



**YMCA**



## New Americans Welcome Centers

### FACT SHEET

#### PROGRAM GOAL AND VISION

The YMCA of Greater New York is committed to serving the immigrant population of the City, and, in response to their needs, has opened New Americans Welcome Centers to help immigrants achieve literacy, cultural competence, and self-sufficiency. In line with its commitment to better serve the immigrant population of New York City, the YMCA opened Welcome Centers in areas where immigrant communities are most underserved. The Chinatown, Staten Island, Harlem, Prospect Park, Bronx, and Flushing YMCAs have already served their communities through these centers. The goal of the YMCA is to be recognized by every New American as a "safe haven" that provides multilingual information, resources and referrals and a wide range of services (instructional, vocational, recreational, and family support) that will help them attain their goals.

The YMCA recognizes the need to build capacity and develop support and networks among new immigrants. As of the 2000 census, more than 35% of City's residents are foreign-born and 43% of the City's workforce are immigrants. Nearly 70% of the total immigrant population in New York speak a language other than English. Within this group 23% do not speak English well and about 10% do not speak English at all. Most of these immigrants live in population clusters that are underserved for informational, education, recreational, vocational, advocacy and human services that the YMCA of Greater New York is in a position to provide directly as well as in collaboration with other human service and immigrant-service agencies.

#### PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The New Americans Welcome Centers serve as multilingual information resource and referral centers, and provide immigrant families with a wide array of instructional, vocational, recreational, family support, and social services. Instructional services include English as a Second Language, Cultural Orientation, Citizenship Preparation, Job Readiness, and Computer Literacy. In addition, some of our Centers offer Adult Literacy and GED preparation classes as well as Substance Abuse and Alcohol Prevention Counseling.

For more information on the YMCA New Americans Welcome Centers, please contact Rachael Rinaldo, Staten Island, New Americans Initiative, at 718-981-4382, or [rrinaldo@ymcanyc.org](mailto:rrinaldo@ymcanyc.org). You can also access our website at [ymcanewamericans.org](http://ymcanewamericans.org).

The goal of the YMCA is to be recognized by every New American as a "safe haven" that provides multilingual information, resources and referrals and a wide range of services... to help them attain their goals.

New York City's YMCA  
**WE'RE HERE  
FOR GOOD.**<sup>TM</sup>