



FY25 Office of New Americans Annual Report

As required by Minn. Stat. § 116J.4231 Subd. 3.

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Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print,
Braille, or audio recording.

Mission and Structure of Office of New Americans

The Office of New Americans (ONA) was established in Minn. Stat. § 116J.4231 in the 2023 legislative session. ONA's mission is to implement strategic programs, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and advocate for policies that promote belonging and participation of New Americans for the benefit of all Minnesotans. ONA coordinates state efforts around creating welcoming communities and engaging Minnesotans, including immigrants and refugees, employers, local governments, and nonprofits.

ONA's work supports the Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) mission: To empower the growth of the Minnesota economy, for everyone.

ONA is a convener, bringing together leaders from across state government, county and municipal government, community-based organizations, and the business community.

Summary of Work

ONA creates and implements statewide strategy and programming to promote immigrant and refugee inclusion for the benefit of all Minnesotans. In addition to work reported on in the previous fiscal year, in State Fiscal Year 2025, ONA has:

- Collaborated with state agencies, offices, and ethnic councils to ensure better services and support for New Americans
- Held listening sessions in Greater Minnesota with local community leaders, service providers, municipal and county staff, and immigrants to hear concerns, create new partnerships, and foster collaboration and understanding
- Hosted New Americans Forum virtual sessions to connect state leaders and New American communities, to help close gaps, share resources, develop policies and help create opportunities for immigrants, refugees and evacuees in Minnesota
- Established a pilot program to evaluate credit for prior learning for internationally trained professionals to ensure that educated professionals have their past education appropriately accounted for to help unlock talent, accelerate credential pathways, and strengthen Minnesota's workforce
- Worked with the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) Regional Planning Grant Modification to evaluate recipients of a \$500,000 grant to support New Americans in meeting Minnesota employers' workforce needs
- Collaborated with businesses to foster hiring practices and skills development for immigrants by participating in locally organized education and business engagement sessions
- Advised other state agencies on program implementation impacting New Americans

At this time, ONA does not have suggested policies or legislative proposals for the coming biennium. The Office continues to collaborate with entities across state government and foster relationships among stakeholders in the community that promote belonging and participation of New Americans for the benefit of all Minnesotans.