



# CISC

BRIDGING CULTURES  
COMMUNITIES & GENERATIONS

## NEWSLETTER

07/2020

Dear Friends,

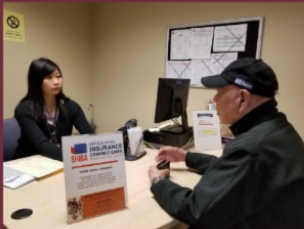
The first half of 2020 has tested us all in ways we could not have imagined. We are experiencing and seeing the impacts of COVID-19 and systemic racism. We have also seen many examples of compassion, determination, and action in responding to these challenges.

At CISC, our team is committed to our mission to create opportunities for immigrants and their families to succeed while honoring their heritage. In the last few months, our team at CISC have:

- Adapted our programs to continue to provide social services to support families, youth, and older adults,
- Created a Rapid Response Team to ensure the people we serve are able to access new programs created in response to the pandemic,
- Partnered with the King County Office of Equity and Social Justice to develop strategies to report incidents of hate and bias,
- Launched internal efforts to discuss anti-Blackness, systemic racism, and bias, and
- Continued our collaboration with coalitions and community-based organizations to advance social justice.

Here are examples of the impact we have made in the community recently.

## HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND OUTREACH PROGRAM



Our Healthcare Access and Outreach Program ensures community members have access to healthcare through Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and safety net programs for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. Our team has been assisting clients, especially the increasing number who have lost access to healthcare and prescription drugs due to unemployment. Ms. Zhao, one of our clients reached out and shared she lost her job and health insurance, we provided assistance over the phone regarding how to access coverage under the ACA. She was approved for Washington Apple Health, and after a few follow up calls, the state covered her unpaid medical bills.

# CISC BILINGUAL PRESCHOOL AT YESLER COMMUNITY CENTER GRADUATION



Families and their children celebrated with song, photos, a classroom video, and personal reflections during a heart-warming virtual graduation event on June 16. We appreciate our team of teachers who created lesson plans and connected with families via phone and video conference to support their children's education during COVID-19. We are grateful to our partnership with the Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning and Yesler Community Center to support families through the Seattle Preschool Program. Congratulations to all the graduates!

## CONGRATULATIONS



## CISC LAUNCHES CENSUS VIDEOS IN CHINESE AND RUSSIAN

To promote a complete count of everyone, CISC produced a series of four videos in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Russian that answer these questions:

- What is the census and who should complete it?
- Why is the Census important and how will the data be used?
- What questions will be asked on the Census and is my information safe?
- How can I complete the Census and when can I respond?

Full participation in the 2020 Census is important for the future of our neighborhoods, communities, and state. As required by the U.S. Constitution, the census is conducted every 10 years of everyone who lives in the country. A complete and accurate count impacts CISC's ability to serve the community since population and demographic information informs federal funding provided to our state for programs that support health, education, economic development, transportation, and more.



# SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Our team of ParentChild+ Program Early Learning Specialists typically visit homes with books and educational toys and work with parents to support early literacy and development with their toddlers. During COVID-19, specialists are creating videos to support early childhood education. One of the families we are working with were impacted by COVID-19, which quickly created many challenges for the family. In addition to supporting their child's education, our team member coordinated with the mother to secure free diapers and connect the family to unemployment benefits.



## EXPANDING SERVICE HOURS TO SUPPORT UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

To respond to community needs, particularly requests for unemployment assistance, we have expanded Family Center Information & Assistance hours to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and added services from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekends. For Information & Assistance from CISC, visit our website.

## SUPPORT FROM FOUNDATION

CISC is thankful for the support of local foundations and organizations during COVID-19. Their quick action and general operating support enabled CISC to devote our resources to responding to community needs. On behalf of our team at CISC, we extend our appreciation to the Group Health Foundation, St. Joseph Health Community Partnership Fund, Seattle Foundation, Perigee Foundation, Stolte Family Foundation, Hansen Family Foundation, and Hermann Law Group.

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THANK YOU!