



Who is the Fusion Project?

The Fusion Project consists of 4 refugee groups, African, Asian, Eastern European and Middle Eastern. Each group is staffed by a coordinator who came to the United States as a refugee themselves and who is an active member of their respective ethnic community. The project is overseen by a head coordinator. The role of each group coordinator is to provide a connection between the refugee groups and the mainstream community in order to promote newcomer self-sufficiency and overall cultural awareness. The Fusion Project staff holds regular meetings with groups of refugees in Lincoln who provide input from their respective refugee cultures to establish community needs, solutions and plans of action.

Fusion is housed at the:



Fusion is funded by the:

OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Asian Community and
Cultural Center
2635 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510



Uniting Lincoln Through Cultural Education

Can you imagine moving to another country with almost nothing, and not knowing the language or culture?

Refugees are people who are forced to do this because of war or persecution in their own country. There are millions of people who share this experience.

Fusion Project is here to help.

Why the name 'Fusion'?

The name of this project, Fusion, comes from the concept of fusion energy which renews itself, or in other words, is self-sufficient. This concept guides the 3 main goals of the Fusion Project:

- 1) For the refugee communities to work together to share and learn about developing robust ethnic communities.
- 2) For each refugee family to achieve self-sufficiency and social and civic integration into their new country and new community.
- 3) For Lincoln's mainstream community to be better equipped to work with refugees.

What does the Fusion Project do?

The Fusion Project began in 2006. We began by establishing a plan to help new refugee arrivals become self-sufficient and understand the culture of their new home. As a result of this plan, the Fusion Project has focused its efforts in the following ways:



Cultural Guidebook:

This book contains several sections on different topics that refugees feel are important to learn about or that may be handled differently in their home country. It provides information about agencies in the area that can assist them. The coordinators disperse the guides amongst their community members.

Events:

Each team hosts 3 events per year focusing on different educational topics that the refugees have identified as a topic of interest, such as employment, law enforcement and health care. Teams invite community leaders in these professions to speak on these subjects along with the aid of an interpreter to optimize cultural understanding and facilitate questions.

Newsletters:

Each of the four teams releases a quarterly newsletter in its native language.

Mainstream Community Outreach:

The Fusion Project encourages mainstream agencies, businesses and social services to involve themselves in the refugee communities and assists to further educate them in the similarities and differences that exist. The Fusion Project gives free presentations about the diverse cultures in Lincoln.

Refugee Outreach:

Refugee team coordinators and volunteers continuously work on reaching refugee groups to involve them more in the life of the Lincoln community. The Fusion Project has also provided several trainings to the staff and volunteers by local and national professional agencies.

Fusion: 402.477.3446 | www.lincolnasiancenter.org/fusion