

Additional Language on the Provision of Services to English Language Learners, the Foreign Born, and Refugees

This section would be added in the demographics section (starting on page 39) either as Immigrant Workforce or as additional bullets under the demographics section.

Create new section Anywhere after VETERANS and name it “California’s Immigrant Workforce”

- California is home to more than 10 million immigrants, mostly from Latin American and Asian Countries.*
- One-fourth of the foreign-born population nationally reside in California.*
- Since 1975, 730,000 refugees have arrived in California, and over 50,000 have arrived in the last 5 years. (source Refugee Programs, CDSS)
- Immigrants make up more than one-third of California’s workforce.*
- 3.1 Million Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals, ages 19 and older lack a High School Diploma or Equivalent, indicating 62 percent of the state’s low-educated adults are LEP. **
- There are over 6.2 million LEP residents in California, most of whom are foreign-born and largely speak Spanish. **
- California’s immigrants and refugees account for 45 percent of parents residing with at least one child under the age of 18. **
- 43 percent of foreign-born Californians fall below the 200 percent federal policy threshold as compared to 28 percent of those who are native born. **

Source:

*Hayes, Joseph. Immigrants in California. Issue brief. Public Policy Institute of California, Jan. 2017. Web. Mar. 2017. <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=258>.

** Margie McHugh and Madeline Morawski, Migration Policy Institute, Factsheet: Immigrants and WIOA Services: Comparison of Sociodemographic Characteristics of Native- and Foreign-Born Adults in California. Available at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrants-and-wioa-services-comparisonsociodemographic-characteristics-native-and-foreign>.

Beginning on page 102 of state plan, this would be added after mention of social services programs.

Leveraging the California Immigrant Serving Organizations and the Refugee Resettlement Program to Better Serve Immigrant and Refugee Populations in Workforce Programs

As noted earlier, one-third of California’s workforce is foreign-born. Numerous state agencies and service providers across the workforce and human services systems have specific expertise in serving immigrant, Limited English Proficient (LEP), and refugee jobseekers. This expertise

can be a valuable resource for fellow service providers and other stakeholders in the workforce development system.

Various departments within the Labor Workforce Development Agency, California Health and Human Services Agency, and the California Department of Education contract with immigrant-focused community-based organizations (CBOs) to deliver critical services to the immigrant, LEP, and refugee communities. These programs include employment services, ESL, supportive services, and legal services that directly advance various workforce development goals for immigrants. The CBOs form a loose network of providers and potential workforce partners with experience and expertise in providing culturally and linguistically competent services to the immigrant, LEP, and refugee community.

The California Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP), administered by the Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and delivered through county welfare departments and non-profit Resettlement Agencies provides a particularly robust opportunity for partnership. Counties with high concentrations of refugee arrivals receive federal funding to provide employment services to refugees. County welfare departments typically work with non-profit Resettlement Agencies that specialize in serving newly arrived refugees, to provide employment services with the goal of achieving refugee self-sufficiency and integration. The counties and Resettlement Agencies provide refugees with English language training, job club, vocational assessment, on-the-job training, skills training and post-employment services. Funds also support services that address barriers to employment such as social adjustment, interpretation and translation, and citizenship and naturalization.

Other entities serving immigrants and English Language Learners in California include grantees of the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). These organizations have knowledge of the community, cultural and language needs of immigrant jobseekers, and can help the broader workforce system implement programs that best serve these vulnerable populations, including farmworkers and rural communities.

While the before-mentioned partners (Resettlement Agencies and NFJP) have refugee or immigrant specific funding attached that can and should be leveraged, given the overall numbers of refugees and immigrants in California's workforce, local partnerships that draw on additional state, federal, and community resources should also be created and leveraged.

These partnerships can benefit partners in the broader workforce system, as the expertise of immigrant-serving entities in providing employment services to vulnerable populations reflects a shared mission -- with fellow workforce providers -- in removing barriers to employment for hard-to-serve populations. For this reason, we encourage local workforce partners to coordinate with refugee and immigrant serving entities.

Page 84, Target Populations of Accelerator Fund:

Should include "Immigrant Job Seekers and their Families" see below.

Immigrant Job Seekers and their Families – Matching the skills of immigrant workers to the changing economy, and capitalizing on training and education received prior to coming to California, can help increase economic mobility for immigrant workers and their families.