Wisconsin Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative 2023 Informational Webinar

Agenda

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

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

*CMS Study on charitable legal immigration programs and the US Undocumented Program (released on September 28, 2022)

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.

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.
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

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

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-building-mentorship-initiative-2023
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
  - Resources & tools
  - Best practice tips for remote shadowing
  - Sample letter of Support
  - Connect with other mentees
- Technical Support
- Review of applications for DOJ Recognition and Accreditation

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

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
Pilot Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative (CBMI)

• 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

Next Steps

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

Questions