

## **Adult Education and Immigrant Integration**

### **Background**

Successful integration of immigrants is vital to the social and economic strength of the United States. Full integration for New Americans is multifaceted and includes linguistic, civic and economic integration. However, immigrants often face challenges on one or all of these areas which may hinder their participation in school, community and work. Challenges include, limited English proficiency, lack of access to job training and retraining, inadequate information about credentialing and licensing, and limited understanding of U.S. civic engagement. The immigrant community is diverse; they vary in their linguistic, academic and employment backgrounds; their needs are multifaceted. The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) is committed to understanding how adult education can 1) improve immigrants' access to effective and innovative English language programs, 2) support immigrants on the path to citizenship, and 3) support immigrants' career development through training and education.

### **Overview**

OVAE, through a contract with World Education, Inc. and its three partner organizations (National Partnership for New Americans, IMPRINT, and Welcoming America) will design immigrant integration models that strategically coordinate across services and service providers to promote immigrants' linguistic, civic, and economic integration. OVAE expects that this project will identify innovative immigrant integration models, as well as design and deliver technical assistance to help states and local communities plan and implement these models. The project period is March 2013 to March 2016.

### **Project Milestones**

- Create a theoretical framework to guide service delivery.
- A place-based cohort project will design immigrant integration models that strategically coordinate across services and providers to promote immigrants' linguistic, civic, and economic integration.
- Design and implement evidenced-based technical assistance to promote linguistic, civic and economic integration for low-and high-skilled immigrants.
- Recruit and select place-based immigrant integration initiatives to receive technical assistance.
- Deliver and document the effectiveness of the technical assistance.
- Provide recommendations for replication of these integration models and practices.
- Present lessons learned about the design, implementation and coordination of services for immigrants that promote linguistic, civic and economic integration.

### **Outcomes and Products**

- A descriptive Framework of theoretically-sound immigrant integration
- Documentation of technical assistance to each site
- Recommendations for replication of models in other adult education sites

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