



Immigrant Services

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

After fleeing his native Sudan several years ago, Michael eventually ended up in Pittsburgh. Although he has a moderate cognitive impairment, he is fairly self-sufficient. He lives in an apartment with a roommate and works part-time as a dishwasher at a local restaurant, a job he thoroughly enjoys. Michael dreams of becoming a U.S. citizen, but his disability prevents him from learning to read and write English, which means that he is unable to take the test in order to qualify for citizenship. He is even limited in his ability to speak the language.

Solution

The staff at JF&CS's Pittsburgh Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (PRIAC) helped Adam apply for a medical disability waiver that would allow him to complete an interview process rather than take the traditional written exam to become a citizen. Because this is a complex process, the center's staff assisted in many of the steps, such as obtaining a psychiatrist's affidavit that Michael was unable to learn to write. Michael also qualified for a fee waiver, and the center's staff provided guidance in that process, too.

Outcome

After completing an interview that PRIAC's staff attended with him, Michael qualified for citizenship.