

The Center for Families welcomes all families, especially the growing number of immigrant families from Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Togo, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Gambia, and other West African countries. It helps our new neighbors make their way and their home in our community. The center respects each family's experience and offers services including job training, health screenings and referrals, mental health services, parent-child play groups to prepare preschoolers for learning, housing assistance, and much more.

Built by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, the center is a unique collaboration of public- and private-sector partners all helping Twin Cities families succeed. Below is a list of agencies offering services through the center:

Goodwill Easter Seals

Goodwill/Easter Seals offers a variety of job training services for adults (including ex-offenders) and youth through the Center for Families, including information sessions on industry-specific job training in automotive, banking, construction, and retail. Additionally, Goodwill/Easter Seals offers individual job counseling including assessment, resume writing, interviewing skills, tracking job leads, and job placement. It also offers support, follow-up and career advancement services once a participant is employed.

Episcopal Community Services

Episcopal Community Services, in partnership with the Center for Families, provides comprehensive, individualized services that focus on West African immigrants, new Americans, and other individuals and families who are committed to achieving self-sufficiency, enhancing their strengths and connecting with their community. Comprehensive case management addresses issues in the areas of housing, employment, family life, transportation and much more.

Neighborhood Involvement Program

The Neighborhood Involvement Program (N.I.P.) offers medical and dental services to the uninsured, affordable mental health services, educational programs for youth, and chores assistance for seniors. The Center for Families provides a home for N.I.P. staff working in mental health services and in youth and senior programs.

Way to Grow

Way to Grow holds "Pre-School Pals" on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to prepare young children for school and holds pre-natal and teen parenting classes for multi-cultural families.

Hennepin County

A Hennepin County worker is on site at the Center for Families on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to conduct application and recertification interviews for food and emergency assistance for families and single adults. The Hennepin County staff also provides application forms for the Minnesota health care programs. Staff may be able to respond to questions and troubleshoot issues for persons with an active Hennepin County assistance case.

McKinley Community

The McKinley Community is committed to improving the quality of life in our neighborhood. We are dedicated to the empowerment of all McKinley residents and the creation of successful partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and government agencies to effect positive change. We, as a community, will unite to cooperatively resolve our problems, celebrate our successes, and value our diversity.

Minnesota Institute for Nigerian Development (MIND)

MIND unites all Nigerians in Minnesota and works to support their social and economic issues.

Alive! Ministries

Alive! Ministries works to enrich marriages and reduce divorce in the Minneapolis area through education, training, coaching and reconciling.

Sierra Leone Community in Minnesota

The Sierra Leone Community in Minnesota is an umbrella organization which pools resources together to help smaller Sierra Leonean organizations in the Twin Cities area.

Additional Center for Families Partners

- African Challenges Corporation
- Anioma Cultural Association in Minnesota
- Anywaa Community Association in North America
- Bassa Dorkpah/UNIBOA MN Chapter
- Bong Kwatekeh Association II of Minnesota
- Bridge Builders 4 Life
- Build to Blend
- Capstone Experience, Inc.
- Center for Reflection & Action on Human Rights
- Community Access for New Immigrants and African Refugees
- Congregations Caring for Creation
- Crimson & Cream Foundation
- Eftin
- Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
- Gambian Association of Minnesota
- Ghanaian Association of Minnesota
- Guinea Association of Minnesota
- Halfway House for African Immigrants Recovering from Drug & Alcohol Addiction
- IPSII, Inc.
- L'Afrique Soccer League
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Minnesota Mandingo Association
- National Krao Association in the Americas
- Organization of Liberians in Minnesota
- Productive Women of Minnesota
- Senegalese Association of Minnesota
- Sierra Leone Community in Minnesota
- The Akwaaba Group, Inc.
- Togolese Community in Minnesota
- Togolese Youth in Action
- Umoja Society
- West African Mutual Aid Association

For more information contact the center for families:

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