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Description automatically generated**Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance**

Economic Services Administration | Community Services Division

**CLEVER Request for Applications**

**Question and Answer Document**

Q: Does the contractor intake form need to be completed for agencies that hold other contracts with ORIA?

A: Existing contractors can use the Contractor Information Update form. New contractors can use the Contractor Intake Form.



Q: Our org is updating our ICR (Indirect Cost Rate) with the federal government, can we provide an estimated number?

A: Yes, but please note it in your email when you submit your documents.

Q: Can you provide more examples of the scope of work and specific services/requirements? What qualifies as a vocational/professional type of work?

A: On the narrative form, there is an example of potential outcomes. Services could include career planning, employment placements (should be same industry as previous experience), employment retention, licensing, certification courses, etc. All work should be breaking down barriers to career re-entry.

Q: Clarification on eligibility, do applicants need to have at least two years of experience with employment and education services?

A: Yes. ORIA is looking for organizations that have experience implementing employment and education services. The experience does not necessarily need to be professional career re-entry, and the experience does not need to have been with refugee and immigrant populations, but the agency should have some sort of background knowledge. Please note that applicants are also required to have experience working with refugee and immigrant populations in other aspects.

The experience requirement is twofold:

* Two years implementing employment and/or educational services.
* Two years implementing services for refugee and immigrants.
* Note: this experience can overlap or be separate.

Q: What are the specific parameters with the request for "previous professional career"?

Does it have to be industry related to their previous career (e.g., a former nurse who gets their CNA training)

A: Yes. For many clients when they re-enter their former career it might not be at the same level (e.g. client was previously a lawyer and is re-entering as a paralegal, or a former nurse who gets their CNA training). Getting their foot in the door counts if it is the same career field.

Q: If someone is on cash or food assistance, are they eligible for this piece? Or would they go to LEP Pathway Program instead?

A: It depends. ORIA encourages providers to consider the best options for each client when enrolling them in a program. CLEVER is a long-term program that is best suited for people who are economically stable in the U.S. and are thinking about career goals two to three years in the future. While there are no income limits or other eligibility factors, many people who are receiving cash or food assistance may be better suited in one of ORIA’s other Employment and Training Programs such as the LEP Pathway Program. The CLEVER program is only available to people who meet the eligibility criteria for federal refugee resettlement services.

Q: Are there flex funds available to help clients pay for recertifications?

A: Yes, within the budget tool, providers may request support services to offer a range of financial assistance, including fees for licensure, degree evals, recertifications.

Q: Are we able to just focus on one or two parts of the program and work with

other partners who provide other parts without forming a consortium?

A: Yes, there are opportunities to apply for specific services. ORIA’s goal for CLEVER is that it becomes a collaborative network of agencies providing a range of services. Not all organizations have to provide the full scope of services.

Q: Is there a way we can share best practices since this program has been around for a while? Esp how to divide funding within a consortium and manage it.

A: Yes, once the program launches, ORIA will have a conversation with partners about the best practices in working within a consortium. ORIA will convene monthly meetings to ensure collaboration and learning across the partner organization.

Q: Are recipients of ORR Refugee Career Pathways programs eligible?

A: Because the CLEVER Program uses with dollars provided to Washington by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, clients cannot be enrolled in both the ORR Refugee Career Pathways program and the CLEVER program. This is a duplication of funding sources and services.