

Action Steps for Prevention Practitioners

To Engage Immigrant, Refugee, and Asylum-Seeking Individuals

Take Action!

This resource highlights the actions that the prevention workforce can take to support immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking individuals living in their communities. It is a companion document to the guide, *Substance Misuse Prevention and Support for Immigrant, Refugee, and Asylum-seeking Individuals in the Great Lakes Region*.



Prevention practitioners are in a unique position to partner with local organizations to promote strategies and services that can reduce risks for substance misuse, promote resilience, ensure community connectedness, and reduce stigma.

Determine Who is in Your Community

- ❑ Review regional and local data on immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The Homeland Security [Yearbook of Immigration Statistics](#) is a great place to start.
- ❑ Download state immigration data profiles compiled by the [Migration Policy Institute](#).

Assess the Key Challenges

- ❑ Learn all you can about [Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Health](#). The CDC is a key resource.
- ❑ Learn about [challenges, opportunities, and best practices](#) for interviewing local individuals with lived experience.

Consider Partners and Existing Efforts

- ❑ Identify agencies such as the [Refugee Council USA](#) and local partners already providing services and creating welcoming communities.
- ❑ Consider the basic needs for essential services by contacting groups such as [Catholic Charities USA](#) or Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service ([LIRS](#)).
- ❑ Allow time for relationships to trust and grow.

Identify and/or Adapt Programs

- ❑ Review registries focused on culturally relevant programs working with immigrant and refugee families such as the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#).
- ❑ Learn all you can about Strategies for Adapting Evidence-based Practices. Check out [SAMHSA's guide](#).
- ❑ Find ways to reduce barriers to participation in prevention activities, such as transportation and cost.

Conduct Culturally-Responsive Evaluation

- ❑ Learn about [culturally responsive evaluation](#) (CRE) and assessments such as [CREA](#) at the University of Illinois.