

Project Title: Support for Children, Parents and School

Time Frame: October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024

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New American Pathways (New AP) is a nonprofit located in DeKalb County that empowers refugees and supports their successful integration into Georgia's communities. Established in 2014, New AP resulted from the merger of Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA) and Refugee Family Services (RFS).

Our mission is to help refugees and Georgia thrive. Our vision is to guide new Americans on their journey to success. By providing a comprehensive range of services tailored to the unique needs of refugees and immigrants in Georgia, we ensure they achieve four crucial milestones: Safety & Stability, Self-Sufficiency, Success, and Service. Our services focus on five key areas:

- Welcoming Services- providing housing, basic needs, cultural orientation, and benefits enrollment to newly arrived refugees and immigrants.
- Economic and Career Advancement- providing ESL and financial literacy training, job readiness and placement, career advancement, and asset-based savings match.
- Health and Well-being- connection to community resources, healthcare navigation, health education, and health and social adjustment case management.
- **Support for Parents, Children and School-early childhood home visiting, after-school, summer, and parent liaison services to 170+ Dekalb County families each year**
- Citizenship and Civic Engagement- immigration services, voter registration, civic education, get out the vote, and leadership development.

New American Pathways supports refugee children, parents, and Dekalb County schools through three programs:

1. Parents as Teachers- an early child home visiting program that provides refugee parents of children ages 0-5 with home-based, culturally, and linguistically appropriate support. The programs empower parents as the child's first and most important teacher and helps identify developmental delays early, connect families to community resources, and ensure children enter kindergarten school ready. With Parent Educators from five countries who collectively speak 8 languages, this program serves 90+ families each year.

2. Bright Futures afterschool and summer programs- New AP provides free afterschool and summer programs for refugee and immigrant children in four DeKalb County Schools- Jolly Elementary, Freedom Middle, the International Community School, and, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, Clarkston High School. The program serves 230 students and focuses on English literacy, homework help, curriculum-based enrichment, and character

development. On average, students in this program improve reading proficiency by 3 to 5 reading levels each year (approx. 2 grade levels).

3. School Liaison Program- a parent support program that serves the families of children in New AP youth programs, helping them to set parent involvement goals and effectively connect with their children's school. The program provides home visits, planning and interpretation for parent teacher conferences, in-language workshops, and connection to community resources. In 2023 Parent Liaisons provided 528 parent support services for After School and summer program families.

New AP funds these three programs through a combination of Federal, State, and private sources. This year the program is serving an increasingly diverse group of students and families reflecting the increasing number of refugees arriving in DeKalb County. Currently enrolled families speak 17 languages. New AP works to staff our family support programs with community members who can communicate in language but as the population diversifies, we do not have language capacity on staff for all participants. This year 65 families in our Bright Futures after school and Parent Liaison Programs speak languages not spoken by New AP staff. We are requesting \$ 13,000.00 in funding from DeKalb Country for interpretation support for these families.

Interpreters are needed to provide orientation and enrollment support for the after-school program, host information sessions and workshops, follow up with parents on academic, behavioral, and health issues, and connect parents to community resources. On average each family receives 10 hours of in-language support each year. New AP pays approximately \$ 20 per hour for contract interpretation (including in person interpreters and limited use of language line). Support from DeKalb County would allow us to ensure that every family in our program has the support they need to ensure student success.

65 families receiving 10 hour of contract interpretation each at \$ 20 per hour = \$ 13,000.