

- Attend all of the trainings that OTDA/BRIA coordinates for the Refugee Health Promotion including Certified Application Counselor, Mental Health First Aid, and Substance Abuse Prevention Skills trainings.
- Conduct home visits to refugees who are beyond the 90-day resettlement period to check on their adjustment and their experiences accessing health care and health care coverage in our community.
- Plan and coordinate wellness classes for refugees. This includes finding speakers on various topics, arranging necessary transportation for clients, and providing appropriate translation.
- Develop and maintain relationships with other service providers such as the Refugee Assistance Program, Catholic Charities, health care providers, and government agencies.
- Assist in advocating for and raising the visibility of the refugees in the Syracuse community.
- Immediately report emergencies, serious difficulties and potential problems with clients, other service providers, and staff to Program Director.
- Work collegially with other IFW staff, interns, and volunteers. Participate as a team member in staff meetings, case staff meetings, and all staff activities.
- Other duties as assigned

This position is currently a 12 hour/week position.

To apply for this position, please send cover letter and resume to:

mbowles@interfaithworkscny.org