

Basic Skills Refugees Should Know



- How to say and write:
 - their name, address, birth date, and social security number
 - their spouse and children's names and birthdates

- How to ask for an interpreter and how to always spell the name of their native language (especially important to prevent a mix-up between Karen and Korean)

- The name, daytime phone number, and emergency phone number of their landlord

- How to write and mail or deliver checks for rent and utilities

- How to balance a checkbook

- The phone number to call in sick at work and how to do so if possible

- The name, phone number, and address of their children's school

- Basic maintenance of their:
 - Apartment - vacuuming, thermostat, using a plunger, basic cleaning, food storage, how to buy and change light bulbs, etc.
 - House - all above tasks plus changing furnace filters, days of trash pickup, mowing, shoveling snow

- How to use a washer and dryer

- How to walk or take the bus to the grocery store, thrift store, dollar store, etc

- How to keep paperwork organized by topic in folders
 - * This is a great task with which volunteers can assist. Help the family get large envelopes or folders and label each one such as "OPPD", "MUD", "Apartment", "HHS (Food Stamps and Medicaid)" Help them sort their papers.