

African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)

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OUR MISSION

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

OUR GOALS

- ◆ Build the leadership and organizational capacity of the community
- ◆ Advance public policies to increase opportunities and support for immigrant and refugee integration
- ◆ Ensure that African immigrant and refugees have an active role in multiple civic arenas
- ◆ Promote community development and access to social services
- ◆ Serve as a viable model of African Unity and Empowerment

NEW ILLINOIS DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR THOSE WITHOUT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

On January 27, 2013, the Governor of Illinois signed Senate Bill 957 into law, allowing immigrants who do not have social security numbers in Illinois to obtain a **Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL)**. TVDLs are currently available to other categories of immigrants who cannot obtain a social security number, such as foreign students, spouses and children of temporary workers, and long-term visitors. The new law extends the TVDL to undocumented immigrants who have lived in Illinois for at least one year.

The TVDL enables undocumented immigrant residents of Illinois to drive legally, without being arrested. It does not change the immigration status of its holder, and is not considered a valid form of ID. That is, it cannot be used to board an airplane or enter into a federal government building, for example, but it may be used by hospitals and first responders to indicate the license holder's name and address. A TVDL is visually distinct from a regular driver's license; it has a purple color scheme rather than the red color scheme of the regular license.



Alie Kabba sits with Salma Waheedi to discuss TVDL on CAN TV

The TVDL is available for driver's license class D, L, or M (cars and motorcycles) and is valid for three years. A TVDL holder is required to have current liability insurance on the vehicle for the license to be valid.

Secretary of State (SOS) offices will begin the process of issuing TVDLs to undocumented immigrants in December 2013. An

appointment is required before submitting an application. Starting mid-November, eligible immigrants can start making appointments to apply for TVDLs at selected SOS offices by calling 885-212-2687 or visiting www.cyberdriveillinois.com. [Learn more](#)

Upcoming UAO**Events:****GET YOUR COMMUNITY COVERED - WORKSHOP**

The new healthcare law, the Affordable Care Act impacts almost everyone. UAO is hosting a workshop for community leaders and members to ensure that everyone in the African community Gets Covered.

When: Saturday November 16th, 2013 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where: 10 West 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

[Learn more](#)

FREE CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

All residents who are Green Card holders for at least 5 years, or 3 years and married to a U.S. citizen are invited to attend a free citizenship workshop where they can get free assistance with their application to become a U.S. Citizen.

When: Saturday November 9th - 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Where: 10 West 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

[Learn more](#)

WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

There are many benefits worth considering to become a U.S. citizen. As a citizen, you can run for public office, you will have the right to vote in local and national elections, and you will be eligible for government benefits. Also, you could qualify for employment with the government or for certain scholarships. As a citizen, you will be able to sponsor your children and family members to come into the U.S!

In spite of these benefits, many Green Card holders who are eligible for citizenship do not eagerly embrace the opportunity. Factors that deter eligible applicants include the \$680 naturalization application fee, affordability of immigration legal services, fear of the citizenship interview, speaking limited English, previous arrests record, and owing tax to the Internal Revenue Service, among others. Simple solutions are offered to resolve these problems at citizenship workshops offered by the State of Illinois under the New Americans Initiative.

That is why we encourage all residents who are Green Card holders for at least 5 years, or 3 years and married to a U.S. citizen to participate in our citizenship workshops. At the workshop, each participant gets a:

- Free one-on-one consultation with an Immigration Attorney
- Free assistance to complete the application for naturalization
- Free information on how to apply for naturalization application fee waiver
- Free information on preparing for the citizenship text and interview

Attend our next free citizenship workshop:

Saturday, November 9, 2013

9:00am to 11:00am

IIT Tower Building

10 West 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

[Click here for a list of required documents](#)

Free Parking is available in the parking lot at 34th and State Street

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**Fabric Printing Instructor**

A fabric printing instructor to teach Batik, Adinkra, etc., to children in the NW suburbs. The applicant should have own transportation and be very friendly. Position starts out with 10 hours a week and pays \$20 to \$30 per hour, depending on experience. To apply, email your resume to services@uniteafricans.org

Language Instructor

Yoruba and Amharic instructors to teach children in the NW suburbs. The applicant should have own transportation and be very friendly. Position starts out with 10 hours a week and pays \$20 to \$30 per hour, depending on experience. To apply, email your resume to services@uniteafricans.org

Communication Intern

UAO is currently seeking a Communications Intern to assist with its internal and external communications strategies. The intern should be detail-oriented, with strong written and oral communications skills, and have a good understanding of social media. This position is unpaid.

Outreach Intern

UAO is currently seeking an Outreach Intern to assist with extending the reach of UAO's programs in the African immigrant and refugee community in Illinois. The intern will implement a targeted outreach plan designed to effectively reach the diverse and dispersed African community. This position is unpaid. [Apply here](#)

Community Events:**CAMEROONIAN ARTIST, PETIT PAYS IN CHICAGO**

When: Saturday November 16th, 2013 - 7:00 pm to 12:00 am
Where: 125 East 26th Street
Chicago, IL

[Learn more](#)

Do you have events going on in your community? Let us know by emailing: events@uniteafricans.org

Share Your Story

We all have stories about how we, each in our own way, enrich our communities. Tell us how you GIVE BACK to YOUR COMMUNITY...

You could be featured in the next issue of African Advocate!
Email: editor@uniteafricans.org

MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**After School Tutor**

We are seeking an after school tutor, preferably Yoruba speaking, for an elementary school on Chicago's south side.

To apply, email your resume to services@uniteafricans.org

Igbo Interpreter

Igbo-speaking interpreter is needed in a medical setting. Positions pay about \$25 per hour. To apply, email your resume to services@uniteafricans.org

Tigrinya Interpreter

Tigrinya speaking interpreter is needed in a medical setting. Positions pay about \$25 per hour. To apply, email your resume to services@uniteafricans.org

Dance Teacher

A Modern African Dance teacher to teach children in NW suburbs. The applicant should have own transportation and be very friendly. Position start out with 10 hours a week and pays \$20 to \$30 per hour, depending on experience. To apply, email your resume to services@uniteafricans.org

Music Teacher

A music teacher to teach drumming, shekere, djembe, etc., to children in NW suburbs. The applicant should have own transportation and be very friendly. Position starts out with 10 hours a week and pays \$20 to \$30 per hour, depending on experience. To apply, email your resume to services@uniteafricans.org

GET YOUR COMMUNITY COVERED

The new healthcare law, the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, impacts almost every one.

For many African immigrants and refugees, our perception and experience of health care is "**I'll go to the clinic when I get sick**". The Affordable Care Act is creating a culture of coverage in our communities. It is here to ensure that people get regular care through doctor's visits and do not have to wait till they have serious health issues that end up in the emergency room.

Please join us on **Saturday, November 16** from **10:00am to 12:00pm** at **10 West 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616** for a workshop on the Affordable Care Act.

- * What proportion of your community have health insurance?
- * How does the Affordable Care Act impact African immigrants and refugees in your community?
- * Will those who are not citizens be able to get health insurance?
- * What about those who are out-of-status or do not have social security numbers?
- * I have a small business, what options are there for me and my employees?
- * I am self-employed. Do I also need health insurance?
- * What can you do to ensure that everyone in your community gets covered?

Got other questions? We would love to answer them, so join us

Saturday, November 16

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Free Parking is available in the parking lot at 34th and State Street

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United African Organization

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Advocacy, Unity, Empowerment

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