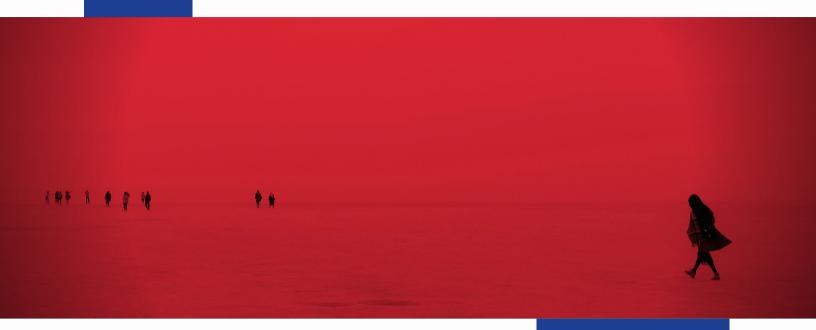
JUNE 2021





## **ECE® Aid Updates**

#### Dear Friends,

June is a month full of days to celebrate and honor immigrants and refugees across the world. From Immigrant Heritage Month to World Refugee Day on June 20, I hope you find time to celebrate and support immigrant-owned businesses, restaurants, and the arts within your community.

Supporting refugees and immigrants offers a chance for all of us to contribute, assist, and exchange cultures and knowledge. It's a way for all of us to celebrate the diversity of our world and inspire each other to build stronger, more cohesive communities.

In this issue:

**ECE® Aid Updates** 

Participant
Spotlight:
International Rescue
Committee (IRC)



Below you will read about an organization that has been assisting and advocating for refugees for eight decades, the International Rescue Committee. Please enjoy!

# Participant Spotlight International Rescue Committee (IRC)

We've been proud to assist IRC clients through ECE® Aid since 2019. This interview was conducted with Manar Marouf, Senior Training Coordinator.

#### What types of programs does your organization focus on? Who do you serve?

We are a refugee resettlement organization serving refugees, asylees, and other immigrants in their new journey in the U.S. We provide a variety of services related to case management, including employment, education, and immigration.

### How did you hear about ECE® Aid?

I met ECE® staff member, Zachary Holochwost, at a forum for higher education for refugees during a session on how to improve access to higher education for refugees. I asked a question about degree evaluation and how to overcome this barrier that many refugee students face as they try to go back to school. Zak and I had a conversation about ECE® Aid and how it might be a good resource to refugees and other immigrants.

# How does ECE® Aid or a credential evaluation benefit those you serve?

Many of my clients want to pursue higher education opportunities in the U.S. to continue their education that was disrupted by displacement. And others need their documents to be evaluated for professional opportunities. Using ECE® Aid has helped numerous clients access educational opportunities and show proof of education in a certain field that help them advance in their professional careers.



Tell me something about your organization or your job that you are most proud of. What makes you go into work every day to assist those you serve?

My job is really about helping people reach their goals and better their opportunities as they embark on a new journey filled with excitement and unknowns. As someone who had to navigate the U.S. higher education system myself, I am grateful to be able to help someone navigate the higher education route, which can be really challenging to people from outside the U.S.

#### Thank you, Manar, and the IRC for your continued support and dedication to refugees.

I would like to thank ECE® Aid for its support to my clients over the last couple of years. Having documents evaluated might be one step in applying to college or job, but it has a huge difference in making someone reach their goals.

Please be sure to check out the <u>IRC website</u> for more information about how they are serving refugees from around the world every day.

Click to Support Refugees Today!



With gratitude,

## **Zachary Holochwost (he/him/his)** ECE® Aid & Market Research Manager













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