



## Skilled Immigrant Integration Program Request for Proposals

The World Education Services (WES) Global Talent Bridge **Skilled Immigrant Integration Program (SIIP)** offers communities an opportunity to leverage technical assistance and coaching from WES and its national partners. The opportunity includes joining 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. Launched in 2017, SIIP has supported 40 cities, regions, and states in advancing workforce inclusion of internationally trained immigrants and refugees. For its sixth SIIP cohort, 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 technical assistance to advance concrete initiatives and build sustainable networks to advance their state and local efforts.

This program is intended to serve communities engaged in supporting the professional success of immigrants and refugees through local programs and initiatives. Communities new to the SIIP network that are working to advance outcomes in alignment with this cohort's focus areas are invited to apply. *If your community has previously participated in SIIP, we will be sharing the alumni-specific SIIP application via email.*

### 2023 – 2024 SIIP Focus Areas

This year, SIIP will build on its success by supporting communities focusing on the following thematic areas:

- **Developing Initiatives in the Field of Immigrant and Refugee Economic Inclusion**  
SIIP will support communities seeking to engage in the field of immigrant and refugee economic inclusion by providing robust training on multi-sector approaches from WES Global Talent Bridge and its partners. New SIIP participants will receive guidance in launching programming or re-evaluating existing programming to support the inclusion of immigrants and refugees in the workforce.
- **Creating Strategies to Promote Employer Engagement**  
Communities in this focus area, with the support of WES and its partners, will develop and strengthen local employer relationships by identifying potential community partners such as the local workforce board, career centers at universities or community colleges, and local



employers. Lead agencies can receive technical assistance to plan a networking event. Applicants that work in state and local government will have priority in the selection process for this focus area.

WES Global Talent Bridge expects selected communities to commit to fostering an engaged local network focused on achieving measurable outcomes with the support of technical assistance providers. WES Global Talent Bridge will commit time and the expertise of its staff and partners, coordinate the program, and provide training and support, as well as connect new and previous SIIP cohorts for peer learning.

Selected communities will receive:

- Technical assistance from WES Global Talent Bridge and national experts
- One-on-one consultation with WES Global Talent Bridge program staff to outline measurable and achievable outcomes that could be supported by the program
- Sponsorship to participate in an in-person SIIP convening in Washington, D.C., from December 11 to December 12, 2023; this convening offers an opportunity to connect with the SIIP network, engage with the WES Global Talent Bridge team and national technical assistance providers, and collaborate on SIIP goals and outcomes
- Four interactive web-based training sessions with WES Global Talent Bridge and other national partners on topics related to the inclusion of internationally trained immigrants and refugees
- Monthly calls with WES Global Talent Bridge and participating states or cities to exchange ideas and provide updates on the progress of local efforts
- A virtual platform to regularly collaborate with the SIIP network, a hub of 40 state and local multi-sector networks that includes resources focused on career pathways, employer engagement, and data and research analysis

## **Program Criteria and Requirements**

Communities will be chosen based on criteria that include:

- Commitment to initiatives that promote workforce inclusion of immigrants and refugees with education and experience from abroad
- Demonstrated efforts to engage networks that include immigrant- and refugee-led organizations and communities and leaders of color
- Engagement in local partnerships

WES Global Talent Bridge seeks to work with communities that represent a range of geographic and demographic characteristics and programmatic goals. SIIP communities comprise local networks that are multi-sector and can include the following:



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

SIIP participants are expected to fulfill the following requirements over the course of the program year:

- Communities must commit to full participation in the training and technical assistance provisions outlined above.
- Communities will exchange ideas, share best practices, and engage with technical assistance providers and other program participants.
- A lead agency will be responsible for coalescing, convening, and supporting local networks and for engaging with WES Global Talent Bridge and the technical assistance providers.
- Each community will commit to achieving one measurable outcome over the course of the program year at the state or local level to advance inclusion efforts focused on internationally trained immigrants and refugees.
- Selected communities will update WES Global Talent Bridge staff on a quarterly basis on progress toward outcomes and participate in an evaluation process over the course of the program, including participation in focus groups, submission of program logs, and quarterly check-ins.
- SIIP communities will engage with all program activities, including monthly calls, quarterly trainings, and the SIIP convening.

### **Estimated Total Time Commitment**

Meeting time: 20 hours

Travel: 3 days

Expected preparation and additional time commitment: 4-6 hours per month

### **Application and Selection Process**

WES Global Talent Bridge will select a limited number of communities to participate in the 2023 – 2024 SIIP cohort. Selections will be announced in September 2023 and cohort onboarding will take place in the same month. The provision of training and technical assistance will run from October 2023 through August 2024. Access to customized technical assistance from WES Global Talent Bridge and its national partners will be arranged throughout the program year in consultation with WES Global



Talent Bridge staff. In addition to this technical assistance, communities will receive support and coaching via monthly calls and virtual trainings.

To apply for the program, interested communities should complete the [SIIP application questionnaire](#) by August 23, 2023. Applicants 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 August 3, 2023, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. EDT. Selected applicants will be notified by early September.

### Program Application Timeline

Key Milestones	Date
Application Period Begins	July 11, 2023
SIIP Information Session	August 3, 12:00 p.m. EDT
Q&A Document Post-Call for Information	TBD
Application Deadline	August 23
Communities Selected	August 31

### About WES and WES Global Talent Bridge

World Education Services (WES) is a non-profit social enterprise that supports the educational, economic, and social inclusion of immigrants, refugees, and international students. From evaluating academic credentials to shaping policy, designing programs, and providing philanthropic funding, we partner with a diverse set of organizations, leaders, and networks to uplift individuals and drive systems change.

WES Global Talent Bridge is dedicated to helping internationally trained immigrants and refugees fully utilize their talents and education in the United States and Canada. We join with institutional partners, community-based organizations, and policymakers to help immigrants and refugees use their skills, leverage their training, and achieve their academic and professional goals.