

City of Edmonton Programs and Services Supporting Refugees

The City of Edmonton provides support for refugees through many programs and services including:

- Refugee claimants and all refugees within their first year in Canada qualify for the Ride Transit and Leisure Access Programs. Ride Transit offers subsidized monthly transit passes for \$35 each and the Leisure Access Program membership is free of charge.
- The Emerging Immigrant and Refugee Community Grant Program provides funding to groups. It is currently under review, with engagement occurring with various Administrative business units and community partners. The review is evaluating program goals and processes, and developing future program recommendations.
- The Poverty Elimination Council Initiative recognizes that refugees, as well as other racialized groups are at increased risk of experiencing poverty. The City is leading 18 actions outlined by the EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map to end poverty for all Edmontonians. This includes those who have come to Canada as refugees.
- The Anti-racism Advisory Committee, which is currently recruiting its inaugural members, will provide City Council with advice on how best to support community-based anti-racism initiatives. Refugees often face racism and discrimination and will benefit from the work of the Committee.
- Employee Services collaborates with Edmonton Region Immigrant Employment Council to provide professional mentorship, networking opportunities, career coaching and counselling for immigrants and refugees. The collaboration provides immigrants and refugees with valuable work experience at the City of Edmonton.
- The Local Immigration Partnership in Edmonton, funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, works with numerous sectors to improve connections, capacity building, and sharing of resources among organizations and agencies that support refugees.
- The Multicultural Relations Office responds as needed to complex emerging inquiries related to refugee needs (eg. sexual minority Muslim community meeting space; the majority of those using the space are immigrants and refugees).
- Family and Community Support Services funds preventive social service programs and initiatives that support newcomers to settle in Edmonton by

building supports that strengthen individual, family and community well-being. The funded programs range from early childhood development to seniors supports. Family and Community Support Services also funds initiatives that encourage intercultural learning and understanding.

- In June 2017, the City of Edmonton co-sponsored the Canadian Council for Refugees national consultation in Edmonton, providing significant administrative and financial support.
- The Mayor, on behalf of City Council, has historically recognized the importance of welcoming, supporting, and acknowledging the contributions of refugees through a Civic Proclamation annually on June 21, World Refugee Day.