

Helping Refugees Climb the Ladder to Success

The Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI, formerly IICONN), in collaboration with the The Unitarian Church in Westport Immigration and Refugee Outreach, is seeking Mentors for their refugee clients who are ready to develop their careers beyond entry level jobs. Having a better job not only benefits the client but also leads to a better quality of life for his or her whole family. However, climbing the ladder to success in a new country presents many challenges for the refugee.



Career Mentorship Program

This program is under the auspices of the Economic Empowerment Group at CIRI whose staff serve as Case Managers for the refugee clients.

Our volunteer Career Mentors can provide guidance such as in decision making, applying for financial assistance for education or training, etc. as well as providing emotional support when needed.

Whenever possible, the Career Mentor's expertise will be matched with the client's career goals. Prior to being assigned to a Career Mentor, clients will have Career Development Plans prepared in cooperation with their Economic Empowerment Group Case Manager.

Career Mentors will be asked to make a 6-month commitment to guide a client, meet with them once per week and attend monthly Career Mentoring Meetings with the Economic Empowerment Group at CIRI.

The Career Mentor Program will begin in March-April with clients being assigned to Career Mentors on a "rolling" basis as the clients are ready to take their next step and their Career Development Plans are available.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a Career Mentor and would like additional information about this program or have questions, please contact Stephen Polmar (stephen.polmar@gmail.com).