



Preparing Refugees for Employment

The ABC's of Navigating the American Workplace – New and Innovative Practices and Partnerships in Refugee Employment

September 16, 2014

Bridges for Refugees and Asylees, an Office of Refugee Resettlement technical assistance initiative supported by ICF International

Today's Speakers



- Louisa Jones, ORR TA Provider, ICF International
- Katherine Dachtler, Grand Forks sub-office Resettlement Coordinator, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
- Tara Wolfson, Employment and Training Program Manager, Idaho Office for Refugees
- Lisa Cooper, Co-founder and Consultant, Global Talent Idaho
- Toni Richardson, Employment Specialist, International Rescue Committee

Asking Questions



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Microsoft Office Live Meeting - livemeeting.com - NHMRC July Webinar Practice Session". The browser's address bar shows "Attendees (1) Voice & Video Q&A Meeting". The main content area has a large text box with the placeholder text "Type your question here." and a small "Ask" button to its right. Below the text box, it says "No questions have been answered yet." Three numbered instructions are overlaid on the screenshot with arrows pointing to the corresponding elements:

1. Click on the word "Q&A"
2. Type your question in the top box
3. Click on the word "Ask" to submit your question

Poll Question



Which agencies or organizations are represented by webinar attendees?

- A. State or local refugee agencies
- B. State or local workforce partners
- C. State or local TANF agencies
- D. Community-based organizations

Katherine Dachtler

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

www.lssnd.org/community-outreach/new-americans/

Tara Wolfson
Idaho Office of Refugees
www.idahorefugees.org

Poll Question



What are the chief challenges or barriers that you face in supporting refugees in transitioning to the American workplace?

- A. Engaging employers to hire refugees
- B. Helping employers better communicate with non-native English speakers and gain cultural competence
- C. Supporting refugees in English Language Learning while also obtaining work experience
- D. Housing, Transportation, Child Care
- E. Mental Health Needs
- F. Working to address gender norms and differences in work
- G. Moving beyond low-wage part-time jobs

Facilitated Discussion



- Katherine Dachtler
Grand Forks sub-office Resettlement Coordinator
Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
- Tara Wolfson
Employment and Training Program Manager
Idaho Office for Refugees
- Lisa Cooper
Co-founder and Consultant,
Global Talent Idaho
- Toni Richardson
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International Rescue Committee

Poll Question



What tool or resource would be most helpful in supporting refugees in their efforts to find work?

- A. Case studies highlighting best practices
- B. Tools to facilitate partnerships with workforce development services
- C. Tools to help engage potential employers
- D. Direct technical assistance

Audience Q&A



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