

## ETHNIC COMMUNITY SELF HELP PROGRAM



### CONTACTS:

SHANTA KINGHAM  
PROGRAM MANAGER

+1 (619) 286-9052 EX:252  
[shanta@alliance-for-africa.org](mailto:shanta@alliance-for-africa.org)

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### CONTACTS:

INNA ZDOR  
PROGRAM MANAGER

+1 (619) 286-9052  
[zdor@alliance-for-africa.org](mailto:zdor@alliance-for-africa.org)

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The Ethnic Community Self-Help (ECSH) Program is a vital initiative aimed at providing crucial support to ethnic community-based organizations, empowering them to assist refugees in their transition to life in the United States and their successful integration into the broader community. Here are the key details and objectives of the ECSH Program:

### Target Population

The ECSH Program primarily serves refugees and other eligible populations who have arrived in the United States within the last five years. This timeframe reflects the critical period during which newcomers are navigating significant adjustments and integration into American society.

### Key Areas of Support

Ethnic community-based organizations under the ECSH Program offer a wide range of assistance to refugees, including but not limited to: **Finding Jobs:** Assisting refugees in securing employment opportunities that align with their skills and aspirations, which is crucial for self-sufficiency. **Learning English:** Providing English language instruction and resources to enhance refugees' language skills, a fundamental aspect of successful integration. **Youth College Preparation:** Guiding and supporting young refugees in their pursuit of higher education, including college preparation and scholarship opportunities. **Cultural Orientation:** Helping refugees learn about U.S. customs, laws, and societal norms to facilitate their adjustment to American life. **Citizenship Process:** Assisting eligible refugees in initiating the process of becoming U.S. citizens, which involves legal requirements, tests, and interviews. **Community Connection:** Fostering connections between refugees and their local communities, promoting social engagement and a sense of belonging.

## **Professional Development**

The ECSH Program also focuses on enhancing the professional development of staff within ethnic community-based organizations by facilitating connections with well-established service providers. This collaboration empowers organizations to deliver high-quality and culturally sensitive support to their constituents.

## **Community Engagement and Awareness**

One of the broader benefits of the ECSH Program is that it helps raise awareness within the greater community about the culture, strengths, and needs of the local refugee population that these organizations serve. This increased understanding and appreciation contribute to more inclusive and cohesive communities.

In essence, the ECSH Program plays a pivotal role in strengthening the capacity of ethnic community-based organizations to provide essential support and resources to refugees in their initial stages of resettlement. By addressing the unique needs of newcomers and promoting cultural understanding, this program contributes to the successful integration of refugees into American society while fostering stronger and more vibrant communities as a whole.