

Rockford Area Community Resources

Rock Valley College: Free Academic Support

- a. **ESL Classes: Free tuition and bus passes—must register and attend** (ESL Classes are full and new registration isn't available until July 1st, 2025) <https://rockvalleycollege.edu/community/adult-education/ESL>
- b. **ICAPS Program** the ICAPS (Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System) program is a free academic support program for students pursuing college certificates. It prepares students for specific, high-demand employment. Current programs: **Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Mechatronics** <https://rockvalleycollege.edu/community/adult-education/ICAPS>
- c. **RVC Refugee and Immigrant Services:** (815) 921-2273
<https://rockvalleycollege.edu/community/adult-education/refugee-and-immigrant-services>
RVC Downtown
99 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104

Rock Valley College: Illinois Welcoming Center- For immigrants who have been here 5+ years

The main features of Illinois Welcoming Centers include:

1. Case management and service coordination
2. Community education workshops
 - o Immigrant and Refugee Support
 - o Naturalization and Legal Assistance
 - o English Language Literacy
 - o Educational training opportunities
 - o Community Partner Support
 - o Help with coordination of services such as, employment, unemployment, WIC, SNAP, housing, healthcare, and more.
 - o Crisis Intervention and Workshops for anyone in the community based on their needs.

- o Senior Refugee services

For more questions or on how to sign up for Rock Valley College Welcome Center call **Adriana 815-921-2276**

YWCA Literacy Council of Rockford offers ESL classes 815-968-9681

Beginning classes at (register now, start 1/13 for 10 weeks.)

T/TH 1:30- 4:30 Currently open for beginners

Each student should fill out an interest form:

<https://www.ywcanwil.org/litcouncil/class-interest-form/>

Please call Lorena Perez for appointment and placement test 779-210-4730 at
982 N. Main St. Rockford

YWCA Welcome Center

<https://www.ywcanwil.org/la-voz-latina/illinois-welcoming-center/>

State of Illinois resources:

1. TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Program

DHS Family Community Resource Center in Winnebago County,
171 Executive Pkwy, Suite 10, Rockford, IL 61107

Phone: (815) 987-7620

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=49833>

Participants are engaged in a variety of activities tailored to meet their individual needs, to address barriers to employment. Participants are placed in unsubsidized employment. Activities may include program orientation and assessment of needs and barriers, case management and follow up, referral to treatment and other community services based on need, work experience (acclimates participants to the work place and prepares them to enter regular employment while they receive TANF); vocational training; community service, on-the-job training, education (GED/high school equivalency diploma), Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language); job skills training (for example computer courses); mentoring (career pathway development) and counseling; job search/job readiness, job retention services (job coaching and counseling, conflict-resolution, financial budgeting)

2. Cash, SNAP & Medical Assistance Illinois

3. **LIHEAP-** The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides energy assistance to residents in the form a benefit paid directly to utilities on behalf of eligible households. <https://www.rockfordil.gov/631/LIHEAP>
4. **The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)** is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services and administered within Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties by YWCA Child Care Solutions. The CCAP program exists to help income-eligible families who work or go to school pay for some of the cost of childcare. Parents/guardians must complete an application to apply for assistance and supply verification of employment and/or education activity.
<https://www.ywcanwil.org/childcare-home/child-care-assistance-program/>

employment. Current programs: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA),
Mechatronics <https://rockvalleycollege.edu/community/adult-education/CAPS>
c. RVC Refugee and Immigrant Services: (815) 921-2273
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 - Employment Center