

ABOUT CIANA

CIANA is a nonprofit social services agency that has served immigrants in New York City for nearly 20 years. We specialize in providing a holistic array of culturally competent and language-appropriate services that address the growing marginalization of new immigrants, reaching newcomers from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and West Africa. In the past three years alone (FY 2023-2025), CIANA has served over 820 families from 11101, 11368, and 11369 TRIE neighborhoods, making up 30% of clients served in Queens. During this same time period, we have conducted over 10,400 community engagements in those same three TRIE neighborhoods and served over 290 clients through our NYC Care program, a major CIANA program. CIANA offers ESL courses, medical enrollment support, immigration legal services, after-school study initiatives, and services for asylum seekers. Furthermore, CIANA's Digital Safety CEC-funded project in 2024 for digital safety workshops in the Corona (11368) neighborhood directly served over 70 families in response to the needs. CIANA works to offer access for people with various disabilities, including holding classes/meetings at various sites, and accommodating client needs for virtual services when necessary.



LOCATION

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PATHWAYS TO A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE CAREER



Serving the Long Island
City/Queensbridge, East
Elmhurst & Corona
Neighborhoods

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

CIANA is proud to be working in coordination with the CEC and The People's Money to implement our project within NYC's TRIE neighborhoods! Pathways to a Successful College Career aims to inform high school students and their caregivers from the 11101, 11368, and 11369 TRIE neighborhoods about the application process to higher education institutions - stepping through materials needed, advising on best practices to ensure readiness, and promoting access for all. CIANA will support families and students to understand the various options available to them for accessing college education, addressing concerns that families may have about types of colleges, accessibility, distances, cultural factors, and cost.

We will be hosting workshops to inform students and families understand the college process, financial aid packages, and more. Outside of our workshops, we will be recruiting & training community volunteers to mentor students and families through our hands-on mentorship program: stepping through every facet of application requirements, personal essays, scholarships, testing, campus tours, etc. The project will aim to support students and their families to reach their goals and foster a successful, prosperous future.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Modules

The first part of Pathways to a Successful College Career will be workshops hosted by CIANA within the zipcodes 11101, 11368, and 11369. There are three main workshop modules. Module 1 will provide an overview of applying to college, aiming to help students and families understand the options available for college education, accessibility, distances, and building a strong student profile. Module 2 will go over the application process itself, including deadlines, application platforms, and necessary documents and materials. Module 3 will focus on financial aid, including federal grants, NYS grants, scholarships and loans. These modules will be delivered in rotations, Module 1 the first week hosted once in each of the three zip codes as well as virtually, Module 2 the second week, Module 3 the third week, and Module 1 will repeat on the fourth week. The rolling basis for modules allows for participants to attend at any given time, working around their schedules and needs. The workshops will be conducted in classroom sized groups and delivered multilingually in order to effectively communicate the module materials as well as properly engage participants.

Requirements

The requirements needed for participants who sign on to the project will include availability to commit to workshop hours (afterschool), are a student / caregiver who live in or attends schools from the 11101, 11368, and 11369 zip codes, and the desire to learn more!

What will be given by the program to incentivize participants:

The workshop program will include free planners, tote bags, water bottles, refreshments during workshops, and a certificate of completion!