Youth

Early Childhood

CASL supports children ages 0 to 5 in becoming capable, confident, and responsible individuals who succeed in school and thrive as adults. Parental engagement is a critical component of early childhood programming.

Family and Learning Resource Center: Family support for parents, grandparents, and other caretakers with children ages 0 to 5 years. The program is open to families of all ethnicities and backgrounds, and in particular helps immigrant families assimilate into American approaches of parenting and early childhood education. Parents of adopted Chinese children are encouraged to help preserve their children's heritage.

Child Development Center: Full-day multilingual preschool for children ages 2 to 5 years old—with focus on holistic development.

School Age

Immigrant families are supported in their efforts to provide their children with a firm foundation and Chinese cultural retention as they transition into American culture.

School Age Center: Full-day and after-school programming for children ages 5 to 12 years old. Enriching bilingual/bicultural environment equips children with the skills to succeed in school.

Teens

The Youth Development Program provides a safe, supervised, and welcoming environment that supports the holistic development of youth in grades 6th through 12th—particularly Chinese immigrant and American-born Chinese teens. Middle and high school teens learn leadership skills, engage in community activities, experience a sense of belonging, and become ready to make healthy, responsible choices in their lives.

- Academic tutoring
- Life skills workshops
- Community service
- Preparation for college entry exams
- Structured recreation
- Work experience and job training
- Leadership training
- Parental involvement

Youth ages 4-14 may take cultural immersion and retention classes in Mandarin, guzheng string instrument, Chinese dance, and drawing.

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Employment and Education

Employment counseling and training provides a variety of assistance to community members of all ages—particularly new immigrants challenged with navigating their new work and social environments.

Adult Employment Program: Assists in finding job opportunities for adults with multiple barriers—especially new immigrants with low English language proficiency. The program also provides thorough assessment as well as job coaching and placement assistance.

Chef Training Program: Offering western-style cooking instruction and vocational English as Second Language, equipping students with knowledge and skills for entry-level positions with major hotels, institutions, and restaurants.

Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program: Fostering and promoting effective part-time opportunities for unemployed, low-income people age 55 or older with limited employment prospects. Placement is in non-profit community service organizations.

Immigration Services:

- Citizenship: application, education, naturalization
- Family reunification for those who wish to bring their families to the United States

Cup of Tea: Weekly Saturday meet-ups held for learning and practicing conversational English.

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Seniors

CASL is dedicated to enabling older adults to achieve healthy living and aging in place through our person-centered, culturally competent, and integrated home and community-based services.

- Adult Day Service: Enhancing older adults' physical, mental, and social wellbeing by engaging them in life enrichment activities and connecting them to their community.
- In-Home Service: Enabling older adults to live independently in their own home and community with dignity and respect.
- Pine Tree Senior Council: Empowering older adults to be actively engaged in the community to promote Chinese cultures and civic engagement.
- Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program: Fostering and promoting effective part-time opportunities for unemployed, low-income people age 55 or older with limited employment prospects. Placement is in non-profit community service organizations.
- Evidence-Based Workshops: Improving balance for seniors, managing diabetes, healthy aging, caregiver training, and more.
- Community Participatory Research: Collaborating with medical and academic research institutions that enhance services to seniors.

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Healthcare Outreach and Case Management

Healthcare Outreach and Coordination is offered in partnership with local hospitals and organizations, healthcare coordination helps those in need to navigate healthcare systems and gain access to available resources.

- Health insurance applications
- Primary care physician coordination: connects patients to culturally sensitive physicians and assists with follow up.
- Women's health services: referrals for breast exams, pelvic exams, PAP tests, etc.
- Wellness maintenance workshops: to improve balance, managing diabetes, healthy aging, caregiver training, and more.
- Health screening

Case management services assist clients with gaining access to essential resources.

- Information and referrals
- Casework management
- Translation and interpretation
- Chinatown Pro Bono Legal Clinic: Held monthly on Saturdays.
- Public benefits: Such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, and more.
- Entitlement program: Social Security applications, Social Security benefits, and more.

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Housing and Financial Literacy

Housing and financial education is provided for low income and moderate income families in need of achieving financial literacy, solving housing issues, and connecting with the mainstream resources and benefits they are entitled to.

- Housing Counseling: Home buying, pre and post-purchase, foreclosure prevention and intervention, rental counseling, and more.

- Financial Literacy and Coaching: Savings, budgeting, banking, credit, ID theft, loans, homeownership, financial planning, and more. Working with individuals on a plan to achieve their financial goals.

- Energy Assistance: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Summer Energy Assistance Program, Emergency Furnace, ComEd Hardship, home weatherization, and more.

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Advocacy

In keeping with our mission to empower new immigrants and protect the rights of all people, CASL works closely with other advocacy organizations such as the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community.

Example Activities

- Engagement in advocacy rallies
- Visiting, advocating, and collaborating with legislators
- Workshops on civic engagement
- Voter registration and education

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