



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor's Office for New Americans highlights achievements & accomplishments of 2022**

LAS VEGAS, NV – The [Nevada Governor's Office for New Americans \(ONA\)](#) highlights a list of achievements and accomplishments during 2022.

"I am proud of my team and the work we have accomplished in advancing the civic and economic integration of immigrant and refugee families across our State. These accomplishments could have not been possible without the collaboration and support of our valued federal, state, and community partners," **said Charina de Asis, Executive Director of the Governor's Office for New Americans.** "We look forward to continuing our work with a continued focus on improving the lives of immigrant and refugee families that call Nevada their home."

Achievements and accomplishments by the Governor's Office for New Americans include:

### **Constituent Services**

- **Casework:** In a State where 1 in 5 Nevadans identify as an immigrant or refugee, ONA saw a 200% growth in constituent services from 78 casework cases in FY 2021 to 161 casework cases in FY 2022.

### **Workforce Development**

- **Skilled immigrant Integration Program (SIIP):** ONA continues to seek ways to facilitate the pathways of workforce integration of

Nevada's skilled immigrant communities. This includes continued work with our partners to develop a pilot program in both North and Southern Nevada to create a workforce pipeline for refugee families. Learn more [here](#).

## Language Access

- **Senate Bill 318** – ONA developed the [State of Nevada Language Access Toolkit](#) to aid state agencies in the creation of their language access plans, as outlined in [Senate Bill 318](#). A collection of submitted language access plans can be found [here](#).
- **Intergovernmental Collaboration** – ONA continues to extend language access efforts beyond state agencies by working with federal partners, local municipalities, school districts, and non-profits to collaborate and execute language access programs in Nevada.

## Healthcare Access

- **Newcomer Health Summit** - In conjunction with Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, ONA hosted the state's inaugural [Nevada Newcomer Health Forum](#). The forum encouraged community input with the goal of seeking out collective measures for improving our State's current refugee healthcare continuum and promoting health equity for Nevada's newcomer communities. You can view the report [here](#).

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- **Senate Bill 222** – Working alongside the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE), and the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs (NCMA), the group led the implementation of [Senate Bill 222](#). Diversity and Inclusion Liaisons (DILs) and minority-serving organizations (MSOs) were convened with the mission of developing collaborative opportunities to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of services delivered to minority groups in Nevada.
- **New American Voices Initiative** – Launched during Hispanic Heritage Month, the [New American Voices Initiative](#) aims to provide a voice and

a seat at the table for Nevada's directly impacted communities, stakeholder groups, and state partners through monthly discussions addressing the needs of Nevada's immigrant and refugee families. Roundtable discussions have included a focus on education, farm workers, and asks from leadership at the statewide level.

- **Northern and Rural Nevada Tour** – For the first time, ONA went on a Statewide tour, connecting with several partners throughout our State including meeting with several [Employ NV](#) centers, [NNIC](#), and leaders from local municipalities. Stops on the tour included: Mesquite, Ely, West Wendover, Elko, Winnemucca, Fallon, and Reno. Images of the tour can be found [here](#).
- **ONA Network Convening** - ONA participated in the inaugural Office of New Americans (ONA) State Network Convening in Washington D.C., joining other ONAs from across the United States to discuss workforce development efforts and advocate for immigrant and refugee families to leaders from federal agencies at the White House. Images of this convening can be found [here](#).

## Refugee Resettlement

- **Afghan Placement Program** – Worked with the State's refugee resettlement agencies in coordinating the [resettlement of Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders \(SIV\)](#), allies, and their families who assisted in U.S. military operations and worked side-by-side with American service members.
- **Uniting for Ukraine Initiative (U4U)** – ONA has worked with the State's refugee resettlement agencies to provide awareness and ensure displaced Ukrainians in Nevada have access to benefits and resources available to them. Learn more [here](#).
- **Cuban Entrant Orientations** – In collaboration with Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, over 6 group orientations for Cuban entrants have been hosted at the Grant Sawyer State Building. These briefings aimed at providing civic and legal guidance for these families integrating into the fabric of Nevada.

The Nevada Governor's Office for New Americans (ONA) was created to promote the inclusion and integration of immigrants, refugees, and aspiring Americans into the civic, economic, and cultural life of Nevada. ONA works to bridge the world of state government and the complex changes in immigration policy that affect all Nevadans. By breaking down bureaucratic barriers that often hinder economic self-sufficiency and civic integration, ONA is working to make Nevada an even more welcoming state for all. For more information about ONA visit our website at [ona.nv.gov](http://ona.nv.gov).

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