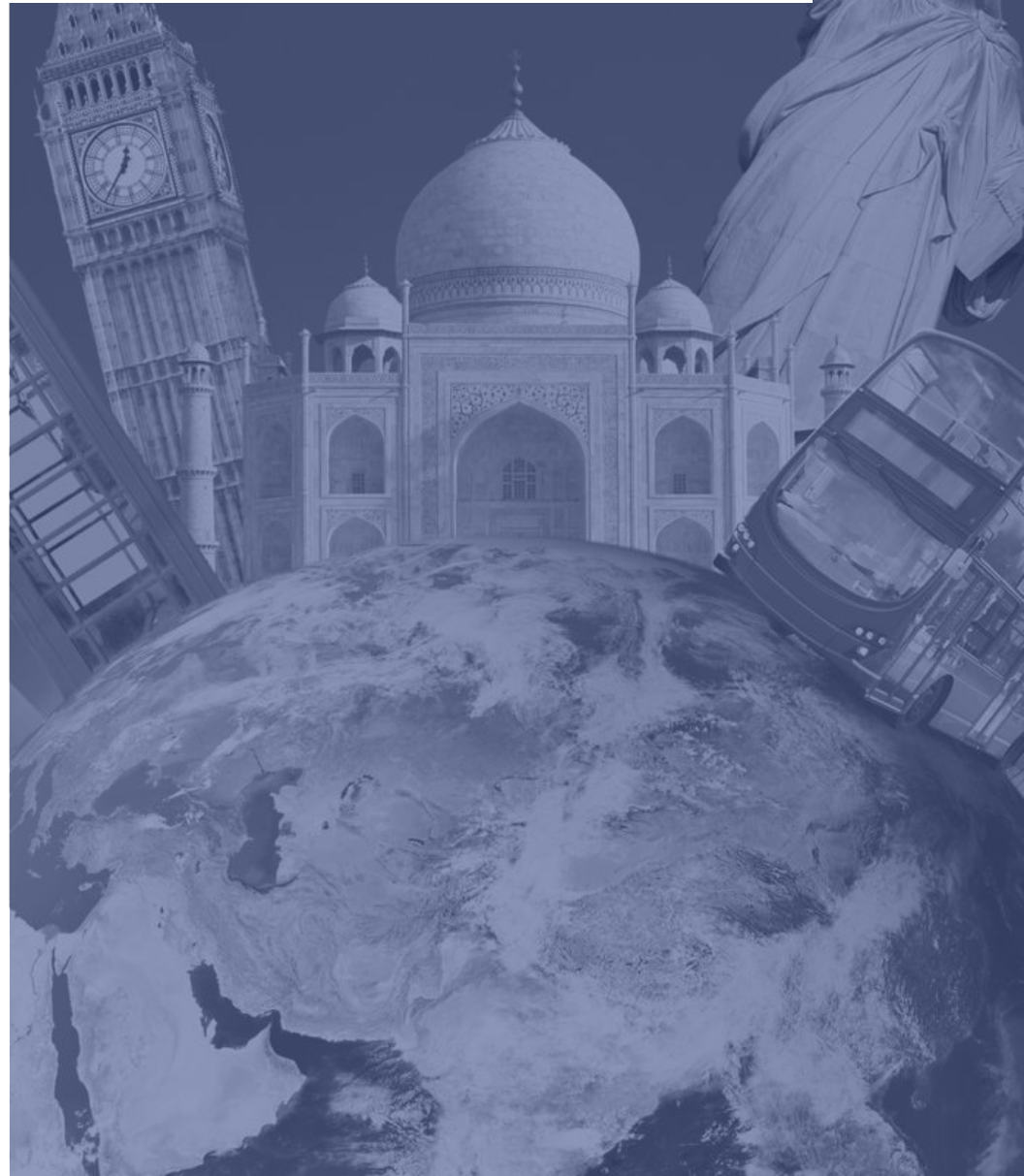


14

# IMMIGRANT SERVICES



# PROJECT #233

## New American Housing



### Identify the need for the proposed project

Treetops Collective is deeply embedded in New American communities through our Concentric program. We continue to see the negative impact of the current housing crisis on New American families.

### Brief Description

What would it look like to reimagine housing for those arriving as New Americans, to have a safe, connected place to develop roots? New arrivals are typically placed in homes that they will be unable to afford long-term, requiring an uprooting months after arriving. Additionally, newcomers are completely isolated, because of language barriers, the winter cold, and culture, they live disconnected to the people around them. This could be transformed through a more innovative, welcoming approach to housing. We are proposing an investment in a collective housing model focused on New Americans that leverages connections and resources known by local residents and creates efficiencies and connections through proximity. Additionally, in coordination with The Welcome Plan, we could create a development that includes a community kitchen, gathering space, a computer lab for continuing education and language learning. After 1-2 years in this first home, they could be given a portion of their rent back as a down payment for a house or secure a deposit for a rental. Because of this shared space, local organizations who want to create access to resources for refugees would better be able to co-locate services. Time and transportation, in addition to language, will always be the biggest barrier when serving New Americans. Through this model you can eliminate these barriers by creating efficiencies that allow services to come directly to them and create safe, welcoming environments.

### Long-Term Benefit

Stable, holistic housing for new arrivals is a long-term investment, and ensures that those who have arrived feel safe, and have a spring board for establishing connections and opportunities that will enrich our social fabric and contribute to our local economy for generations. This innovation would establish Kent County as a leader nationwide and create an environment where families have the space and time to invest in their holistic development as they make this new place home.

### Intended Beneficiary

Immigrant and refugee families and individuals

### Estimated Cost

15 million

### Project Management Experience

We have not yet led a county-wide project but we have extensive experience in collaborating with other organizations as evidenced by our over 20 letters of support for our cross-cultural community center.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$1,500,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$1,500,000

**ARPA Request:** \$1,500,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Tarah Carnahan

**Organization:** Treetops Collective

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Infrastructure

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

Possible LITEC funding available through a partner like Dwelling Place or ICCF

### Partnership

ICCF, Wolverine, Amplify GR, Samaritas, Bethany



### Federal Funds Experience

Treetops Collective received over \$92,000 in CARES Act funds at the end of 2020 and successfully executed all funds in a limited amount of time.

### Studies on Impact

n/a

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$1,500,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$1,500,000

**ARPA Request:** \$1,500,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Tarah Carnahan

**Organization:** Treetops Collective

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Infrastructure

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

Possible LITEC funding available through a partner like Dwelling Place or ICCF

### Partnership

ICCF, Wolverine, Amplify GR, Samaritas, Bethany

### Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

*Affordable housing is eligible*

 **Sustainability**

*This project likely has large operation costs but there are multiple partners*

 **Feasibility**

# PROJECT #249

## Kent County Refugee and Immigrant Health Center



### Identify the need for the proposed project

Bethany Christian Services of Michigan (Bethany), along with our partners at Samaritas, have decades of experience working with newly arrived refugees and immigrants as they make their start in West Michigan, put down roots and achieve economic self-sufficiency. A universal and pervasive challenge is integrating into the U.S. health care system. We have encountered firsthand frustrations experienced by both medical providers and our clients— missed appointments, bills not paid, confusion over insurance, etc. The concept of a clinic designed to meet the unique health care needs of newly arrived refugees and immigrants has been talked about for years, but the pandemic has highlighted the need to make this matter a priority. Throughout the pandemic, Bethany has been strengthening our partnerships with ethnic-based community organizations to increase and diversify the pool of community health workers engaging the refugee and immigrant populations in our community. As we have worked closely with leaders from the various organizations as well as the community health workers, we have heard directly from the community a desire to have a clinic that understands the needs of the various immigrant populations in our community and one that is able to walk alongside the various communities as they learn to navigate the U.S. health care system. For those native to our community, the U.S. health care system can be difficult to navigate. For newly arrived refugees and other immigrant groups, the difficulty is increased by language barriers, previous lack of access to health care, and cultural differences to name a few. Although Kent County is home to many wonderful service providers who already serve this population and do so with great care and passion, it is clear that the current ecosystem is inefficient and can lead to poor health outcomes and loss of financial resources. (The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has several reports and articles around this topic that can be found here: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/09/immigration-statusand-health.html>.) Along with the challenges in addressing general health care needs, refugees and immigrants also experience barriers to accessing dental care both acute and long-term. Due to extensive dental needs, limited insurance options, and a lower reimbursement rate for providers, services are difficult to come by and resettlement agencies are often patchworking providers together ad-hoc. 6 month wait lists are common for basic dental care. Integrating dental care with physical health care is an important contribution to positive longterm health outcomes. Beyond the large need for primary health and dental care, many refugees arrive with trauma due to the circumstances that led to their displacement requiring psychological support and treatment. Various cultural understandings and stigmas around mental health and well-being are often a barrier to accessing the necessary services. While Bethany has the Healing Center that provides intense counseling services to survivors of torture this highly specialized form of care is not accessible to the many refugees. Appropriate treatment for this level of trauma requires the co-location of therapists and physicians to work collaboratively, providing comprehensive and integrated care addressing both mental and physical well-being.

### Brief Description

The proposed project creates a Refugee Health Center on the former St Joseph Seminary campus at 2080 Union SE in Grand Rapids. Transforming the existing gymnasium into this new Health Center would provide a welcoming, culturally sensitive, innovative, and trauma informed medical home for refugees and immigrants. It would meet the unique challenges of primary healthcare, dental, and access to supportive services. The historical landmark is the new home to Bethany and Samaritas programs serving the refugee population. Our programs have always focused on cross collaboration and community partners. Community Health Workers, clinical therapists, and refugee services staff will all be present in one place making the model effective, efficient, and sustainable. Funding for the Refugee and Immigrant Health Center pays for the design and build out of both the physical and operational structure needed to launch the center. The build out of the space will be done by Pinnacle Construction in connection with The Architectural Group, Inc. Through a collaborative approach, local health systems and centers will work with a facilitator to determine an operating and governance model that works best for Kent County. The ongoing service delivery will be sustained through insurance reimbursement, client co-pays, and private donor dollars. Bethany and Samaritas are working with community partners and refugee and immigrants and leaders on the design.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$6,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$6,000,000

**ARPA Request:** \$6,000,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Susan Kragt

**Organization:** Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** New Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

No

### Partnership

*(Listed in main description)*



## Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$6,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$6,000,000

**ARPA Request:** \$6,000,000

## Submitter Info

**Name:** Susan Kragt

**Organization:** Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

## Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** New Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

## Source of Funding

No

## Partnership

*(Listed in main description)*

## Long-Term Benefit

The Center will improve the health outcomes and health care satisfaction of the refugee and immigrant communities. It will allow for a more efficient use of services for both refugee service providers and health systems. The Center will provide education so that patients are able to navigate the local health system. This will reduce missed appointments, improve adherence to medical recommendations, and streamline interpretation services—all of which will provide cost savings to providers.

## Intended Beneficiary

Refugees and Immigrants in Kent County are the primary beneficiary. This includes individuals entering the U.S. through the Refugee Admissions program (including people from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burma, Bhutan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Iraq, Ukraine, Venezuela, Cuba, and Haiti). Additionally, minors in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement would be served at the center as well as other immigrants needing this type of health care. Finally, the whole community will benefit from a more efficient system and healthier new neighbors.

## \*Partnership

Bethany Christian Services; Samaritas; University of Michigan Health- West; Spectrum Health; Catherine’s Health Center; Trinity Health Medical Group—West Michigan; Kent County Health Department; Bhutanese Community of Michigan; Alliance; A Glimpse of Africa; African Network Collaborative; African Resource Center; West Michigan Asian American Association; Cherry Health Services; Hispanic Center

## Estimated Cost

Total: \$6,000,000 (Space Renovation Cost: \$3,700,000.00 Architectural and Engineering fees: \$250,000.00 Medical Exam Room: \$60,000.00 Dental Suites: \$1,200,000 Office furniture, Information Technology (IT), Office copy/fax machine: \$350,000 Dental X-ray: \$14,000 Panoramic Machine: \$90,000 Ultrasound Machine: \$115,000 Collaboration Facilitator: \$50,000 Misc. \$171,000)

## Project Management Experience

Specifically, within Kent County, the agency has 2 Ready by 5 awards. In addition, many of our contracts are with local DHHS’s or with State specific DHHS’s that are specific to serving a range of 1 county to statewide. Within Kent County, we work with the West Michigan Partnership for Children to provide foster care services to children in Kent County. We serve between 150-200 children at any given point in time in partnership with WMPC. We can segregate our county, or regional funding, from other funding by giving it a unique code within our general ledger so that all revenue and expenses are tracked separately for each unique funding source (whether it is county, regional, or statewide).



## Federal Funds Experience

Through a nationwide budget of close to \$188 million, Bethany has extensive fiscal capacity and annually administers over 200 state and federal contracts for services in place through Headquarters and the Region offices. Bethany has extensive experience managing Federal and State funding streams, to include funding from ORR, and has a strong understanding of leveraging braided and blended funding; in the past 15 years, it has managed over 3,600 grants totaling over \$317 million including \$265 million in Federal funding.

## Studies on Impact

Bethany and our partners have and will continue to work closely with the Center for Refugee Health at Rochester Regional Health in New York as a promising practice model, as well as the Center of Excellence in Newcomer Health in Minnesota to inform the design of the Health Center.

## Supporting Documentation

1. [Campus Site Plan](#)
2. [Letters of Support](#)
3. [Letter of Intent](#)

## Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$6,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$6,000,000

**ARPA Request:** \$6,000,000

## Submitter Info

**Name:** Susan Kragt

**Organization:** Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

## Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** New Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

## Source of Funding

No

## Partnership

(Listed in main description)

## Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

*Eligible under public health*

 **Sustainability**

*Project will need additional funding to operate facility but they have many partners and are currently seeking more funding*

 **Feasibility**

# PROJECT #266

## Interdisciplinary Trauma Therapy



### Identify the need for the proposed project

Bethany Christian Services has been providing mental health counseling services for refugees and immigrants through the Healing Center since 2009. Bethany also provides mental health services to refugees and immigrants through other structured programs. We seek to provide an essential service to the refugees in our community, but the ability to serve the entirety of referrals is limited due to the eligibility of funding constraints. To qualify for services within the Healing Center, a refugee has to be qualified as a Survivor of Torture. Many of the refugees served by Bethany have experienced significant trauma, but do not meet the rigid requirements for the Healing Center. The result is many clients who are uninsured or underinsured are left unserved, often presenting with high levels of distress in the community. Others with insurance are often sent to external providers without Bethany's robust cultural training and expertise. Although this occurs on a regular basis, this need was highlighted in the fall of 2021 when a significant number of Afghan refugees arrived, and no refugee-specific counseling center existed in the West Michigan area to meet their unique needs. Our outpatient trauma therapy program is being developed to meet the clinical needs of the refugee community without the constraints of the client having to meet any eligibility requirements. Through this program, any refugee with a mental health concern could be treated.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$1,220,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$1,220,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Ashley Hanberry

**Organization:** Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** 0-25%

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Brief Description

Bethany's Refugee and Immigrant Outpatient Counseling Center is intended to meet the mental health needs of refugee and immigrant clients within the West Michigan area. This program operates as a traditional outpatient counseling center, with specific training to be well-equipped to work with the refugee population. This program is staffed with licensed mental health clinicians, most of whom are multi-lingual, and are trained to work with interpreters in the clinical setting. Our therapists are specifically trained in how to navigate cultural considerations to effectively treat an array of mental health needs. This includes but is not limited to PTSD, anxiety, depression, and adjustment disorders. The program is voluntary and able to serve clients of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and family structures. Individual, couple, and family counseling is available as needed to best help the client. There are no eligibility requirements other than securing funding either through health insurance (Medicaid included) or grants/donations. Clients from this program will also benefit from coordinating with Bethany's internal psychiatric providers.

### Long-Term Benefit

Bethany has a large employment department aiding in finding jobs. During Covid, many of our clients have had and continue to work in essential worker positions. Mental health concerns can directly impact a person's ability to function in the work space. Our proposed services will work to keep our refugees healthy and functioning in their community roles. Additionally, this will set up healthier families in our schools and for generations to come.

### Intended Beneficiary

The refugee and immigrant community in West Michigan will be the greatest beneficiaries of these services, particularly those who do not qualify for services through eligibility in another contracted program.

### Source of Funding

Billing insurance can offset the some of the costs.

### Partnership

n/a



### Estimated Cost

\$1,220,000 (total for 4 years) Break down per year: Director \$65,000, Admin \$40,000, Therapist .5 \$60,000, Therapist .5 \$60,000, Interpretation \$80,000

### Project Management Experience

Bethany Christian Services across the country has many county funded programs with county specific reporting requirements. Specifically, within Kent county, the agency has 2 Ready by 5 awards. In addition, many of our contracts are with local DHHS's or with State specific DHHS's that are specific to serving a range of 1 county to statewide. Within Kent County, we work with the West Michigan Partnership for Children to provide foster care services to children in Kent County. We serve between 150-200 children at any given point in time in partnership with WMPC. We are able to segregate our county, or regional funding, from other funding by giving it a unique code within our general ledger so that all revenue and expenses are tracked separately for each unique funding source (whether it is county, regional, or statewide).

### Federal Funds Experience

Through a nationwide budget of close to \$188 million, Bethany has extensive fiscal capacity and annually administers over 200 state and federal contracts for services in place through Headquarters and the Region offices. Bethany has extensive experience managing Federal and State funding streams, to include funding from ORR, and has a strong understanding of leveraging braided and blended funding; in the past 15 years, it has managed over 3,600 grants totaling over \$317 million including \$265 million in Federal funding.

### Studies on Impact

According to the America Psychiatric Association, up to 80% of the refugee population experiences high rates of of mental health disorder, with up to 40% experiencing high anxiety, up to 44% experiencing high depression, and up to 36% experiencing high PTSD as screen via western normed assessments. Bethany utilizes TFCBT, DBT, ACT, MI, and EMDR, all of which are evidenced-based and effective therapies to treat trauma. TFCBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) is heavily relied upon within our refugee programs and adapts the TF-CBT model of Drs. Mannarino and Cohen at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. TFCBT has been found to be clinically effective in URM (ages 13-17) population (Unterhitzengerger, Eberle-Sejari, Rassenhofer, Sukale, Rosner, and Goldbeck; 2015). While TFCBT is only evidence-based with children and adolescents, we have seen success in using the adapted model in our adult refugee population. Bethany's Healing Center has been highly effective in building therapeutic relationships with the refugee population and successfully treating serious mental health concerns over the last 13 years. Similar training and treatment models used in this program will be expanded for our new outpatient center.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$1,220,000  
**Maximum Cost:** \$1,220,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Ashley Hanberry  
**Organization:** Bethany Christian Services of Michigan

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health  
**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services  
**Project Status:** Expanded Project  
**Matching Funds:** 0-25%

**Eligibility:**

**Sustainability:**

**Feasibility:**

**Impact:**

### Source of Funding

Billing insurance can offset the some of the costs.

### Partnership

n/a

## Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility Sustainability Feasibility

*Behavioral health services are eligible*

*Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.*





# PROJECT #175

## Project Faulu - Satellite Site Expansion

### Identify the need for the proposed project

Refugee Education Center (REC) has been cultivating the workforce of the future for 16 years. We exist to create an environment where refugee children can learn and thrive as they receive an American education. We acknowledge the unique needs of refugee students and design our programs and services to coincide with traditional education in order that students may excel academically at an equitable rate as their American-born peers - and prepare for success in their new homeland. Kent County recognizes that these students are a solution to the talent crisis. REC can increase the number of students impacted by our programming by doubling our Project Faulu satellite sites. At these sites, we will be able to offer literacy and language acquisition, STEM/STEAM curriculum, and socio-emotional wellbeing support.

### Brief Description

Refugee Education Center will increase/double its Project Faulu programming sites from 6 - 12 sites. We will be able to serve a minimum of 100 more refugee students. We will use this money to pay for program supplies, curriculum innovation, transportation, language access, volunteer support + management, operational support and space rental. We will expand our current curriculum to include an Employer Partner program where local employers can begin to educate and recruit future employees. We will hire a manager for this program. REC can also offer education to employers on how to create a culture of belonging for individuals from a refugee background.

### Long-Term Benefit

Studies show, refugees bring productivity when they are integrated across various communities. They help enrich their local communities, creating a cultural diversity within the local population + helping nurture understanding and appreciation for social diversity. Years after their settlement, refugees continue to stimulate the economy, often boosting economic activity and increasing wages. They also complement the job market boasting high rates of entrepreneurship and creating jobs.

### Intended Beneficiary

There are multiple beneficiaries. The refugee children + by extension their families who are being prepared for success in their new country. The local employers and our economy which benefits from REC's preparation of a culturally diverse talent pool, our community that will enjoy the opportunity to appreciate all that New American's bring to west Michigan.

### Estimated Cost

400000

### Project Management Experience

Refugee Education Center is part of a healthy refugee eco-system in the state of Michigan and as such, have experience with working from a collaborative framework. We receive a large part of our funding from state + federal funders and are qualified and experienced leading/managing projects that include multiple partners and stake-holders.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$400,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$400,000

**ARPA Request:** \$250,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Meg Derrer

**Organization:**  
Refugee Education Center

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

Towsley FDN - \$120,000 (applied); Huntington - \$50,000 (plan to apply)

### Partnership

This project includes launching an Employer Partner program with a goal of bringing on 90 partners over the next 3 years (30 per year); we also share common clients and regularly collaborate with Treetops Collective and Bethany.



## Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$400,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$400,000

**ARPA Request:** \$250,000

## Submitter Info

**Name:** Meg Derrer

**Organization:**  
Refugee Education Center

## Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

## Source of Funding

Towsley FDN - \$120,000 (applied); Huntington - \$50,000 (plan to apply)

## Partnership

This project includes launching an Employer Partner program with a goal of bringing on 90 partners over the next 3 years (30 per year); we also share common clients and regularly collaborate with Treetops Collective and Bethany.

## Federal Funds Experience

Refugee Education Center receives large grants from the state and federal government and we are experienced with the expectations and reporting connected with these dollars.

## Studies on Impact

<https://giwps.georgetown.edu/refugees-have-billions-to-contribute-to-u-s-economy/>

<https://www.icmc.net/2020/07/14/refugees-good-or-bad-for-economy/>

<https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/from-struggle-to-resilience-the-economic-impact-of-refugees-in-america/> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2018/06/19/refugees-are-a-win-win-win-formula-for-economic-development/>

## Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

*Programs that addresses educational disparities are eligible.*

 **Sustainability**

*Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.*

 **Feasibility**

# PROJECT #232

## New American Resource Hub



### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$4,200,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$4,200,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Tarah Carnahan

**Organization:** Treetops Collective

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** 26-50%

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Source of Funding

Treetops Collective is pursuing a capital campaign to secure private funding for the renovation of our building. We have already raised 1,310,820.72 for this project, including \$500,000 from the Office of Global Michigan.

### Partnership

*(Listed in main description)*

### Identify the need for the proposed project

Treetops Collective is deeply rooted in relationships with New American community leaders through our Concentric program and was involved in the development of the Kent County Welcome Plan. Through the feedback we've received through our programs in the process of developing that plan, we have continuously heard the desire for a space that can be community owned and focused on the interests and needs of refugee and immigrant communities.

### Brief Description

In order to deliver on the goals of The Welcome Plan there must be investment in cultivating an ecosystem for connections, opportunities, reform, and ownership to take root. Through the creation of a cross-cultural community center at 906 Division we believe that we can increase access to resources through language leaders, feedback loops that would allow better service delivery from local organizations, and a hub for emerging ethnic based community organizations and entrepreneurs. To steward this space, provide capacity building and orchestrate new connections we are seeking investment into this resource hub model. In addition to managerial and infrastructure needs we are proposing language-based strategies for increasing access to resources and opportunities for those who have arrived as refugees and immigrants. As we establish network connectivity, conduct asset maps, and create communication trees for the different language communities it is important to have a central hub that ensures information is getting out to the community efficiently. Kent County is rich with services and opportunities for growth but many New Americans are unaware of what is available to them. In partnership with WMAA, Glimpse of Africa, Hispanic Center, Bhutanese Community of Michigan, and other ECBO's we would establish opportunities for individuals in the community looking to grow their experience and serve their community by being a part of multiple resource teams and networks.

### Long-Term Benefit

The establishment of this resource hub, service platform and investment in a connected ecosystem to support the work of welcoming is a tangible way for the county to invest in the operationalizing of The Welcome Plan. This would create opportunities for language leaders in the community to be paid for their expertise, create more access to resources, and more fully utilize the services provided by local organizations.

### Intended Beneficiary

The entire community

### \*Partnership

African Collaborative Network, Motherland Cultural Connections, Hands Connected, A Glimpse of Africa, MomsBloom, Fountain Hill Center, Heart of West Michigan United Way, ICCF Community Homes, Kent District Library, Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates, West Michigan Literacy Center, Bethany Christian Services, Samaritas, Spectrum Health - Healthier Communities, Safe Haven Ministries, LINC Up, Bhutanese Community of Michigan, Wolverine Building Group, Ugandans of West Michigan, United Methodist Community House, West Michigan Home Care



## Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$4,200,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$4,200,000

## Submitter Info

**Name:** Tarah Carnahan

**Organization:** Treetops Collective

## Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** 26-50%

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

## Source of Funding

Treetops Collective is pursuing a capital campaign to secure private funding for the renovation of our building. We have already raised 1,310,820.72 for this project, including \$500,000 from the Office of Global Michigan.

## Partnership

(Listed in main description)

## Estimated Cost

4.2 million

## Project Management Experience

We have not yet led a county-wide project but we have extensive experience in collaborating with other organizations as evidenced by our over 20 letters of support for our cross-cultural community center.

## Federal Funds Experience

Treetops Collective received over \$92,000 in CARES Act funds at the end of 2020 and successfully executed all funds in a limited amount of time.

## Studies on Impact

Our project is based in part on Allport's Intergroup Contact Theory. More on that can be found here: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/contact-hypothesis.html>

## Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility

 Sustainability

 Feasibility

*Multiple eligibility lanes here. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.*

# PROJECT #14

## Cross-Cultural Community Center



### Identify the need for the proposed project

By listening to New American community leaders for many years, including and especially through the process of developing the Kent County Welcome Plan

### Brief Description

Treetops Collective is proposing an investment in the renovation of our building into a cross-cultural community center focused on connecting New Americans to local resources and opportunities. Grand Rapids and West Michigan have long been communities that have welcomed refugees and have been grown through the investments and innovation of immigrants and refugees.

### Long-Term Benefit

Investing in New American community members' ability to thrive in West Michigan is beneficial to our economy as well as our social fabric. Our community will benefit from increased opportunities for members from different ethnic and immigration backgrounds to connect, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. Co-locating service provision, entrepreneurship space, and community space for individual and collective connection would be a unique offering in West Michigan.

### Intended Beneficiary

Immigrants and refugees are the primary intended beneficiary for the services and opportunities offered in this space, but space, activities, and opportunities will be available to all members of the Kent County community

### \*Partnership

Bhutanese Community of Michigan, Heart of West Michigan United Way, West Michigan Home Care, Spectrum Health Healthier Communities, Kent District Library, Ugandans of West Michigan, Safe Haven Ministries, Motherland Cultural Connections, African Collaborative Network, Samaritas, A Glimpse of Africa, ICCF Community Homes, Fountain Hill Center, United Methodist Community House, MomsBloom, Wolverine Building Group, Bethany Christian Services, Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates, West Michigan Asian American Association, Literacy Center of West Michigan,

### Estimated Cost

2600000

### Project Management Experience

Our organization has extensive experience working collaboratively with a variety of partners and community leaders. We are currently partnering with the Kent County Health Department to increase health care access in New American communities. We have some experience managing large amounts of money from government agencies due to opportunities created in response to the covid-19 pandemic.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$2,600,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$2,600,000

**ARPA Request:** \$600,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Abigail Punt

**Organization:**  
Treetops Collective

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:**

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** 51-75%

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Source of Funding

500000 received from the State of Michigan, individual donors have already given over \$900,000

### Partnership

*(Listed in main description)*



## Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$2,600,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$2,600,000

**ARPA Request:** \$600,000

## Submitter Info

**Name:** Abigail Punt

**Organization:**  
Treetops Collective

## Project Overview

**Funding Group:**

Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** 51-75%

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

## Source of Funding

500000 received from the State of Michigan, individual donors have already given over \$900,000

## Partnership

(Listed in main description)

## Federal Funds Experience

We received about \$92,000 of CARES Act funding through Kent County. There were some challenges managing these funds due to a tight timeline and navigating an internal bookkeeping transition during that period, but those were unique circumstances and we still managed those funds effectively.

## Studies on Impact

The value Treetops Collective places on cross-cultural connection and community building is rooted in part in Intergroup Contact Theory. This theory was first developed by Gordon Allport in response to racial segregation resulting from Jim Crow laws in the U.S. The crux of this theory tells us that when people from different groups interact more regularly under certain conditions, the prejudice they have toward one another decreases. Learn more about this theory here:

<https://www.in-mind.org/article/intergroup-contact-theory-past-present-and-future>

## Supporting Documentation

1. [Treetops 906 Division Drawing](#)
2. [2022 Program One-Pagers](#)
3. [Letters for Support \(x21\)](#)
4. [Collective Letter to Commissioners](#)

## Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility

 Sustainability

 Feasibility

*Potentially eligible but additional details and scoping is necessary to ensure it is within the rules.*



# PROJECT #81

## Eritrean Cultural Civic & Community Center

### Identify the Need for the Proposed Project

We have a large community of Eritreans in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area who need a safe place where they are heard, understood and accepted. A place they can go to for help when they need it, especially when it comes to issues of transportation, health, housing and education. This includes the Eritrean refugees who are being resettled here, as well as the Eritrean-American citizens who have built their lives and families here. We want to continue to be an anchor for the Eritreans in the surrounding cities of Lansing, Flint, Detroit and Chicago.

### Brief Description

We would like to be able to teach refugees in our community how to speak, read and write in English. We want to partner with bigger health organizations to provide workshops and seminars on physical and mental health issues as well as create vaccination clinics for our community, as we've done previously with Kent County Health and Glimpse of Africa who assisted with our Covid-19 vaccination clinic. We want to provide needed repairs to our building and parking lot to better serve our community and its visitors. We want to update the building to be able to rent it out as an event venue for Grand Rapids. This would allow us to generate revenue and remain sustainable as a project. We have run multiple fundraisers, attended by people from all over the USA, in which the Eritrean community continues to financially reinvest in itself and its people. We want to partner with the Early Childhood Neighborhood Collaborative and Kettering University for their pre-college summer learning program. We want to continue to partner with Bethany Christian Services in helping clothe, feed, house and provide Eritrean refugees with work opportunities. We want to continue to provide tax preparation seminars and information obtaining US citizenship.

### Long-Term Benefit

We will be drawing people to the community and city of GR that normally would not have visited the city. We will be improving our community members' lives through education and mental health resources so that they may become productive members of the workforce and not have trouble with the law. We will be providing an event venue people can rent in GR that can generate revenue. We will be providing an education center with computers, free WiFi and access to housing and citizenship resources.

### Intended Beneficiary

The Eritrean Community of Grand Rapids, and the surrounding cities of Lansing, Flint, Detroit & Chicago

### \*Partnership

We want to continue to partner with Kent County Health for vaccination clinics. Bethany Christian Services to help resettle Eritrean refugees. Early Childhood Neighborhood Collaborative to increase educational readiness in the community by providing quality early learning opportunities. Translating agencies to provide language services, especially for students, job seekers, and those who have medical issues. Eritrean Womens' Organization of Michigan for language literacy, food assistance, housing, computer education, tax preparation, financial knowledge, drivers education, fundraising and help during work orientations.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$249,997

**Maximum Cost:** \$249,997

**ARPA Request:** \$250,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Abrehet Joseph

**Organization:** Eritrean Cultural Civic & Community Center

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Quality of Life

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** New Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

No

### Partnership

*(Listed in main description)*



### Estimated Cost

249997

### Project Management Experience

We have run vaccination clinics through our partnership with Kent County Health. The Eritrean community participated in The Glimpse of Africa festival by cooking and running a food booth and by providing leadership for the festival through board participation. We would like for people outside the Eritrean community to access our services. Our community members span the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Walker and Rockford. We serve as an anchor for the Eritreans all over the United States.

### Federal Funds Experience

n/a

### Studies on Impact

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-future-of-the-inclusive-economy-is-in-activity-centers/>

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$249,997

**Maximum Cost:** \$249,997

**ARPA Request:** \$250,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Abrehet Joseph

**Organization:** Eritrean Cultural Civic & Community Center

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Quality of Life  
**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services  
**Project Status:** New Project  
**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

No

### Partnership

(Listed in main description)

### Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

*Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.*





# PROJECT #66

## Happy people, Healthy communities

### Identify the need for the proposed project

Our collective well-being makes a healthier community. Our project is founded on the belief that all people should have access to what is needed to live their healthiest lives, by creating systems that address a whole person's care and wellbeing versus their isolated aspects of life. We serve new Americans facing disparities due to cultural, language, and systemic barriers. In addition to the existing racial discrimination, the African/black immigrant and refugees also face increased challenges due to language, system, and cultural barriers. These intersectionalities exacerbate these communities' isolation and lack of access to essential resources and opportunities necessary to become thriving overall healthy community members. Our projects and programs are aimed to alleviate these traumas and challenges to help provide peace of mind and an overall good quality of life. Our mental health healing and listening sessions are designed to address the social pressures that cause mental health to provide awareness, multi-lingual education, and resources in a safe inclusive space. Our project's goal is to create an empowering sustainable social-economic prosperity hub with a host of essential resources, such as an affordable prep kitchen for emerging food businesses, language support, and entrepreneur classes to elevate startup businesses to self-sufficiency. In the wake of the pandemic, we learned pre-kitchens are needed to keep food production alive. A Glimpse of Africa is a well-respected, trusted organization with a track record of bringing people together, convening and engaging new Americans and local communities to forge a way forward. During our annual festival, we host more than 50 vendors, who could use a space to learn more about registering and taking their business from "mom and pop" to a thriving small business. This project/program goal is to provide a high quality of life by stopping poverty rooted in a lack of inclusion and equitable access to health, education, and social and economic opportunities. Our organization's projects motto is bringing people together because we know "Together we are Stronger" we bring people together, to educate and embrace the beautiful, diverse cultures represented in our county and West Michigan at Large to a stronger united community. A Glimpse of Africa partners with many other organizations in the community to conduct its programs, particularly organizations that are led by or center the voices of New Americans, immigrants, and refugees. One of our strengths is acting as a convener for organizations and local leaders who have expertise in the areas of work we have selected. For example, efforts to increase mental health awareness and resources among African communities are carried out in partnership with local practitioners of color and organizations such as Family Outreach Services, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute, Treetops Collective, AYA, Bethany Christian Services, and more. Our Art and culture programs are done hand in hand by our local African immigrants and refugee groups, artists, and business. Our civic engagement efforts are in partnership with NAACP, and Urban League, Grand Rapids has many resources, but we use our expertise, networks, and reputation among African immigrants and refugees to address the barriers African community members face in accessing these resources.

### Brief Description

Creating an equitable, accessible space and programs with the language and cultural competency where New Americans can feel welcome and have a sense of belonging. An inclusive representation of languages, culture, food, and a post-settlement integration plan that is well planned to set them up for success. A space and system specifically designed for New Americans can cultivate great connections with the local residents, include an incubator program for basic business skills, and access resources in alignment with the Kent County Welcome Plan. Additionally, our project/ programs align with the World Health Organization statement which describes wellbeing as not just the absence of disease or illness but the complex combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional, and social health factors. Well-being is strongly linked to happiness and life satisfaction socially, economically, and in other ways that positively impact one's life. Key components: Multilingual staff with lived experiences to create a sense of representation. Providing essential mental health resources, activities, and discussions designed for the diverse refugee and immigrant communities. Providing cross-cultural education to build trust and confidence in healthcare services. Providing a directory of handpicked health specialists from the impacted communities. Providing resources in collaboration with local partners such as Clinicians of Color, Catherine's Health Center, Hispanic Center,

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$249,998

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Fridah Kanini

**Organization:** A Glimpse of Africa

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Existing Project

**Matching Funds:** 0-25%

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Source of Funding

No

### Partnership

*(Listed in main description)*



## Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$249,998

## Submitter Info

**Name:** Fridah Kanini

**Organization:** A Glimpse of Africa

## Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Existing Project

**Matching Funds:** 0-25%

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



## Source of Funding

No

## Partnership

(Listed in main description)

## Long-Term Benefit

Thriving healthy communities due to more people having access to essential resources and opportunities. A business incubator space will create economic prosperity and more community engagements. Less racial and inter-cultural tensions and hate crimes. Equitable access to opportunities for the less privileged populations will reduce poverty. Building a proactive culture versus reactive culture when crises happen. Helping our government and institutional systems to improve on equity and inclusion

## Intended Beneficiary

A Glimpse of Africa is an equal opportunity organization and does not discriminate in its administrative, program operations or in provision of services. Therefore we serve anyone that needs our support and services! While we do not discriminate, our programs and services are custom designed for the New American( immigrants and refugees) more specifically the African community members, we also serve people of color, and any other New American impacted by culture, systemic and language barriers. We serve adults, youth, low income families, and any other underserved/marginalized persons or groups who may benefit from our support

## \*Partnership

Bethany Christian Services, Treetops Collective, Urban League of West Michigan, Kent County Health Department, Treetops Collective, Hispanic Center of West Michigan, Several African community county specific Organizations , City of Grand Rapids, City of Kentwood, and many other partners

## Estimated Cost

1,000,000

## Project Management Experience

We have experience working on Covid19 vaccines during the pandemic with kent county Health Department, United Way, and MDHHS, We also have Worked

## Federal Funds Experience

We have not yet been directly awarded a federal grant but we have worked under Bethany Christian services as a sub-grantee on some of their federal grants. We did some grant reporting in collaboration with them

## Studies on Impact

We do not have research done yet but we know traditional healthcare treats only one part of a person leaving out health components that are very critical to a person's wholeness and wellbeing. While we cannot address all, our project aims to support many aspects of our lives that influence our state of well-being. According to Eccovia a resettlement agency and World health statements factors that influence well-being are interrelated. For example, a job provides not just money but purpose, goals, and friendships. Essential needs provide peace of mind while Poverty causes anxiety, poor health, and sadness A community provides a sense of belonging. Some factors also make up for the lack of others.



## Supporting Documentation

[Letters of Support](#)

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$249,998

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Fridah Kanini

**Organization:** A Glimpse of Africa

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** Existing Project

**Matching Funds:** 0-25%

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

No

### Partnership

(Listed in main description)

## Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

*Potentially eligible under support for non-profits.*

 **Sustainability**

*Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.*

 **Feasibility**

# PROJECT #306

## Cleaning training for East African Refugees in Kent County



### Identify the need for the proposed project

REIN Cleaning was asked by individuals and Bethany Christian Services to train a refugee family in cleaning and maintaining their house. REIN Cleaning has helped a few families on a voluntary basis, but recognized a great need under the East African Refugee Community, which cannot be offered on a voluntary basis.

### Brief Description

Kent County has a long history of refugee resettlement. Many of these refugees come from Eastern Africa. Housing and living conditions are quite different. Many refugee families find it hard to maintain their houses and use appliances, according to American standards. The lack of knowledge on how to use electric appliances, such as vacuum cleaners, microwaves, ovens, and the lack of knowledge about cleaning products and materials in the USA leads to a poor indoor home environment. According to different studies, indoor home environments are the sites of a variety of biological, chemical, and other environmental hazards. Biological hazards include infectious agents such as bacteria and viruses, molds, endotoxins, and antigens from house dust mites, rodents, cockroaches, pollen, and animal dander. A language barrier is one of the reasons for not getting enough knowledge about the American lifestyle. Edwin Rotich, from Rein Cleaning Services, is a professional cleaner, fluent in Swahili, and understands African culture. He has experience in training refugee families but acknowledges the great need which still exist in Kent County.

### Long-Term Benefit

Poor hygiene will lead to more sickness in the families, which can cause absence from school and work, hospital bills, less income, and fire hazards. This will influence the economic situation for both the refugee families and the government when the refugee families need economical assistance and business and factories miss their employees. More knowledge of cleaning and the use of appliances will help refugee families to prevent and control pests and improve public health.

### Intended Beneficiary

East African Refugees (Swahili speaking community)

### Estimated Cost

East African Refugees (Swahili speaking community)

### Project Management Experience

Edwin, the manager of REIN Cleaning Services, has a healthy cleaning organization. He has been a project leader of KIMON NGO (A Dutch Organization) in Kenia for 4 years.

### Federal Funds Experience

Edwin has experience with working with federal funds in Kenya, but not in the USA.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$100,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$100,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Edwin Rotich

**Organization:**  
REIN Cleaning Services

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** New Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Source of Funding

n/a

### Partnership

Bethany Christian Services



## Studies on Impact

I could not find any studies on training immigrant families on household hygiene, pest control, the right use of appliances, and the effects on the community. However, there are many studies that show the influence of poor hygiene on infections in the community.

## Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$100,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$100,000

## Submitter Info

**Name:** Edwin Rotich

**Organization:**  
REIN Cleaning Services

## Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Community Health

**Project Theme:** Immigrant Services

**Project Status:** New Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

## Source of Funding

n/a

## Partnership

Bethany Christian Services

## Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

*May be eligible under public health.*

 **Sustainability**

*Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.*

 **Feasibility**