Minnesota
Recent Arrivals
Capacity Building
Mentorship
Initiative 2023
Informational
Webinar
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Meet Your Presenters for Today

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Agenda

• Background Minnesota Legal Services
• Background on the Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative
• Objectives
• Initiative Details
• Application Overview
• Next Steps
• Questions
Background Minnesota

- Complex Needs of New Arrivals
- Immigration Legal Service Capacity in Minnesota

Lack of Access to Legal Representation

- 18 Partially Accredited DOJ Accredited Representatives (September 2022)
- 4,404 undocumented immigrant per partially accredited DOJ Representative*

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

Background on DOJ R & A

- 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
Objectives

- Advancing the justice mission of the Recognition and Accreditation Program through robust training and mentorship
- Provide mentees with access to a mentor to gain practice skills (interviewing, intake, reviewing documents, legal research, how to process cases)
- Mentees obtain technical assistance in applying 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 Minnesota.
- Create partnerships among nonprofit immigration legal service providers
- Increase the number of qualified applicants for DOJ accreditation in Minnesota, 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 Minnesota
- 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
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 Minnesota 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 December 6, 2023
- Mentees will be informed of acceptance by December 13
- Register for winter COIL
  - Register early December
  - Course opens, Tuesday, January 9, 2024
  - First webinar, Tuesday, January 16, 2024
  - Exam deadline: March 29, 2024

Mentee Program Details

- Registration Winter COIL
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Timeline/Workplan
- Access to additional training
- Access to resources
- Moodle
  - Resources & tools
  - Guidelines
  - Best practice tips for remote shadowing
  - Sample letter of support
  - Connect with other mentees
- Review of applications for DOJ Recognition and Accreditation
Mentor Program Details

- Application process
- MOU
- Access to Resources
- Timeline

Mentor Incentives

- $500 Honorarium
- Agency access to Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law (or other training) within the project period (October 31, 2024)
- Recognition for mentor and mentor organization

Mentee Incentives

- Access to free training
- Access to program management technical support
- Stipends travel & lodging CLINIC Convening, May 29-31
- Exhibit table showcase project
Recent Arrivals Capacity Building Mentorship Initiative

• Develop a transparent and sustainable capacity building mentorship program
• Build and strengthen collaborations
• National visibility to capacity building through DOJ Accredited Representatives
• Increase the number of DOJ Accredited Representatives in Minnesota

Lessons Learned

• Prioritize who will be practicing law
• 501c3
• Sustainability
• Existing and Emerging programs
• Applying for Recognition

Next Steps

• Applications due on Dec 6, at 11:59p.m. ET
• One on one calls
• Applicants receive notification of selection status Dec 13
• Register for COIL
• COIL starts January 9th, 2024
• All About EAD training March 27, 2024
• Additional Training
• CLINIC Convening Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 29-31
Application

- Mentor Application
  https://www.cliniclegal.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=1052

- Mentee Application
  https://www.cliniclegal.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=1051

- Will need to create a CLINIC login

Questions