



Featured Agency of the Month! International Institute of Los Angeles

May 2017



International Institute
of Los Angeles

The International Institute of Los Angeles (IILA) makes a real difference in the world. IILA was founded in 1914 to find solutions to the challenges facing newly arrived refugees and immigrants.

In the last century, we have helped hundreds of thousands of new arrivals and low income families in Los Angeles County, to overcome the barriers they face in becoming successful and contributing members in our society. IILA offers hope to the faces of children in our preschool and full day care programs, offers assistance to seniors and others with their utility and phone bill charges, and offers a helping hand to newly arrived immigrants and refugees who resettle here and begin their first job with our help.

IILA has changed the lives of so many people by giving our participants a new start in life...a new beginning. Here is a summary of our various programs:

- **Child Development (CDD)**
 - **Alternative Payment Program**
 - Matches parents and child care providers and reimburses the cost of child care for children up to 13 years old from low income families; through either our CalWORKs Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 or AP program. We provide services for over 300 children enrolled with 165 child care providers in various child care settings.
 - **State Preschool and Full Day Child Care**
 - Prepares children for success by providing high quality child care and education using the high scope curriculum. Over 500 children are enrolled each year at IILA's ten (10) preschool and full day child care centers located throughout the Los Angeles County area. We provide free or low-cost preschool education for children 2-5 years old.
 - **Child Nutrition Program**
 - Our on-site commercial kitchen prepares and delivers approximately 1 million freshly cooked breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks each year to children enrolled in various childcare programs throughout Los Angeles County. These meals ensure that children get the proper nutrition they need to thrive, learn and succeed in school as well as learn how to lead healthy lives through family style meal service and portion control.
- **Local Integration & Family Empowerment (LIFE)**
 - **Reception & Placement Program**
 - Through our LIFE division, IILA helps link refugees overseas with local families or friends (called local ties) who are willing to provide help to resettle refugees. Our Case Managers work with the local ties to let them know when the refugees will arrive, give resettlement grants to newly arrived refugees, provide orientation, and ensure that new refugees find employment and adequate housing. The program resettles approximately 400 refugees a year. The refugees arrive primarily from Iran, Iraq and Cuba.
 - **Victims of Human Trafficking Program**
 - We provide comprehensive case management services to human trafficking survivors and their families. Case managers work in collaboration with law enforcement and community partners to help rebuild survivor's lives and help them reintegrate into their communities.
 - **Family Strengthening Program**
 - IILA provides evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency and alcohol and drug abuse and to improve social competencies and school performance for children. Child abuse or

maltreatment decreases as parents strengthen bonds with their children and learn more effective parenting skills.

- **Transitional Subsidized Employment Program**
 - The Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) program provides subsidized employment opportunities for CalWORKs participants. Typically, workers are assigned to work in public agencies or private non-profit organizations. TSE helps overcome barriers to employment through fully supervised, paid work experience, and paid on-the-job training (OJT) with the goal of enabling the participant to secure unsubsidized employment after completion of their work assignment.
- **TEAM/CHANGES**
 - How often do you look at your telephone bill? Have you ever wondered what the charges are or disagreed with them? IILA can help you understand your telephone service and charges or assist you with your complaints. TEAM (Telecommunication Education and Assistance in Multiple-Languages) is a program that provides education and complaint resolution to consumers who are not proficient in English and our service is free of charge.
 - Through our CHANGES program will assist you with questions or concerns related to your gas and electric bill charges. This service is also provided at no cost.
- **Immigration Legal Services (ILS)**
 - Our immigration services division helps reunite immigrant families and enables them to become full participants in American society. We also can assist you with cases involving Violence against Women (VAWA) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) for the first time or renewals if your existing period of DACA is expiring.
- **Immediate Needs Transportation Program(INTP)**
 - INTP provides low income people throughout Los Angeles County with a county wide network of safety and emergency transportation. IILA has a network of over 350 human service agencies that we provide approximately 1 million taxi vouchers and bus rides to every year.