

# ESL ENROLLMENT



**Learning English is absolutely essential to newcomers achieving self-sufficiency.**

## **ESL (English as a Second Language) Programs**

There may be several options for ESL classes for adults, all of which should be considered around employment prospects and schedules to encourage self-sufficiency. Your group will help with enrollment in an ESL program within 30 days of arrival but can also assist with ongoing tutoring and language practice.

## **Adult Education ESL Courses**

ESL classes are often available day and/or evenings and are often free of charge through local public school systems or local organizations. Some ESL classes may even provide childcare options. Childcare may be something to keep in mind if parents of little ones are both English language learners. Virtual ESL courses may also be available which could be an appropriate option when childcare is not available.

## **Community College-Based ESL Courses**

For newcomers who have a good baseline in English proficiency and could use more challenging coursework, community colleges offer ESL courses with financial aid (usually in the form of grants). This option should be considered carefully.

## **Pre-Literacy Courses**

Some newcomers arrive with very little to no formal schooling and may be pre-literate in their own languages. There are English learning courses that are specific to pre-literate students.

## **Members of your Congregation or Community Group**

Survey your congregation or community group for members who may offer to supplement formal ESL coursework with activities designed to facilitate English practice (e.g., movies, watching the news, cooking), especially once one or more of the adults in the household starts working.

### **KEEP IN MIND**

Learning another language takes time and practice. Starting early will help newcomers gain confidence and support their integration. It's also important to remember how much newcomer's are learning and adjusting to. Communicating in a new language can be exhausting. There may be times when simply being together without talking will be a huge relief.

### **REMEMBER TO**

- Log your volunteer hours
- Log case notes if required of GNT