

## 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**



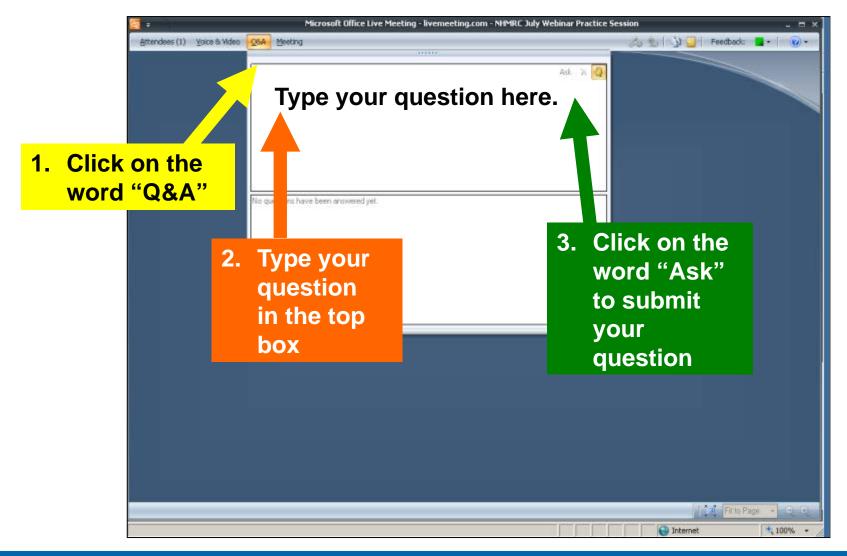




- Louisa Jones, ORR TA Provider, ICF International
- Katherine Dachtler, Grand Forks sub-office Resettlement Coordinator, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
- Tara Wolfson, Employment and Training Program Manager, Idaho
   Office for Refugees
- Lisa Cooper, Co-founder and Consultant, Global Talent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

### **Asking Questions**





### **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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### **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**







