



## Skilled Immigrant Integration Program (SIIP) Request for Proposals

World Education Services (WES) Global Talent Bridge's Skilled Immigrant Integration Program (SIIP) offers communities an opportunity to leverage technical assistance (TA) and coaching from WES and its national partners and join a network of communities working to advance meaningful, effective, and sustainable efforts at the state and local level focused on immigrants and refugees with international education and experience.

WES Global Talent Bridge seeks communities committed to accelerating the creation and expansion of tested and promising approaches to the economic integration of internationally trained immigrants and refugees. SIIP will provide selected communities with customized training, coaching, and TA to advance concrete initiatives and build sustainable networks to advance their state and/or local efforts.

This opportunity is intended to serve communities engaged in supporting the professional success of immigrants and refugees through local programs and initiatives. Communities working to advance outcomes that align with four broad themes are invited to apply:

- Enhancing and improving the workforce development system to better serve internationally trained immigrants
- Engaging employers in recognizing and leveraging immigrant and refugee talent
- Finding the levers in higher education or adult education to more fully support immigrants and refugees with international credentials in professional and academic pathways
- Addressing barriers to integration related to professional licensing and regulated professions

[Click here](#) for examples of successful past outcomes related to these themes.

Through this opportunity, WES Global Talent Bridge expects selected communities to commit an engaged local network focused on achieving well-defined one-year outcomes with the support of TA providers. WES Global Talent Bridge will commit staff and partner agency time and expertise, coordinate the program, and provide training and support, as well as connect new and previous SIIP cohorts for peer learning and exchange.



Selected communities will receive:

- TA from WES Global Talent Bridge (up to 12 hours of customized coaching and advising per community)
- TA from national experts (up to 12 hours of additional customized TA per community)  
See list of TA providers and their areas of expertise [here](#).
- One-on-one consultation with WES Global Talent Bridge program staff to outline measurable and achievable outcomes that could be supported by SIIP TA provider expertise
- Access to participation in a two-day virtual SIIP convening—an opportunity to connect with the SIIP network, engage national TA partners, and better define SIIP goals and outcomes
- Four interactive web-based training sessions with WES Global Talent Bridge and other national partners on topics related to the integration of immigrants and refugees with international education and experience
- Monthly calls with WES Global Talent Bridge and participating states and/or cities to exchange ideas and provide updates on the progress of local efforts
- A platform to regularly collaborate with SIIP peers, a hub of 32 state and local multisector networks that includes three active working groups focused on career pathways resources, employer engagement, and data and research analysis

### **Program Criteria and Expectations**

Communities must commit to full engagement in the training and TA provisions outlined above. Communities will be expected to exchange ideas, share best practices, and learn from TA providers and other communities participating in the program.

Communities will be chosen based on criteria that include:

- Demonstrated leadership and commitment to initiatives that foster the professional success of immigrants and refugees with international education and experience
- Evidence of a robust network of multi-sector stakeholders that is inclusive of immigrant- and refugee-led organizations and BIPOC communities, leaders, and networks
- Strong local partnerships
- Commitment to supporting a rigorous program evaluation process
- Strategic alignment with **WES Global Talent Bridge's mission and goals**



We seek to work with communities that represent a range of geographic and demographic characteristics and programmatic goals.

SIIP communities include local networks such as:

- State and/or local government
- Chambers of commerce/employers
- Workforce development entities and/or workforce boards
- Immigrant- and refugee-led community-based organizations and/or coalitions
- Adult educators/ESL providers
- Higher education institutions
- Refugee resettlement agencies

SIIP requires a lead organization to take responsibility for coalescing, convening, and supporting the network and for engaging with WES Global Talent Bridge and the other TA providers. **Applications with a lead agency anchored in local government will receive preference.**

Each community will commit to achieving two to three outcomes over the course of the year at the state and/or local level that will advance integration efforts focused on internationally trained immigrants and refugees. These outcomes should be identified in the questionnaire and are subject to revision in discussion with WES Global Talent Bridge staff in the first quarter of the program year.

Selected communities will be required to participate in all program activities including monthly calls, quarterly trainings, and the SIIP virtual convening.

Selected communities will be required to update WES Global Talent Bridge staff on progress towards outcomes on a quarterly basis and agree to participate in a rigorous program evaluation process over the course of the program, including participation in focus groups, submission of program logs, and quarterly check-ins.

### **Project Timeline and Support**

WES Global Talent Bridge will select a limited number of communities for this program. The provision of training and TA will begin in July 2021 and end in June 2022. Customized TA from WES Global Talent Bridge and national partners (limited to 12 hours from WES Global Talent Bridge and 12 hours from one or more of the national partners) will be accessed



throughout the year as arranged in discussion with WES Global Talent Bridge staff. In addition to customized TA, communities will receive support and coaching through monthly calls and virtual trainings.

The program timeline and milestones are as follows:

2021 – Q3	2021 – Q4	2022 – Q1	2022 – Q2
<p style="text-align: center;">Program activities ongoing, including monthly calls, quarterly virtual trainings and cross-site working groups</p>			
<p>Selected local networks refine outcomes with WES staff</p>	<p>Local networks engage with WES and TA providers to achieve program outcomes</p>		
	<p>All communities convene virtually with WES, TA providers and program alumni</p>	<p>Mid-year evaluation</p>	<p>End-of-year evaluation</p>

### Questions and Updates

To apply for the program, please **submit this questionnaire** by May 31, 2021. Communities may be asked to participate in a brief screening call as part of the selection process.

WES Global Talent Bridge will host an information session on May 12, 2021 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT. Interested communities are encouraged to join the call. To register, send an email to Senay Gebremedhin ([sgebreme@wes.org](mailto:sgebreme@wes.org)) with the subject line “SIIP Call for Information.”

Selected applicants will be notified by mid-June.



### **About WES Global Talent Bridge**

WES Global Talent Bridge is committed to the academic, professional, and economic integration of immigrants and refugees into local communities. Global Talent Bridge is a program of World Education Services (WES), a non-profit social enterprise dedicated to helping internationally educated individuals achieve their educational and professional goals in the U.S. and Canada. In pursuit of WES's mission to advocate for the recognition of international educational qualifications and to enable individuals to fully utilize their education in the U.S., WES Global Talent Bridge offers support and expertise through programming and partnerships with government agencies, academic institutions, immigrant service organizations, and others working to advance the economic integration of immigrants and refugees.

### **About the Skilled Immigrant Integration Program TA Providers**

See the [\*\*SIIP National Technical Assistance and Coaching Providers list\*\*](#) for more information.