Access to Healthcare

Access to affordable and quality healthcare is more important than ever. Our dedicated Healthcare Access team is ready to assist the community during Open Enrollment, which runs from October 15 to November 1. Since many seniors are limited English proficient and unable to complete applications online, our team will provide services in senior housing with safety precautions in place. We will also be conducting Zoom presentations about coverage through the Affordable Care Act and Medicare. [Link to schedule]

Honoring Elders

In 1972, CISC was founded by community volunteers to honor our elders by improving their wellbeing. Since then, we have expanded our programs to serve generations of family members. Recently, an older member of our community passed away peacefully. Her daughter, Ah Mei, expressed her appreciation for the care we provided over the decades.

Ah Mei’s connection with us began in 1986 when she moved to the states and found CISC for support and opportunity. We provided assistance to help her mother and sister immigrate to the U.S. Her mother enjoyed CISC programs, especially the Sunshine Garden Senior Center. In 2007, her mother’s health started to deteriorate. We connected them to long-term care services and enabled family members to devote time to her mother’s care as paid caregivers.

Ah Mei is appreciative of CISC’s Andes Kong for her longtime support, help and friendship. She also is thankful for her mom’s case manager, Johnson Ho, for being helpful and always there for them. She is glad that CISC was able to connect her mom with in-home care services that made her mom’s last moment of life peaceful without pain, which she is truly thankful for.

Social Connections for Seniors

For older adults, maintaining social connections has become increasingly difficult due to COVID-19 and the digital divide. Through the generous support of donors and funding from the King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy, CISC is providing tablets for low-income seniors. Our technology staff are providing assistance to ensure seniors can use the tablets and connect to programming, such as our Sunshine Garden Zoom Classes.

For more information about the Sunshine Garden, contact Lemon Li at 206-530-9174 or lemonl@cisc-seattle.org. Via WeChat, add CISCsunshinegarden. View our Sunshine Garden Zoom Classes activity schedule for October

Ready for the Election:

Ballots for the November 3rd General Election are arriving in mailboxes. Now through October 26, voters can register to vote or update their registration online. You can also register and vote in person at a voting center near you up to November 3rd.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please email elections@kingcounty.gov or give King County Elections a call at 206-296-VOTE (8683). Language assistance is available by phone.

When you are ready to return your ballot, you can do so by mail.

Opening Doors

Our naturalization and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes create opportunity and open doors. With support and funding from the City of Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, we have been able to partner with the West African Community Council and Entre Hermanos to hold in person and virtual naturalization clinics.

We are proud that one of our students, Xiaojun, successfully passed the naturalization interview this year. She attended naturalization classes at CISC for almost two years to prepare for the interview. At the beginning, she had basic English skills and civic knowledge. Through studying and hard work, she learned all the 100 civic questions and N-400 questions within a year and her English skills improved where she could converse with our mock interview teachers.

During COVID-19, Aimee Zhu and her ESL and naturalization team are offering virtual classes so 115
Or you can use a ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Seattle launches COVID-19 Disaster Relief Fund

The Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs has launched the Seattle COVID-19 Disaster Relief Fund for Immigrants.

Applicants must be:
- 18 years old or older
- Live in OR attend school in OR work within the Seattle city boundaries
- Were ineligible for federal CARES Act Economic Impact Payment (also known as a “coronavirus stimulus check”) due to immigration status
- Were under 50% of the median household income in Seattle in the past 9 months

The application period is open until November 5, 2020, 11:59 p.m. The nonprofit organization Scholarship Junkies will be administering the online application process. For language and application assistance from CISC, please contact 425-410-6411.

Commitment to Serving the Community

With the cold and winter months approaching, energy costs can rise with the thermostat. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income households with their heating and energy costs. The new program year began this month and runs thru September 30.

Our team members respond to numerous requests for LIHEAP application assistance. As part of our outreach services, our staff visit several Seattle Housing Authority buildings and recently distributed flyers about LIHEAP. One resident, who is a native English speaker, contacted us for assistance. We reviewed the application materials and ensured there were no missing documents. During the process, we noticed the client had a large rent balance and directed them to other resources for rental assistance. Through our help, they were able to access $1,000 in rent and $840 in energy assistance.

Our team member who assisted this client, Alex Wong, demonstrated our commitment to serving the community. His training at CISC enables him to be resourceful in supporting the well-being of our clients and approach customer service with an understanding that navigating public programs is challenging regardless of language ability.

Thank you and be well,
CISC Team

Visit our website

Donate to CISC