



# Office Of New Americans Update

Sonji Davis | Program Manager

# Agenda

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Purpose and duties of ONA

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Credit for Prior Learning  
Project

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MAWB Regional Planning

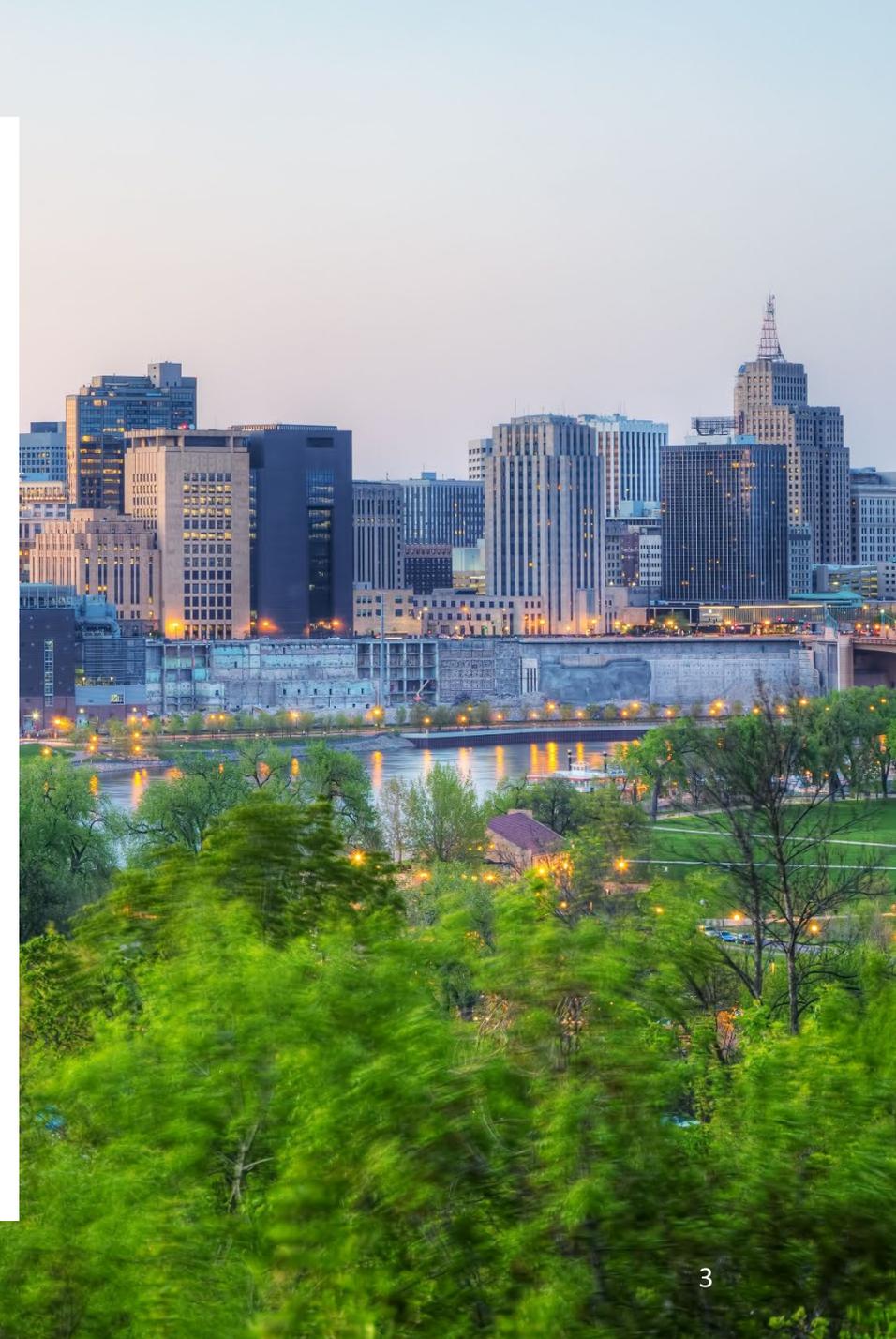
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Grant Application Training

# Minnesota's Office of New Americans (ONA's) - PURPOSE

According to the MN Statute, [Sec. 116J.4231 MN Statutes](#) the Office of New Americans (ONA) purpose is

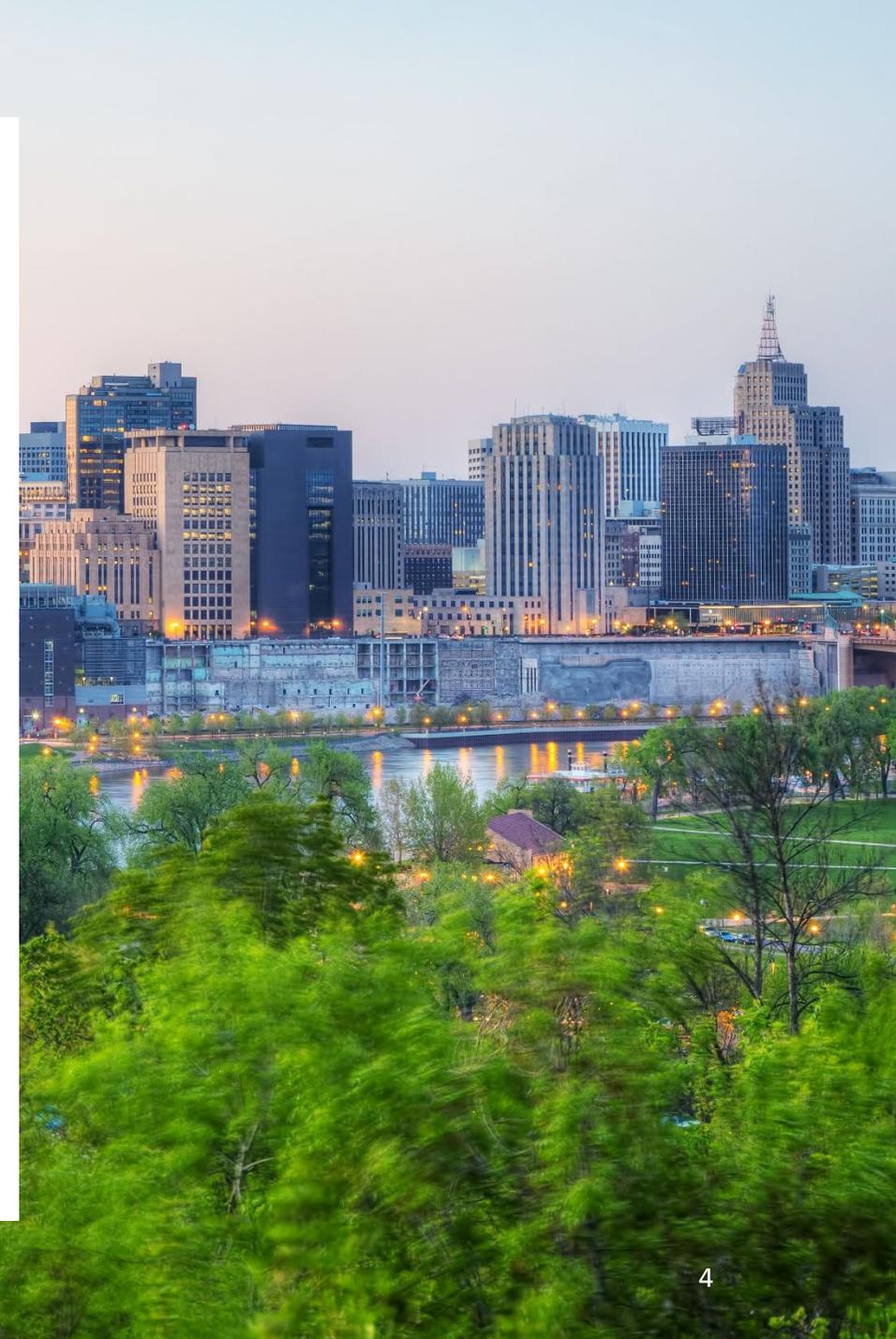
*to foster immigrant and refugee inclusion through an intentional process to improve economic mobility, enhance civic participation, and improve receiving communities' openness to immigrants and refugees by incorporating the needs and aspirations of immigrants and refugees, their families, and their communities for the benefit of all.*



# Minnesota's Office of New Americans (ONA's)

Three of ONA's duties are the following:

- 1) Create and implement a statewide strategy and programming to foster and promote immigrant and refugee inclusion in Minnesota to improve economic mobility, enhance civic participation, and improve receiving communities' openness to immigrants and refugees
- 2) Address the state's workforce needs by connecting employers and job seekers within the immigrant and refugee community
- 3) Identify and support implementation of programs and strategies to reduce employment barriers for immigrants and refugees, including the creation of alternative employment pathways



# International Credential Evaluation Pilot (ICEP)

DEED's Office of New  
Americans

Working in partnership  
with, OHE, Minn State,  
MDE, RPO, and IIMN

## **Background**

This time last year, DEED led a Credit for Prior Learning group with DEED staff, Office of Higher Education (OHE), and Minn State.

- MJSP grant proposal for the development of credit for prior learning assessments
- Specifically for internationally trained professionals residing here in MN
- Funded for a 3-year grant
- First year is to develop the pilot
- This summer will launch ICEP



# Bridging and Connecting

## Education Partners

### Minn State Colleges

ICEP Recruitment/Referrals  
ICEP Eligibility Assessment  
4 Credit for Prior Learning Assessments  
4 Career Pathways  
Language Assessments  
Licensing Pathways  
Student Assessment Fees

### Adult Basic Education

ICEP Recruitment/Referrals  
ICEP Eligibility Assessment  
Academic Assessments  
Flexible Online Platforms  
Occupational English through contextualized instruction

# Bridging and Connecting

## Service Providers

### Local Workforce Area (LWA)

ICEP Recruitment/Referrals  
ICEP Eligibility Assessment  
Virtual Intake Appointment w/ECS  
Employment Outcome  
Training/Support dollars –  
Education/Training  
Employer Network  
Individualized Employment Plans  
and Career Counseling

### Employer Career Support (ECS)

ICEP Recruitment/Referrals  
ICEP Eligibility Assessment  
Virtual Intake Appointment w/CP  
Job Upgrade  
Career Pathways access  
Multilingual staff  
American Workplace Culture/Emp.  
Support

# Future of ICEP

- Host a listening session
- Start ICEP Training: In-person pilot overview training, and virtual trainings (Service Providers, Colleges, and Adult Basic Education)
- Begin promotion, recruitment, referral for eligible applicants
- Short-term Goal - No less than 50 ICEP participant outcomes



# MAWB Planning

Office of New  
Americans

Enhancing Service  
Delivery for New  
Americans

## MAWB Planning

- ONA is working to make resources available to LWDA's who are interesting in enhancing their service delivery to Minnesota's new Americans.
- Find innovative ways to increase connectivity to programs, services, and opportunities.
- Local and or regional proposals submitted from interested applicants will be reviewed and up to 3 will be selected.



## Background

DEED hired a contractor to create grant application writing curriculum content and facilitate a series of three webinars for Minnesota nonprofits on how to navigate the grant application process for public funds.

This summer, just prior to the release of the competitive grant RFP's we plan to offer 3 workshops free of charge to organizations with limited grant application experience.

State Grant Ready: Building Stronger Applications One Step at a Time\*

Grant Application Training

# Grant Application Training Workshops Timeline

SAVE THE DATES – (All Virtual), State Grant Ready: Building Stronger Applications One Step at a Time

May 28, 2025, from 1 – 2:30pm (Workshop #1 Grantwriting 101)

June 11, 2025, from 1 – 2:2:30pm (Workshop #2 Proposal Components)

June 25, 2025, from 1 – 2pm (Workshop #3 Proposal Budgets)



# Thank You!

**Sonji Davis**

*Sonji.Davis@state.mn.us*

651-259-7465