

Wisconsin
Capacity Building
Mentorship
Initiative 2023
Informational
Webinar

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Agenda

- Background on the Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative
- Objectives
- Initiative Details
- Application Overview
- Next Steps
- Questions

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Background

- The DOJ Recognition and Accreditation Program allows non-attorneys at nonprofit organizations to provide immigration legal services
- Identified the requirement for hands-on experience as the primary barrier to obtaining staff accreditation
- Want to remove barrier and provide a solid foundation for aspiring accredited representatives

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Lack of Access to Legal Representation

- 13 DOJ Accredited Representatives (September 2022)
- 5,889 undocumented immigrants per partially accredited DOJ Representative*
- WI has far less capacity than other similarly situated states

 $\frac{\text{*CMS Study.}}{\text{CPL}} \text{on charitable legal immigration programs and the US Undocumented Program (released on September 28, 2022)}$

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Objectives

- Advancing the justice mission of the Recognition and Accreditation Program through robust training and mentorship
- Provide mentees with access to a mentor in order to gain practice skills (interviewing, intake, reviewing documents, legal research, how to process cases)
- Mentees obtain technical assistance in apply for DOJ Recognition and Accreditation
- Mentees will become DOJ Accredited Representatives.

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Objectives (cont'd)

- Solicit input from mentors and mentees on how to further remove barriers to building immigration legal service capacity throughout Wisconsin
- Create partnerships among nonprofit immigration legal service providers
- Increase the number of qualified applicants for DOJ accreditation in Wisconsin, leading to more robust access to affordable immigration legal representation.

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Eligibility Requirement for Mentees

- Must be an employee or volunteer at a nonprofit organization
- Must have agency approval and support
- Must be in Wisconsin
- Must be committed to taking the training, participating in the virtual/remote mentorship opportunities and applying for accreditation (and recognition if the organization is not recognized)
- Main objective must be to become authorized to practice immigration law and provide immigration legal services
- *Will also consider new hires or volunteers that will start prior to Labor Day 2023

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Eligibility Requirement for Mentors

- Be an accredited representative or immigration attorney (employee or volunteer) at a nonprofit immigration legal services program
- Prefer mentor be in Wisconsin but will consider neighboring states
- Have a minimum of three years of experience as an accredited rep or immigration attorney
- Commitment to provide virtual/in person shadowing experience and mentorship
- *Will consider private immigration attorneys who are well connected with nonprofit immigration legal service organizations

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Mentee Application Process

- Review and fill out online application
- Applications due May 16th, 2023
- Mentees will be informed of acceptance by May 26
- Register for summer or fall COIL
- https://www.cliniclegal.org/resources/wisconsin-capacity-buildingmentorship-initiative-2023

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Mentee Program Details

- Registration for summer or fall COIL, 1 e learning series or 2 Webinars
 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 Timeline/Workplan

- Access to Resources
- Moodle

 - WOOGIE

 Resources & tools

 Guidelines

 Best practice tips for remote shadowing

 Sample letter of Support

 Connect with other mentees
- Technical Support
- Review of applications for DOJ Recognition and Accreditation

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Mentor Program Details

- Application process
- MOU
- Access to Resources
- Timeline
- Moodle
 - Share best practices for remote mentoring
 - Guidelines for hands-on experience
 - Connect with other mentors
 - Sample letter of support template

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Mentor Incentives

- \$500 Honorarium
- Agency access to Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law (or other training) within the project period (March 2024)
- Recognition for mentor and mentor organization

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Pilot Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative (CBMI)

- $\bullet\,$ Develop a transparent and sustainable capacity building mentorship program
- Build and strengthen collaborations
- National visibility to capacity building through DOJ Accredited Representatives
- Double number of DOJ Accredited Representatives in Wisconsin

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Next Steps

- Applications due on May 16 at 11:59p.m. ET
- May 26 Applicants receive notification of selection status
- June 5th summer COIL opens up
- June 6th Citizenship and Naturalization webinar series

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