

Ukrainian Minnesota

This brief is about Ukrainian people — D4:D 0Et=DdV — as a people with a country, a language, and a Minnesota community that is historic and recent. This is not the Russian language door. It is not “Russian-speaking” as a people. Shared empire and a shared alphabet family are not shared culture. Do not open /ci/russian as a synonym. Book Ukrainian if that is the language. Russian only if this household asks for Russian.

History and place

Origins and the Founding of a People

Ukrainian peoplehood is older than the Soviet Union, older than 1991, and older than 24 February 2022. A country on the Black Sea and the steppe; a language; a literature; churches that are not Moscow as a default. Kyivan Rus+Ä ÖVÖ÷ y, Cossack polities, partitions under empire, Holodomor, and a modern nation. Minnesota’s community is Ukrainian. Ask how this family names itself. Do not lecture a St. Paul family about taxonomy they did not ask for.

History for the meeting

Writing in Ukrainian Cyrillic is the ordinary public literacy of the language. It is not Russian with a different flag. Many elders read it. Some do not. Second generation may not read Ukrainian at all. Some households use Russian as a home language because of Soviet schooling — that is a Tuesday fact, not a reason to file this people under the Russian door.

What people brought

What people brought: language, parish, kinship, farming and professional skill, a memory of famine and of a state that denied the name. What they met in Minnesota: an English form, a racial order that may file them as white and skip the interpreter, and often one interpreter labeled “Russian.”

History is literacy for the desk. It is not a speech you give the family. Do not start with a nesting-doll, a borscht, or a 2022 tourism sentence.

The Geography of the Ukrainian World

Ukraine is west, center, east, south — language, church, and some vocabulary shift. Galicia and the Greek Catholic west are not Donetsk. Crimea is occupied geography some families name. Confirm the place if they name it. Do not referee Kyiv versus Lviv versus the east in a waiver meeting. Listen.

Homeland

The diaspora is global: Canada (large historic community), the United States, Poland, Germany, and elsewhere. Toronto is not this map. Chicago and the Rust Belt sit on a different U.S. map. Secondary migration and parish networks built part of what you will meet here.

Minnesota

In Minnesota: Twin Cities — including some inner-ring suburbs and named parishes — and a real Greater Minnesota share. Compass: 72.8 percent Twin Cities, 27.2 percent Greater Minnesota. Do not assume Northeast Minneapolis is the whole. Do not assume the person in front of you has been to Ukraine.

Historic Streams and 2022 — Foundational Events, Not One Flight

If 1975 is the foundational event of Vietnamese Minnesota, Ukrainian Minnesota does not get one year. It gets a stack, and you will misread the room if you pick the wrong one.

Foundational events

Late-imperial and early-twentieth-century labor and farm streams. Post-WWII displaced persons. 1991 independence and the 1990s movement. 2014 — Crimea annexed, war in the Donbas — moved some families before the full-scale invasion. 24 February 2022 is current structure for some households: Uniting for Ukraine humanitarian parole, relatives under fire, a child who has never seen a Minnesota winter. It is a trap if you treat every Ukrainian as last year's arrival. It is also a trap if you pretend the war is not in the room when they name it.

Who you meet

The desk in 2026 meets U.S.-born adults who do not need an interpreter, elders who need Ukrainian, mixed families, and people who will not accept a Russian-language flyer that looks like Moscow. Compass foreign-born 30.3 percent (ACS 2019–2023) is the dated share in that vintage — not the whole post-2022 stream.

2022 is literacy for the desk. It is not a speech you give the family. Do not ask a person to narrate Bucha, Mariupol, or a crossing for your professional development.

Minnesota and Ukrainian History

Minnesota holds a Ukrainian community large enough for a Compass profile and large enough that this department will meet it on waivers, child welfare, health care, cash, food, aging, and employment — historic parish households and recent arrivals in the same week. Compass: about 22,570 (ACS 2019–2023). Greater Minnesota is 27.2 percent. Do not write this people as a Minneapolis anecdote.

Places

Places, not a blob: Twin Cities; inner-ring suburbs; Greater Minnesota towns. Do not write “the Ukrainian neighborhood” onto a map you do not have. Pattern now.

Partners

Partners: Ukrainian Catholic parishes some families name; Ukrainian Orthodox parishes some families name; civic groups this family names; no single “Russian community center” as this people. CECLC is a department door — not the community. Pay the partner this household actually uses.

Do not extract Ukrainian staff as the interpreter or as “the community.” A liturgy is optional professional development if you are invited. You are a guest. It does not make you the expert.

Culture and everyday life

People, place, and perspective

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Who this is

A full mosaic is not a stereotype. A stereotype is when this page becomes the person in the lobby. Paternalism is one “former Soviet” interpreter, an English form because the person looks white, and a 2022 speech you give a third-generation parish household.

Who this is not

Minnesota Compass (ACS 2019–2023) puts Ukrainian ancestry near 22,570. About 72.8 percent Twin Cities, about 27.2 percent Greater Minnesota. About 31.1 percent age 17 or younger; about 13.5 percent 65+. About 30.3 percent foreign-born — which means a large share was born here and a large first generation was not. Date the number you use. The 2019–2023 five-year estimate includes early 2022 and does not hold the whole post-invasion stream. Do not invent a 2026 total. A rate is not the person.

The diversity inside this people is the point. A Greek Catholic elder whose family has been in Minnesota since a mid-century parish, a 1990s professional, a 2014 arrival, a 2022 mother on humanitarian parole, a U.S.-born nurse, a Greater Minnesota household, a person who uses Ukrainian with an elder and English with friends, a household that uses Russian at the table and still names itself Ukrainian — share a people and do not share a Tuesday.

How to read this

Always defer to the person in front of you. This page is a hypothesis you still test on this family.

Family

Family is not one size. Some households look nuclear on an English form and still carry obligation to a parent who does not drive and does not read the form. Some are three generations in one week. Some are a 2022 mother and children whose spouse is still in Ukraine. Compass: average household size about 2.46. Smaller than some neighboring spines. Still not always a nuclear English form.

Who is in the household

The patronymic — a name built from the father — is how a person is fully named in Ukrainian. A form that keeps only first and last has already dropped a who. Ask how to file. Ask who should be in the room.

Who speaks

Adult children may speak for an elder in English. That is a hypothesis, not permission to skip the interpreter or to use a child. CLAS still stands. A sixteen-year-old in the lobby is not the qualified interpreter.

Women's labor and professional second generation sit next to older gender patterns in some rooms. Both can be true. Minnesota law still stands on violence, neglect, and who may consent. Do not skip mandated reporting and call it culture.

B4:D 0Et=DdV — not a Russian-speaking file

To be Ukrainian in Minnesota is to be a people with a country and a language, filed under white in a building that may skip the interpreter and skip the page. Face, parish, and not shaming the name travel into a waiver meeting. Harmony can look like agreement and then a plan nobody follows. Ask whether they agree. Do not take a smile as consent.

In this state

2022 sits in the room for some and is a news cycle for others. Historic parish families, 1990s arrivals, 2014, U.S.-born children, and last year's parole household do not share one Tuesday. You do not referee. You do not put a war slogan on a case note as color.

In the United States another fact sits on the same desk: many Ukrainian Minnesotans are read as white. The building's unmarked default will skip Ukrainian, skip the patronymic, and call that fairness. That skip is the gate. White appearance is not English proficiency and not the absence of a people.

This guide is a working orientation. Individual variation always supersedes group generalization. Always defer to the person in front of you.

Core Concepts

Ukrainian, not Russian as a synonym. The first grammar. If you open the Russian door because the face is white and the name looks Slavic, you do not have a household yet.

Language of the home, asked

Book Ukrainian if that is the language. Russian only if this household asks for Russian. After 2022, a Russian interpreter can be a political door. Confirm.

Patronymic

Given name, father's name as a middle element, family name. Dropping it invents a person. Filing it wrong invents a person. Ask.

Parish as a channel, not the community

Ukrainian Greek Catholic, Orthodox, evangelical, none. Do not make a priest the case plan unless this family asked.

Historic versus 2022

A third-generation English-dominant household and a parole arrival are not one file. You do not interrogate loyalty. You do the form.

White appearance is not English

The skip is the gate.

Religion

Ask. Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Greek Catholic (Byzantine rite, in communion with Rome) are the two large historic public streams. Roman Catholic, evangelical Protestant, Jewish in some families, and none all live here. Do not assume Moscow. Do not assume no church.

Streams

The parish is a center of liturgy, memorial, and sometimes mutual aid. It is not the community. Do not BCC one priest and call it consultation. Icons in a home are not a case plan and not a museum.

Practice

Intra-church politics after 2018 — autocephaly, Moscow patriarchate — are real in some rooms. You do not referee them on a case note.

Do not rank piety. A person who left the church is still this people-page if that is the household in front of you.

Greetings

Handshake is common in many rooms — men, and often women in professional space. Follow this room. Some older parish settings will change the rule. You nod if a hand is not offered. You do not make a scene in the lobby.

Titles

Titles matter. Given name plus patronymic is the respectful Ukrainian address for an adult you do not know well. English Mr./Ms. plus family name is a decent substitute if you cannot produce the patronymic. Do not use a first name with an elder because the form printed it.

This room

AD>C @C,,9 CD5CÔL is a common formal hello. English “hello” is ordinary, especially with the second generation. Say the name. Ask how to say it.

Do not import Somali right-hand rules or the Black nod onto this page. This is not those grammars. Physical contact: follow this person. A hug from staff is not warmth if the household did not offer it.

Naming Conventions

A common Ukrainian pattern is given name, patronymic, family name. The patronymic is not a middle name you may drop for convenience. Databases that drop it invent a person. That invented person then fails a match in MHCP, child welfare, and school.

How to file

Family names may take a gendered ending. -enko, -uk, -chuk, -skyi / -ska are patterns, not a joke. The form that flags the difference as fraud has already chosen a household type. Ask how to file. Ask how this person wants the English record to read.

Do not “correct” a name toward a Russian textbook. Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv are place-literacy for the desk. On

the form, write what they tell you. Pronounce it. Ask.

Women may or may not take a husband's family name in U.S. records. Mother and child may not match. That is not fraud until you have a reason. Three people in one household may not share a "last name" the way a Swedish Minnesota form expects.

Dates of Significance

Orthodox Nativity and Pascha follow the Julian calendar for many Orthodox households — often later than Western Christmas and Easter. Some Ukrainian churches have moved Nativity to 25 December. Ask. They are not a day off the work. They are literacy.

Calendar

Independence Day — 24 August. Holodomor Remembrance — fourth Saturday of November in many Ukrainian rooms. Literacy, not a file. Vyshyvanka Day exists in some public life. A calendar click is not community engagement.

24 February 2022 is current structure for some families. It is not a holiday and not a personality. Do not put a war slogan, a flag lecture, or "Fall of Saigon party" energy on a case note.

Do not put "Eastern European holiday" on a case note.

Etiquette

Elders first. Shoes off in some homes. Accept a little tea or food if offered. Hospitality is a virtue. You still keep medical and legal time.

In the home

Do not walk into a living room and photograph an icon corner or a family photograph wall. Do not touch ritual objects. Do not ask an elder to explain the war as entertainment.

Time

On-time for appointments. Traffic and multi-household logistics are real. Courtesy-yes then no-show happens when the plan was never agreed. Ask whether they agree. Confirm in the language they use.

Do not use a child as the go-between and call it family values. Book the interpreter.

Language and Communication

Ukrainian is not Russian. It is not Belarusian. It is not "former Soviet." An interpreter labeled Russian who is the wrong language for this household is a closed door — and after 2022, a political door. Book Ukrainian if that is the language. Russian only if this household asks for Russian. CLAS: still book a qualified interpreter. A list is not the person and not the dialect.

Language

Compass: among those 5 and older, about 30.8 percent speak a language other than English; about 13.2 percent speak English less than "very well." Date the number. Many elders read Ukrainian in Cyrillic. Some U.S.-born adults do not. A notice in Russian is not a Ukrainian notice.

White appearance is not English. Do not take a light accent as “no interpreter needed” without asking. A short English yes may be exhaustion or courtesy. Do not take a smile as consent. Ask whether they agree with the plan.

Do not use a child as the interpreter. Do not make a Ukrainian coworker the interpreter.

LGBTQ

Queer and trans Ukrainian Minnesotans exist. Conservative Orthodox, Greek Catholic, and some family climates can mean silence or exile. The war does not erase this person and does not get a veto over the name they use.

This person

Staff duty is the same as on the other spines: use the name they use; do not out them to an elder as cultural humility; Minnesota Human Rights Act still applies.

Do not use this chapter to raid a household. Do not pretend the tension is not there. Always defer to the person in front of you.

Hair, Dress, and Body

Vyshyvanka is public at festivals, Independence Day tables, and some church days. It is not a daily uniform. Second generation looks like Minnesota. Do not ask a woman in clinic whether she “still wears the costume.”

Dress

Head covering happens in some parish rooms. It is not a security threat and not a consent problem. Do not touch. Do not comment on gold, a cross, or embroidery as a case note.

Winter dress is Minnesota. It is not ethnography. Heritage Month tables that mash this with a matryoshka have already failed the adjacent-peoples chapter.

Music

Church chant is liturgy, not a playlist. Kobzar and folk forms, popular song, and wartime music exist in some rooms. Named variation, not a “Slavic mix.”

Variation

A playlist is not engagement. A funeral or a liturgy is not staff entertainment. Knowing that 2022 can sit inside a song will stop you from putting the wrong flag on a speaker.

Festival stages are public life. They are not consultation and not a case plan.

Sports

Soccer shows up in public Ukrainian Minnesota life. School sport is ordinary for the second generation. Do not assume the kid plays. Do not make sport the only excellence you can see.

Not the whole person

Sport clubs are social infrastructure for some. They are not language access and not a case plan. A club flyer in English is still a closed door for the parent who needs Ukrainian on the line.

Greater Minnesota and Twin Cities both play.

Literature

Ukrainian is a major written language with a long literature. Shevchenko is literacy for the desk, not a prompt to quote АЩЕ ЧЕ @ in the lobby. This is not a people without letters. It is not Russian literature with a different flag.

Literacy in the lobby

Cyrillic literacy for many elders is the actual operations fact. A notice that exists only in English, or only in Russian, is a closed door. U.S.-born adults may not read Cyrillic and may still be the person who has to explain the form.

You do not need a novel. You need the language this person reads.

Art

Pysanky, vyshyvanka embroidery, icons, and diaspora visual work. Not matryoshka. Not a nesting-doll exhibit. Not a Russian folk-costume mash.

Guest

Guest, not researcher. An icon is not a case plan. A festival is not consultation. Do not photograph a sanctuary as professional development without being asked.

Heritage Month tables that mash a vyshyvanka, a menorah, and a matryoshka into one “Eastern European” booth have already mashed what this brief asks you to keep apart.

War, the State, and the Russian-Door Trap

Holodomor, Soviet surveillance, 1991, 2014, 24 February 2022, Uniting for Ukraine parole, and later enforcement climate for some arrivals — that is the political stack. A DHS badge is not automatically help. For some people, a government form is a thing you survive. That is not “paranoia.” It is pattern.

The badge

The war is current structure for some households: family under fire, mixed marriages, parole that can expire, people who left and people who have been here for three generations. It is a trap if you assume every Ukrainian is a 2022 refugee. It is also a trap if you punish someone for not performing the politics you prefer.

Do not use 2022 as a personality. Do not ask a person to narrate a war for your professional development. Do not collect status you do not need. Do not open the Russian language door as this people.

Adjacent Peoples — Do Not Mash

Not the Russian language door as a people. Open /ci/russian for a Russian-language request. A Ukrainian family that uses Russian still gets to name their people. Ask. A Russian interpreter can still be the wrong door.

Adjacent doors

Not Belarusian mash. Not Polish as a synonym. Not a “former Soviet” interpreter. Not Somali. Not the African American CI. Not “white = no cultural intelligence.” Historic German- and Scandinavian-Minnesota unmarked culture is the European American door, not this one.

Some households are mixed. Ask this household. Never one East-European module. Never one Slavic interpreter.

Counts, Dated

Minnesota Compass, ACS 2019–2023, Ukrainian cultural community: about 22,570; Twin Cities 72.8%; Greater Minnesota 27.2%; age 17 or younger 31.1%; 65+ 13.5%; foreign-born 30.3%; language other than English (age 5+) 30.8%; English less than “very well” 13.2%; English only 69.2%; high school or higher (25+) 93.9%; bachelor’s or higher 53.7%; median household income about \$95,000 (2022 dollars, averaged); poverty 8.2%; owner-occupied 66.4%; average household size 2.46; uninsured 4.5%.

Counts

Date Compass. The 2019–2023 five-year estimate includes early 2022 and does not hold the whole post-invasion stream. Do not invent a 2026 community total. Counts disagree across ACS vintages and definitions (ancestry vs. birthplace vs. language). Date the number you cite.

What the count is not

A young age structure is not a personality. An owner rate is not proof the gates closed. Language and child-as-interpreter are gates. White appearance is not English. A rate is not the person.

Doors and Sources

Minnesota Compass Ukrainian profile (ACS 2019–2023). Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox parishes families name. Civic groups this family names. CECLC is a door, not the whole community.

Public doors

Adjacent, not this page: DHS Equal Opportunity and Access LEP resources — Russian on the five. That list is not this people. Book Ukrainian if that is the language. Russian only if this household asks for Russian.

Learn on your own time

Learn on your own time. Do not make a Ukrainian colleague your unpaid tutor. Do not BCC a parish and call it consultation. Pay partners. Report back. Guest at a liturgy if invited — it is not consultation.

Services, opportunity, and participation

Education

Compass (ACS 2019–2023): among Ukrainian Minnesotans 25 and older, about 93.9 percent high school or higher; about 53.7 percent bachelor’s or higher. Date Compass. About 30.3 percent of the community is foreign-born. High attainment is not “no language gate.” A large share of children are U.S.-born and in

English-dominant schools. The IEP still has to reach the parent who does not read it.

School and language

A parent who speaks fluent Ukrainian and limited English is not illiterate. Many elders read Ukrainian Cyrillic. Some do not. Recent arrivals may hold credentials this country has not recognized. The English-only form is the gate.

Do not skip the interpreter because the adult in the lobby is white, employed, or accent-light. Do not treat a college student as proof the waiver household needs no interpreter.

Other Considerations — unvarnished, not Minnesota Nice

Unvarnished, because Minnesota Nice is how a room that treats everyone the same deletes facts.

Named harms

War trauma is real in some 2022 rooms: cities, roads, loss, a spouse still there. It is not a personality. It is not a reason to skip screening. It is a reason a government badge is not automatically help. Do not invent a Minnesota PTSD rate.

Intra-community language politics still split some rooms — Ukrainian only, Russian at the table, mixed families. You do not referee. You book the language this household asks for.

Alcohol harm and family violence exist in some households. They are not “the culture.” They are not a Slavic joke. You follow the law. You still see a family. Do not skip mandated reporting and call it humility.

Immigration status fear is real for some recent arrivals, including parole that can expire. Do not collect status you do not need. Do not treat fear as noncompliance.

LGBTQ Ukrainian Minnesotans exist. You use the name. You do not out someone to kin and call it culture. Staff who share this community may add facts. They do not get to delete a fact because it is hard to say.

Health

Compass (ACS 2019–2023): about 4.5 percent without health insurance among those for whom status is determined. Date it. That vintage is not the whole 2022 stream. Do not invent a PTSD rate to fill this chapter. Trauma sits in some rooms. It is not every household.

Access

Believe reported pain. Do not invent a Slavic or “European stoicism” slide. Do not fold this history into Tuskegee or into a generic refugee module.

Mental-health stigma exists in some families. Naming a counselor is not the same as a family accepting one. A smile is not a PHQ-9. War does not make screening optional. It does not make every person a case study.

Gender match may be requested in maternal and intimate care. Offer it. Book the language they name even if the person is white. Confirm Ukrainian, not a “former Soviet” default.

Work, Markets, and Government

Professional work, trades, small business, public employment, and under-recognized credentials all live here. A small-business owner and a waiver recipient may be the same extended family. Compass median household income about \$95,000 is an average, not this kitchen table.

Work

Ukrainian staff exist inside DHS and counties. They are not unpaid interpreters and not “the community.” Identity is not a staffing plan.

Staff

Relationship and hospitality may precede a signature. That is not permission to skip a notice. It is a reason the first visit may not be the decision. The notice still has to exist in the language they read.

An English eList comment period is not how this community was reached.

Health-care and Human-service Encounters

Language. Book Ukrainian if that is the language. Russian only if this household asks for Russian.

Patronymic. Who is in the room. Assuming English because the person is white. A child pushed forward as English. War climate for some. Enforcement climate for some recent arrivals.

Language

Confirm the language. Still book a qualified interpreter. Offer gender match. Ask who should hear. Ask how to file the name. Do not make staff the interpreter.

The meeting

Believe reported pain. Do not invent stoicism. Mandated reporting still exists. So does the duty not to treat a whole people as a risk score. Do not collect status you do not need.

Connections to human services

Workplace culture and service delivery are both candidates.

Language: Ukrainian is not Russian. An interpreter labeled “former Soviet” is a closed door. Book Ukrainian if that is the language. Russian only if this household asks for Russian. Still book a qualified interpreter. A list is not the person and not the dialect. Cyrillic is not optional decoration on a notice that actually has to be read. Do not use a child.

Names: given name, patronymic, family name. The database that drops the patronymic or “corrects” toward a Russian spelling invents a person.

Assuming English because the person is white is a CLAS failure wearing Minnesota Nice.

Hour caps, exception processes, and life-sharing matches without language are not culturally neutral.

Enforcement and parole climate: some recent arrivals skip clinic, school, and waiver meetings. That is not noncompliance. Do not collect status you do not need.

Notices and comment: an eList and an English PDF is not how this community was reached. Empty follow-up cells are theater. Greater Minnesota is 27.2 percent — a St. Paul meeting is not the whole channel.

Workforce: Ukrainian staff are not the interpreter pool and not the community. Staff are colleagues, not the curriculum. Do not treat them.

Russian mash: opening /ci/russian because the checkbox or the face looks “Slavic” is a closed door.

Legislation, funding, rule: you cannot advocate for a channel you will not study. This cultural intelligence exists so the 40% has a household in it — not a paternalistic program designed in a building that treated a white face as no CI and a language list as a people.

Continue the connection

- **Equity Analysis Toolkit** — program page </learn/equity-toolkit>
- **Community engagement and connections** — program page </learn/community-connections>
- **Learning and resources** — program page </learn>