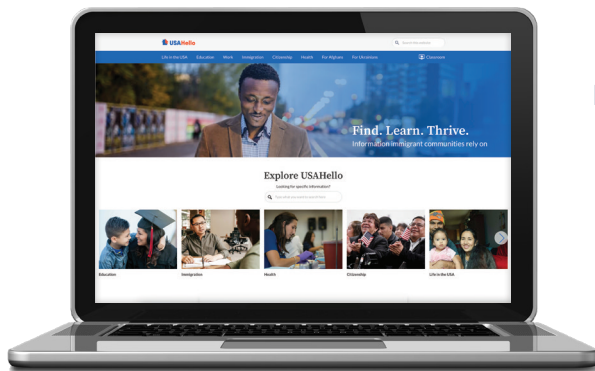


Resource Review

USAHello

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■ <https://usahello.org/>

USAHello is a website that offers many relevant resources that practitioners in adult education programs can learn from and share with the adult learners they serve. As the header on the site proclaims, the website is “an online center for information and education for refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants and welcoming communities.” This well-designed, comprehensive website is organized in six sections entitled Life in the USA, Education, Work, Immigration, Citizenship, and Health. There are separate sections specifically for individuals from Afghanistan and Ukraine. Information about current and expected changes to immigration policies has been added recently and is regularly updated.

Life in the USA

Immigrants and refugees in the United States often seek out the kinds of information featured on the USAHello site. In fact, much of what is featured in the Life in the USA section would make valuable topics in an adult ESOL class. Users will find short readings related to various aspects of daily life in the United States. For instance, the section focused on money offers information about banking, budgeting and paying taxes. The daily life section

provides helpful advice regarding shopping, housing, and public transportation. This section also features guidance on getting a driver’s license and some helpful tips for driving in the United States. Information about services for individuals with disabilities is also available. Relevant details about American laws, including laws related to housing, immigration, driving, and individual civil rights among others can be found here, too. Anyone who may need to find an attorney can use the search tool provided on the site.

Work

In the webpages on Work, readers can find many valuable resources for those who have permission to work in the United States. Many new arrivals need to find a job right away. The site connects users to a wide range of job-related resources, including details for how to apply for jobs and prepare for interviews. Users who are interested in career exploration will find links to useful resources including government websites such as career one-stops and the O*NET career interest survey. Adult education teachers may even want to have adult learners complete the O*NET survey as a worthwhile classroom

activity. There is even a section here on becoming an entrepreneur by starting a business.

Education

It is common for immigrant parents to have questions about education for their children as well as for themselves. Many adults want to know where they can study English or how to prepare for U.S. citizenship. Some individuals are interested in obtaining a high school equivalency diploma. Others want to enroll in career training programs or college classes. Anyone interested can find up-to-date information on these inquiries, including the ability to search for adult education programs and career training opportunities in users' local areas. In addition to these search features, the site also lists a number of free online resources for studying English independently.

Many users will find the classroom section of USAHello valuable. The site features two freely available online courses, one designed to support individuals who want to study for a high school equivalency diploma and another designed to prepare individuals for U.S. citizenship. The self-paced high school equivalency course prepares a student in the four required subject areas: math, social studies, language arts and science. Interested students can also take a GED® practice test on the site to determine their readiness for the official test. Individuals who are interested in becoming U.S. citizens will find an online course designed to prepare them for the U.S. citizenship experience. The citizenship course is also self-paced and free. All the steps to prepare for U.S. citizenship are clearly spelled out on the site.

Health

Not surprisingly, it is common for newcomers to have a lot of questions about health care in the United States. The USAHello site explains, in clear, easy to understand English, how to find a doctor, make an appointment, and prepare for a medical appointment. Information about how to request an interpreter if needed during a visit is also provided. In addition, the site discusses health insurance and provides details about programs individuals may be

eligible for, e.g., the Affordable Care Act and Children's Health Insurance Program. The site also features a section related to mental health care, which addresses sensitive topics such as culture shock, trauma, and depression. There is a convenient search feature to locate health care providers and clinics in local areas.

Immigration

The immigration section explains immigration rights and processes related to U.S. visas and asylum as well as the steps for obtaining a green card. One can find updates here related to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. This section also offers guidance on ways to legally prepare for immigration enforcement in the event that is necessary. The downloadable immigration guide is chock full of helpful information for adult education practitioners and adult immigrants.

Citizenship

The Citizenship section of the site discusses the responsibilities and the benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen. This section includes a number of short, inspirational videos featuring the stories of newly naturalized U.S. citizens. Adult education teachers might consider sharing one or more of these videos as part of a citizenship class.

Final Thoughts

USAHello is a beautifully designed and easy to navigate website. The language on the site is written in accessible English; however, the entire website has been translated into 23 languages enabling visitors to read in their language of choice. USAHello is a one-stop (online) shop enabling adult educators to locate helpful information on the many topics of interest to the immigrants and refugees who attend their programs. Adult education practitioners can share this great resource with learners in their programs, and teachers may even opt to include information from the site as part of instruction. The freely available online courses would surely be of interest to many adult learners. There is also a handy app called FindHello that was developed in collaboration with the United Nations.