



Van Trinh, 25, Houston (housing)

I was born in 1995 in Saigon and [lived there] until I [was] 14 years old, [when] my parents and me and my sister [immigrated] to Houston. I learned so much throughout those years. And now from the difficult beginning, I think I should help the [immigrants currently experiencing what] I used to experience with my parents in the beginning. And I think I should come back and [help] the community.

Not a lot of people outside of our community know how troubled we are. Language barrier is the one thing that I think that we need to raise up more. I know that housing requires a lot of hours and you have to read through [long documents]. One of our applications gets [up to 10 pages]. Even for me, I've been here [for a] long time. I got high school over here, but it's hard for me to be able to understand compared to a person that cannot read or cannot speak. It's hard for them. They're just [at a] very beginner [level] of English.

Even the housing for apartments, their application is quite long, too. And sometimes it's complicated. Every single year you have to renew it. So a lot of my clients are just confused, or [overwhelmed].

We need more education and more resources that [can help] newcomers through the difficult time. Because housing is one of the basic things that humans need in order to have a healthy life, in order to be happy. They need to have food, they need to have [a] house for living. That's what I would like to see in the future.