



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

AMMPARO

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities

Migration from Central America to the United States is not a new phenomenon, and the ELCA, 18 synods, congregations, companion churches and service partners have been deeply engaged in 19 efforts to protect, care for and welcome Central Americans seeking safety for decades. There has been a pattern of unaccompanied children from Mexico and Central America coming to the U.S. over the past decade.

AMMPARO Resource Directory for Immigrant and Asylum Seeker Needs

General:

Organizations that provide support and assistance in a variety of services and programs

Alliance for Chicano, Hispanic and Latino (ACHLA)

<https://www.achla-mn.com/>

Website is in both Espanol and English

To empower Chicanos, Hispanics, and Latino Americans to participate in

enriching the quality of life for all people in the Rochester area through:

- **Educational opportunities**
- **Civic engagement**
- Community-Wide partnerships and collaborations
- **Cultural exchange**

Building capacity within the Chicano, Hispanic, and Latino American community.

Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES)

<https://clues.org/services/>

Website in English and Español

111 Main St. Austin MN 55912

(507)355-2575

mmartinez@clues.org

CLUES programs provide our participants with access to resources and opportunities to be healthier, prosperous and engaged in their communities. We package services across program areas to address the diverse and interrelated barriers faced by our community and provide supports that focus on the whole person and whole families. Our culturally and linguistically relevant model **connects individuals' strengths to**

new skills with the goal of promoting long-term wellness and prosperity.

Diversity Council

<https://www.diversitycouncil.org>

(507)282-9951

Resources for seventeen different cultural groups are listed under the **"Resources" tab** – Cultural Groups. Resources for Religious Groups, LGBTQ, and other groups are also listed.

Families First

Offices in Rochester (507)287-2020;

Albert Lea (855)588-2056;

Mankato (507)923-8524

Programs for Parents for child care resources and Providers

Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County (Spanish and English)

Hispanicoutreach.org

(605)301-2184 Red Wing, MN

55066

Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County provides programs and services that strengthen the Hispanic Community contribution to Goodhue County while growing Hispanic cultural awareness. HOGC provides assistance to Hispanic individuals in the areas of housing, safety and transportation; interpretation and accompaniment; translation; completion of forms; notarial services; advocacy; and emergency financial assistance.

Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association (IMAA)

<http://lmaa.net>

(507)289-5960

Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association (IMAA) fosters the well-being and independence of refugees and

immigrants who have resettled in the Rochester and surrounding areas through its programs including victim services, employment, community health worker, immigration, interpretation, and translation.

Offering monthly clinics on immigration, legal assistance, criminal advocacy in partnership with Legal Assistance of Olmsted Co.

Interpretive services in over 30 languages

Minnesota Council of Latino Affairs

Mn.gov/mcla/community/resources

658 Cedar Street; Ste. G-56;

St. Paul MN 55155

mcla.desk@state.mn.us

Community Resources

A list of local and national organizations which offer services or resources related to community, advocacy, policy, or research. Many of these organizations offer resources relevant to Latino communities.

Project FINE

<https://www.projectfine.org/>

Project FINE has been serving refugees and immigrants in Winona County and the surrounding area since 1990. They offer a variety of services to both newcomers and established residents and work closely with over 60 community partners to provide information and access to resources.

Rochester International Association (RIA)

Ria-minnesota.org

RIA is a non-profit organization that

celebrates cultural diversity and provides opportunities for multicultural education and exchange. RIA supports the Rochester Community & Technical College Foundation by annually awarding two international student scholarships. RIA hosts the annual World Festival, and in the past has co-hosted with the Mayor's International Committee a Summer Picnic and a Thanksgiving Dinner. RIA works with the Rochester Public Library and other organizations to bring movies which have cultural, social justice and educational themes.

Somali Community Resettlement Services

Somalcrs.org

Offices in Faribault; Rochester; Minneapolis

SCRS mission is to promote and advance the social well-being and welfare of immigrants and refugees by providing much needed community and resettlement services, with the

ultimate goal of building a vibrant community whose members can successfully settle and effectively integrate into the wider American community. SCRS was formed by a volunteer network of Somali refugees to directly respond to the needs of Somali refugees and immigrants. Programs include resettlement, health, employment.

Winona Sheltering Network

<https://winonashelter.org/>

Winona Sheltering Network invites congregations to become or support a Sheltering Congregation or Partner in Winona, Minnesota. The decision to join takes courage and is not to be taken lightly. The more congregations, groups, and individuals that join the Winona Sheltering Network, the safer it will be for everyone involved. Winona Sheltering Network is open to helping others learn more about this effort and is a resource for other related immigration needs.

AMMPARO Initiative Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.
<https://www.elca.org/ammparo>

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.

The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA's strate-

gy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,
("God is our refuge and strength,")

— PSALM 46:1

Medical – Resources

Southeastern Minnesota

Olmsted County Public Health

<http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us> for a comprehensive listing of all health related services in Olmsted County Minnesota - Search: Community Connections/ Immigrant Health

Listing of "known" Migrant and

Undocumented Friendly

Health Services:

Center Clinic – 14 West Main St., Dodge Center MN 55927 507-633-9200

Llame a Center Clinic – 14 West Main St., Dodge Center MN

Los horarios de la Clinica son:
507-633-9200

Good Samaritan,

Migrant Health Services –
Salvation Army Free Clinic –

General medical for adults/pediatric/eye/diabetes/respirator/hypertension/psychiatry and psychology - call for appointment 507-529-4100
Olmsted County Public Health Services
507-328-7500

Planned Parenthood – Exams, tests, birth control for women and men-507-288-5186

Rochester ALC – Alternative Learning Center-secondary school-pregnant students-507-328-3999

Owatonna - Free Clinic of Steele County
134 Southview Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

Call for appointment 507-633-9200
Community Health Services at the Heintz Center, Rochester-Christine Hernandez. 507-529-0503.

Minnesota Community Health

Worker Alliance (MN CHW)

info@mnchwalliance.org
Bloomington MN 55425

MN CHW is a nonprofit organization committed to healthier communities for all. MN CHW serves as a convener,

catalyst, expert, and resource on integrating community health worker strategies with a goal for better health and better care at lower cost.

Legal Resources

Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense (SMIILD)

<https://www.smiild.org/>

Smiild2019@gmail.com

Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense (SMIILD) is a non-profit organization that works with two other nonprofits (Advocates for Human Rights and Immigrant Law Center) to secure assistance for immigrants from several Southeastern Minnesota counties needing legal help. SMIILD can help individuals detained by and in ICE custody.

The Advocates for Human Rights (SMIILD Partner)

<https://theadvocatesforhumanrights.org>

(612)341-9845 (+16123411985)

The Advocates for Human Rights provides free legal assistance to low income asylum seekers, including those in detention; information and resources on immigrant rights.

Immigrant Law Center (ILC) of Minnesota (SMIILD Partner)

<https://www.ilcm.org/>

Client intake: 1-800-223-1368 (see website for intake hours)

Priority case phone: (651)641-1011

Immigrant Law Center (ILC) provides no-cost legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees of all nationalities living in Minnesota.

Areas of assistance: DACA Renewals; U Visa / VAWA/ Removal of Conditions based on abuse; U Visa adjustments; Special immigrant Juvenile Status; Naturalization; Temporary Protected Status; Refugee adjustments.

Southern Minnesota Legal Services Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Services

<http://www.smrls.org>

To get help: 1-888-575-2954

or apply online

450 N. Syndicate St, Suite 285,
St. Paul MN 55104

Southern Minnesota Legal Services (SMRLS) Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Services provides immigration services to low-income clients in the east Twin Cities metro and southern Minnesota. Services include naturalization, adjustment of status (family and refugee/asylee), U Visa, VAWA, visa petitions for spouses and minor children, and replacement of lost/stolen/expired immigration documents.

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) / Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services (LIRS)
<https://www.lssmn.org/services/refugees/services>
<https://www.lssmn.org>
(612)227-7865 or (612)442-5210
Lutheran Social Services (LSSMN) Minnesota serves Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services (LIRS) for Minnesota. Immigration Legal Services are provided *for a nominal fee* to help refugees, asylees and other immigrants living in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud complete immigration documents – including filings for United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Permanent Resident, Naturalization, Employment Authorization, and family visa applications.

Due to the complexity of the immigration process, LSS Refugee Services provides free consultation and screening services during walk-in hours every Tuesday at the Minneapolis office and every Wednesday at the St. Cloud office.

Immigration Advocates Network (IAN)
<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legal>
The Immigration Advocates Network (IAN), is a program of Pro Bono Net (www.probono.net) and is dedicated to expanding access to immigration legal resources and information through collaboration and technology. IAN was **created in 2007 by leading immigrants' rights organizations**, to increase access to justice for low income immigrants and strengthen the capacity of organizations serving them.

Minnesota Detention Project
http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/detained_immigrants
(612)341-9845
The Minnesota Detention Project is a collaboration between The Advocates for Human Rights and the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. Since 2001, the Detention Project has provided legal representation accessible for the majority of immigrants detained by ICE in Minnesota .

Minnesota Freedom Fund
<http://minnesotafreedomfund.org>
Info@mnfreedomfund.org
The Minnesota Freedom Fund pays criminal bail and immigration bond for those who cannot afford to as we seek to end discriminatory, coercive, and oppressive jailing.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid – Immigration Law Project
<http://www.mylegalaid.org>
(612)334-5970 (Minneapolis intake line). This organization has offices in Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Cloud and Willmar. Minnesota Legal Aid offers free civil legal assistance to low-income people in many areas of law such as: evictions and landlord abuse, foreclosure rights, public and Section 8 housing, housing discrimination, denial of public benefits, divorce, child custody and support, domestic abuse, disability, debt collection and unfair loans, immigration, and youth and elder-related issues.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
<https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights>
Through litigation with nationwide impact, advocacy, and public outreach, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) protects the rights and liberties of immigrants. Information on resources for immigrants.
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM)
<https://www.interfaithimmigration.org>
Advocates for fair, just and humane immigration practices, laws and policies.

Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services
<https://www.mnchurches.org>
(612)870-3600
Mcc@mnchurches.org
*Walk-in hours for immigration questions and to set up appointments:
Thursdays 1 – 4 p.m.
Initial applications, family reunification, adjustment of status for green card and citizenship as well as other immigration services.*

FOOD ASSISTANCE
<https://www.foodpantries.org/st/minnesota>
There are dozens of food pantries, food shelves, soup kitchens and food banks in the state of Minnesota. This website lists many of the known food shelves/pantries *by city.*
<https://www.helpingfeedpeople.org/agencies/>
<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/northern/rochester/>

Channel One Food Shelf Eligibility
The Food Shelf follows The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) eligibility guidelines. We serve households who are at or below 300% of the poverty level. I am eligible to receive TEFAP commodity food because:

I am in Minnesota and my household income is 300% or less of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

I am also eligible if I receive or participate in the following services and programs: MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program), Child Care Assistance, GA (General Assistance), Head Start, SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program), Section 8, NAPS (Nutritional Assistance Program for Seniors), Public Housing, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), Energy Assistance, Free or reduced breakfast and lunch, weatherization.

As a satellite location for the Channel **One Regional Food Bank, we're able** to distribute food to those in need. **We're open Tuesdays and Fridays** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 120 First St. NE, Rochester, MN

Participants can come once per month to pick up food, except during the summer months when two monthly visits are allowed.

Adult Basic Education (ABE) in Minnesota / English as a Second Language
<https://www.esldirectory.com/esl-program-search/usa/minnesota/>
<https://www.literacymn.org/classesforadults>

Adult Basic Education (ABE) is a state-wide system that serves adults who are working towards a high school credential, learning English, improving basic skills such as literacy and math, and/or preparing for post-secondary education or employment. ABE is funded with both federal and state funds, and services are delivered through a network of 39 consortia comprising all Minnesota school districts as well as other partners including the correctional system and community-based organizations. The mission of ABE in Minnesota is to provide adults with educational opportunities to acquire and improve the literacy skills needed to become self-sufficient and to participate effectively as productive workers, family members, and citizens.

Statistics and Impact
In program year 2019-2020, approximately 56,000 individuals were served in ABE programs across the state. These students accrued more than 4 million contact hours.

More statistics and information about ABE in Minnesota can be found on this [Overview of ABE](#) document.

For a detailed look at the impact of ABE across the state, access the [ABE Impact Report](#).

Eligibility

To be eligible for ABE, an individual must be: age 17 or older and not enrolled in or required to be enrolled in any school in the K-12 system

And must meet one or both of the following criteria: lacks a secondary (high school) credential functions below the 12th grade level in any of the basic academic areas including reading, math, and ability to read, write and understand English.

ABE Sites within 50 miles of Owatonna and within 20 Miles of Fairmont

Adult Literacy Hotline <https://hotline.mnabe.org/> (Can plug in city and distance from to find programs within that area).

15. Blue Earth Faribault County ABE Blue Earth Minnesota Hawthorn Education Center Rochester Minnesota (507)328-4440 <https://www.rochester.org/hawthorne> <https://www.care.com/spanish-tutors/rochester-mn> (lists for hire tutors)

16. Clothing

Nearly every town and city has some kind of thrift or second hand store that sells clothing. Some churches **also have a “clothes closet” and / or** provide clothing assistance as needed. Those listed here are specific to Rochester.

Goodwill

239 28th St SE & 1987 Scott Road NW Rochester 281-9651 & 424-1860

Savers

1201 South Broadway Rochester

Thrift on 5th

400 5th Ave SW Rochester 289-4019

17. Housing Emergency Shelter

Family Promise

Salvation Army

	City	Program/Site	
1	Owatonna	Owatonna — Owatonna Adult Learning Center	
2	Faribault	Faribault Education Center — Faribault Adult Education	14.2
3	Faribault	ThinkSelf — Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf	14.7
4	Northfield	Farmington-Northfield — Northfield	24.8
5	Albert Lea	Albert Lea Adult Learning Center	30.1
6	Austin	Austin Adult Learning — Riverland Community College	30.7
7	Rochester	Rochester Adult and Family Literacy Program — Hawthorne Education Center	38.5
8	Prior Lake	SouthWest Metro — Prior Lake	44.7
9	Apple Valley	Rosemount-AV-Eagan — Cedar Valley Learning Center	45.3
10	Apple Valley	Rosemount-AV-Eagan — Dakota Valley Learning Center	45.5
11	Red Wing	Hiawatha Valley Adult Education — Lake City	47
12	Red Wing	Hiawatha Valley Adult Education — Red Wing	47
13	Burnsville	Burnsville — 191 School for Adults Burnsville-Eagan-Savage	47.6
14	Hastings	Hastings Adult Basic Education — Tilden Community Center	48.8

Emergency Rent Assistance
St. Vincent de Paul Fund (Assisi Heights?)

18. Foreclosure and Eviction Prevention Services

19. Worship Services

Spanish

St. Francis Catholic Church

Rochester Minnesota

Iglesia Cristo Rey

(pastor Vargas)

Good Shepherd Church,
Rochester Minnesota
507-993-6063

<https://www.bethel-fairmont.org/>

Bethel Lutheran Church
Fairmont Minnesota



POINT PAPER

SUBJECT: ELCA SE MN Synod Border Immersion Visit Report

BACKGROUND: 9 individuals from the ELCA SE MN Synod traveled to El Paso, TX, and Las Cruces, NM, for a Border Immersion Visit hosted by the Border Servant Corps (BSC) from 1/25/2020-2/01/2020. The BSC is a mission of Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, NM, and is working at the Border to provide resources for immigrants and in education for visiting groups. Recent policies and changes in procedures by the U.S. have contributed to a worsening humanitarian crisis at the Border. Over 6 days, the Synod group met with a number of individuals, relief organizations, and governmental officials to try to get a better first-hand understanding of the current situation at the Border **as part of the ELCA's AMMPARO** strategy.

DISCUSSION: The group consensus was that it is understood that we need to have border security and enforceable regulations, but that the U.S. Immigration System and the accompanying laws are outmoded, underfunded, fundamentally inhumane, enforced unequally, and in dire need of reform. We heard numerous first-person accounts of individual and family hardships imposed upon vulnerable populations seeking to come to this country for a better life for themselves and their families. The situation has been made considerably

worse by the current U.S administration's **"Zero Tolerance" and Migrant Protection Protocol** (Remain in Mexico) policies. I and the group feel strongly that true meaningful reform should come from the top on down, the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government that establishes policy and procedures. While many individuals and charitable organizations are working to mitigate the current human suffering on both sides of the border, the need for ongoing non-governmental assistance is huge. As people of faith, we feel called to action within the framework of the ELCA AMMPARO strategy and in keeping with the Biblical exhortation in Micah 6:8 to **"Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly"**.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Based on my experience during this visit, and after prayerful reflection, I am committed to the following courses of **action. I will...**

Pray: For those who are trying to come to this country seeking a better life for themselves and their families. I will also pray for those who are called to assist them.

Educate: Retell the stories that the SE MN Synod Group heard on their Border Immersion Visit to foster understanding of the plight of those who are trying to navigate the archaic and dysfunctional U.S. Immigration and legal system.

Donate: Individually or with my congregation, with funds and/or donations in kind to an active mission at the Border (BSC, Annunciation House, e.g.).

