



Strengthening Immigrant Inclusion Program (SIIP) Request for Proposals: Driving Systems Change for Immigrant and Refugee Students

The World Education Services (WES) [Strengthening Immigrant Inclusion Program \(SIIP\)](#) provides communities technical assistance and coaching from WES and its national partners. The program connects a network of communities working towards meaningful, effective, and sustainable initiatives at the state and local level for immigrants and refugees. Since its launch in 2017, SIIP has supported more than 45 cities, regions, and states in advancing the workforce inclusion of immigrants and refugees. For the 2025 cohort, WES seeks institutions committed to accelerating the development and expansion of effective approaches to promoting the economic inclusion of immigrants and refugees. SIIP will provide selected institutions with tailored training, coaching, and technical assistance to support concrete initiatives and to build lasting networks.

This cohort is intended for community and technical colleges that support immigrant and refugee students through programs and initiatives that recognize these students' skills and expand pathways to their employment.

Focus Area

SIIP invites institutions focused on:

Driving Systems Change for Immigrant and Refugee Students

Selected community and technical colleges will establish and bolster efforts to help immigrant and refugee students—especially those with higher education from outside the United States—secure good jobs in in-demand industries.

This cohort will focus on proven strategies to support and accelerate the career success of immigrant and refugee students. These include:

- Improving intake and retention processes
- Using data to improve access to job opportunities
- Recognizing international credentials to place immigrant students in courses that build on their skills and education
- Implementing Prior Learning Assessments that account for international education and experience
- Expanding employer engagement, particularly in in-demand industries

WES expects selected institutions to achieve measurable outcomes as part of an engaged local network. WES will dedicate time and expertise to coordinate the program, provide training and support, and bring together current SIIP cohorts and alumni for ongoing collaboration and peer learning.

Selected communities will receive:



- Technical assistance from WES and national experts
- Consultation to define measurable outcomes with WES
- A stipend for attending an in-person convening in May 2025
This convening gathers the SIIP network, WES staff, and national technical assistance providers to collaborate on shared goals and outcomes.
- Four web-based training sessions on topics related to the economic inclusion of immigrants and refugees
- Monthly calls with WES and participating states or cities for idea exchange and progress updates
- A virtual platform for ongoing collaboration with the SIIP network

Program Criteria and Requirements

Institutions will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated support from academic system or college leadership
- Institutional commitment to initiatives that promote workforce inclusion of immigrants and refugees
- Existing programs that prepare students for in-demand careers
- Willingness to participate in the SIIP program activities and the evaluation process

SIIP participants must meet these requirements throughout the program year:

- Participate fully in training and technical assistance
- Share ideas and best practices and collaborate with technical assistance providers and other program participants
- Commit to achieving one measurable outcome during the program year to support the inclusion of immigrants and refugees at the local or state level
- Provide quarterly updates to WES and participate in an evaluation process that includes focus groups, program logs, and quarterly check-ins
- Engage in all program activities, including monthly calls, quarterly training, and the SIIP convening

Estimated Total Time Commitment

Meeting time: 20 hours

Travel: 2 days

Expected additional time: 4 to 6 hours per month

Application and Selection Process

WES will select a limited number of institutions for the 2025 SIIP cohort. Selections will be announced in February 2025, and onboarding will take place that month. Training and technical assistance will be



provided from February 2025 to December 2025, with customized support from WES and national partners throughout the year. Monthly calls and virtual trainings will also be available.

Interested communities should complete the [SIIP application questionnaire](#) by February 3, 2025. Applicants may be asked to join a brief screening call. WES will hold [open office hours](#) January 16 and 17. Selected applicants will be notified by mid-February.

Program Application Timeline

Key Milestones	Date
Application Period Begins	January 8, 2025
SIIP Office Hours	January 16 and 17, 2025
Application Deadline	February 3, 2025
Communities Selected	Week of February 10, 2025

About WES

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.

In the U.S. 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.