

**Lutheran Community Services of Southern New England (LCSSNE)
Integrated CBO/Older Worker Initiative Employment & Vocational Training Program
Health Care & Commercial Drivers License Project – Award \$ 130,000**

Project Focus:

LCSSNE has assisted in the resettlement of over 10,000 refugees in Southern New England. This project will provide education, training and job placement to low-income, un-or underemployed and TAFDC dependent legal immigrants. Through training, participants will be prepared to 1) obtain Commercial Class A Driver's Licenses, or 2) receive HHN or CNA certificates, or 3) receive "quick job placement" and the opportunity to enter English language classes if their English is too limited to enable them to enter vocational training. These services will help refugees enter career paths, without which there would be delays in assimilation into the community, feelings of isolation and negative effects on individuals and families.

Partners:

LCSSNE will work with Webster Trucking, a CDL training facility and contractor for C & S Wholesale Grocers, as well as Country Estates of Agawam (nursing home). These two organizations will be both employers and training partners working to ensure the successful transition of program participants into employment.

Project Goals:

The goals of this project are to:

- To assist legal immigrants to improve their economic status and better support their families.
- To provide vocational training and English language services, which will directly address the multiple barriers faced by immigrants dealing with entering the U.S. job market.

Enrollment Goals:

- 30 – 46 will be placed in English language classes
- 16 will be enrolled in CDL (Class A) License training
- 30 will be enrolled in HHA or CN A Certificate training
- 24 will receive "quick job placement" services
- 70 will receive career counseling/coaching during the project.

Project Design:

This project is designed to specifically address the barriers faced by the immigrant population in Western Massachusetts. Such barriers as lack of English language skills, non-transferable job skills (due to technology differences or licensure issues), limited access to financial and social services, age discrimination and cultural isolation are being addressed through targeted efforts. Participants will be supported by a variety of education, training and counseling depending on their needs in order to successfully complete training, certification and job placement.