



Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Louisville
Elder Program ESL Teacher
(part-time, 8 hours per week)

Summary

The Louisville Refugee Elder Program serves refugees ages 60 and over with learning English, cultural orientation, and preparing for U.S. citizenship. The program meets twice a week for classroom instruction. Activities such as art classes, fitness sessions, one-on-one mentoring, and field trips are also offered. The program serves all refugees residing in Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Refugee elders face a unique set of challenges compared to their American or younger counterparts. Many continue to live near or below the poverty threshold even after resettlement support. Assistance from government programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is crucial in allowing these elders to meet their basic needs. Due to federal law, SSI recipients must become U.S. Citizens between within 7 years of applying for and becoming eligible for monthly benefits. Without SSI benefits elderly refugees have no source of income or are entirely reliant on family members or friends for financial support.

Obtaining citizenship before the seven year mark, while crucial, is challenging for many refugee elders. Many elders who resettle in the U.S. are illiterate in their own language. Physical and psychological traumas are common among this demographic and pose further barriers to learning English.

The Elder Program teacher ensures high quality instruction to a group of 5 to 10 refugees who are over the age of 60. Students come from different backgrounds including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, and more. Classes meet twice a week from 10 am to 12 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Highland United Methodist Church.

The instructor will concentrate on teaching civics and English skills. Areas of focus would be civics topics (100 questions), N-400 vocabulary and grammar, reading and writing for the USCIS Interview, English vocabulary and conversation, speaking and small talk skills, and listening and following commands. The instructor would use resources like the Oxford Picture Dictionary, English Made Easy, USCIS beginner and intermediate curriculum, USCIS 100 citizenship questions, and teacher made handouts. Elders will be placed in this beginning/lower intermediate class based on English proficiency level. When the above competencies have been mastered, the student will be ready to graduate up to the

intermediate/advanced class, which combines further English skills study with more intensive study of the civics material required for the naturalization exam/interview.

Essential Duties and Tasks

- Teach the beginning/lower intermediate ESL Class. Class meets twice a week (Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm) except 1-2 days per month when the program coordinator has arranged a speaker or field trip
- Prepare weekly lesson plans, handouts, and monthly objectives
- Participate in staff meeting on the first Tuesday of the month to discuss classroom and individual student progress
- Communicate with the Elder Program coordinator regarding when a student is ready to move up to the next class
- Work with volunteers to facilitate classroom instruction and provide one on one learning for individual elders

Job Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Experience teaching
- High level of patience
- Ability to relate well to older adults
- Interest in people of other cultures
- Strong computer skills

Specialized Skills

- Ability to work with clients of diverse nationalities and cultures
- Care and concern for the unique experiences of refugees ages 60 and over
- Teaching experience and classroom management skills, particularly the ability to teach a multi-level class of limited-English-proficient clients
- Ability to integrate volunteers into program to improve client support and effectiveness of instruction
- Ability to multi-task and be detail-oriented and organized
- Team oriented: ability to work in coordination and close collaboration with program and agency staff
- Self-motivated: ability to develop and implement new and innovative projects
- Demonstrated capability to effectively communicate orally and in writing

Agency Profile

Founded in 1990 as a nonprofit agency in Louisville, Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM) is a local affiliate of Church World Service, one of nine national voluntary agencies authorized to provide resettlement services to refugees legally admitted to the United States through the State Department's Refugee Admissions Program. KRM's Lexington office was opened in 1995.

KRM Louisville also currently serves Cuban immigrants a year, as well as small number of individuals from various countries who have been approved for asylum and those applying for asylum.

KRM secures housing and medical care for refugees and provides them with comprehensive case management including employment services, ESL and cultural orientation, and specialized programs for refugee youth and elders and the arts. KRM also offers citizenship classes for refugees and immigrants preparing to apply for U.S. citizenship. KRM's Louisville immigration legal services office has six full-time staff, including three attorneys, who provide services to immigrants of all statuses.

KRM staff does not engage in any religious messaging in connection to delivery of client services.

Hours, Compensation and Benefits

This part-time position is up to eight hours per week, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Hourly pay rate commensurate with experience and background. No benefits.

To Apply

Interested applicants should send a résumé and cover letter to—

John Koehlinger
Executive Director
Kentucky Refugee Ministries
969-B Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204
Email: jkoehlinger@kyrm.org

Close date for applications is Friday, February 8. Those who have previously applied for a position at KRM are eligible to reapply. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.