

Talk Time Topic: Asking for Help in your Community

Let's get started...

With a partner, make a list of as many types of community services as you can think of. Share your list with your group.

Background:

In the United States, many people rely on community services to provide help and security during difficult times. Today we will be talking about community services and asking for help in the community.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Tell your partner about a time when you got lost in a new place.

- Where were you going?
- What happened?
- How did you feel?
- How did you find your way?

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

What kinds of community services are there in your home country? In the U.S.?

What services does your native country have that you cannot find here?

What services does the U.S. have that your native country does not have?

Are there any free services in your country? How about in your community now?

What volunteer organizations are there in your native country? Is it common for people to volunteer?

Have you volunteered before? If yes, tell about your experience as a volunteer.

In your home country, what services does the government provide for the homeless? Disabled? Elderly? What services do private organizations provide?

Where can you go, or whom can you call if you need help ...

- buying groceries
- paying your rent
- finding an affordable doctor
- finding childcare
- learning English
- finding an apartment
- meeting people
- finding a dentist

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- finding free classes

- mailing a letter

In pairs, make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of the following types of communication. When you are finished, compare your answers with the rest of your group.

in person		
regular mail (snail mail)		
e-mail		
faxes		
instant messaging		
telephone		
cell phone		

Which type of communication do you prefer? Why?

How do you prefer to contact community service organizations with questions or for help? Why?

Some Local Resources:

Organization Name	Services	Website	Phone Number
Hopelink	Food, housing, transportation, childcare, education	www.hope-link.org	Offices in North and East King County 425-943-7555
Asian Counseling and Referral Services	Legal clinic, nutrition, domestic violence, substance abuse, etc.	www.acrs.org	Offices in Seattle and Bellevue 206-695-7600

New words and Idioms:

To know your way around, stoplight, food bank, recreation, community center, daycare, shelter, Hopelink, fire department, free meal, handicapped services, homeless shelter, police department, non-profit, soup kitchen, summer program, volunteer, phone company, gas company, electric company, garbage company, recycle, post office, mail, postage, "give a helping hand," "help out," etc.