

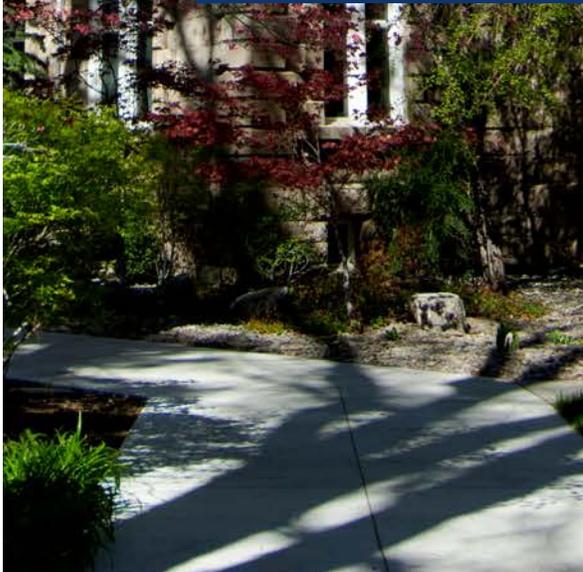
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR NEW AMERICANS

First Year At-A-Glance

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ABOUT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR NEW AMERICANS (ONA)

Mission

To promote the inclusion and integration of immigrants, refugees, and aspiring Americans into the civic, economic, and cultural life of Nevada.

Vision

To foster a more welcoming Nevada where everyone, including New Americans, can thrive and prosper.

Values

- Integrity
- Inclusion
- Empowerment
- Dignity
- Service

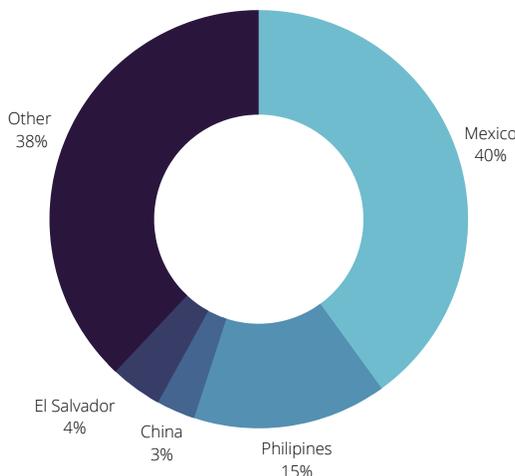




THE POPULATION WE SERVE

20% of the state's population is foreign-born. This is approximately 614,000 Nevadans. This means, 1 out of every 5 Nevadans are immigrants. Only four other states have a higher share of immigrants in the United States.

Where are Nevadan immigrants from?



Source: [Migration Policy Institute](#)

Immigrants make up **30%** of the share of entrepreneurs in the Nevada.

There are about **33,731** immigrant business owners in the state of Nevada employing approximately **61,196** Nevadans.

Immigrant-owned businesses generated **\$795.3** million in business income in 2014.

The immigrant population in Nevada makes up **26%** of the entire workforce of the state. About **75%** of the immigrant population of Nevada are of working age (compared to **48.4%** of native-born) and are represented in almost all industries in the state.

31% of physicians in Nevada are foreign-trained, which is a likely sign they were born elsewhere. Additionally, **28.4%** of the state's nursing workforce are immigrants and refugees. This highlights that a sizeable portion of frontlines workers who have been part of the state's response during this pandemic are immigrants.

Source: [New American Economy](#)



ONA'S FIRST YEAR

During its first year since its inception, the Office for New Americans' mission pivoted towards COVID-19 pandemic response. Immigrants and refugees have been disproportionately hit during this pandemic.



COVID-19 RESPONSE



The Esperanza Fund

The Office for New Americans helped established the Esperanza Fund, a rapid response fund to address the needs of our immigrant population. With the partnership of Nevada Community Foundation (NCF) as the fund's fiscal agent, the fund focuses on providing relief to those that did not qualify for any relief - federal or state - during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, the Fund has raised over 1 million dollars and has reached over 3,333 Nevadan families.

COVID-19 Resources

The Office for New Americans launched its website during the start of the pandemic along with ONA's social media accounts. This was followed by the launch of ONA's COVID-19 Resource Guide for Immigrants and Refugees.

ONA has also released a series of public service announcements that relayed accurate and culturally competent information as there was a lack of those efforts during the start of the pandemic even though the pandemic has disproportionately affected our immigrant and refugee population. In total, ONA has released 7 PSAs – 4 of these PSAs were released in collaboration with other partners. One PSA even ran as a commercial via Las Vegas PBS.

Through these efforts, over 1,300 TV commercial spots and PSAs were broadcasted on Telemundo, Univision TV, Unimas TV, and 2 local Spanish radio station, La Tricolor and La Suavecita). There was also earned media with all the aforementioned outlets alongside 960,000 digital online ad placements.

Vaccine Rollout

An equitable and fair distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is a top priority of the Governor's Office for New Americans. ONA is actively at the forefront of the state's education and outreach efforts. The Office is serving an intermediary role, connecting leaders from our immigrant and refugee communities to information and resources. We partner with our State agencies, local governments, and community-based organizations in these efforts.

A main focus of our office is to respond to concerns from the immigrant and refugee community to address access issues and vaccine hesitancy. With this in mind, our office hosted a series of listening sessions with the state's vaccination team and various immigrant and refugee stakeholder groups in an effort to ensure that their feedback was incorporated in the state's ongoing vaccination efforts.

As part of our outreach efforts, to date, ONA has participated in 6 Spanish Webinars specifically focused on bringing COVID-19 vaccine information and resources to the Latinx community.

"Building partnerships with state, local, and community-based organizations is crucial to the work we do."

- Charina de Asis, Director



Nevada Department of
Health and Human Services
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



BATTLE BORN
Medical Corps



Battle Born Medical Corps

The Office for New Americans, in partnership with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, is spearheading the implementation of Section 3 of Governor Sisolak's Emergency Order 11. This provision waives licensing requirements for foreign-trained healthcare workers during this emergency period. The State's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) approves the final waiver for applicants; the approved applicant will be part of the state's Battle Born Medical Corps (BBMC).

ONA secured technical assistance from World Education Services (WES) for the credentialing portion of the process at no cost to the state.

To date, the BBMC has recorded 68 foreign-trained applicants. 28 of the applicants are currently going through the initial process of document submission; 4 are in the credentialing process; 16 applicants are pending CMO approval; and 6 have been fully approved and are being deployed to assist in the state's COVID-19 response efforts.





CONSTITUENT SERVICES



State Agency Assistance

Due to the number of Nevadans who became unemployed because to the pandemic, our constituent services efforts have been largely focused on helping immigrant and refugees navigate "alien status" issues in their unemployment claims. These issues are complex and hard to navigate due to the various immigration statuses and work histories of these populations. A staff member in our office received training from the Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation to help our constituency navigate the unemployment system and provide direct assistance to help address the issues preventing them from accessing the benefits they are entitled to.

To date, the Office for New Americans has assisted over 250 immigrant and refugee families resolve issues with their unemployment claims.

Additionally, Temporary Protective Status (TPS) designation was extended for several of the countries under this program. The designation was set to expire on January 4th, 2021, which meant Nevada ID's and driver's licenses of TPS holder were also set to expire on the exact same date. In collaboration with the DMV, community-based organizations, our congressional delegation, and the El Salvadorian consulate, we implemented a process to ensure that this population renewed their documentation in time and did not face further hardship for not being able to drive or have a valid form of ID to access other services.

From December 9, 2020 until January 31, in coordination with the DMV, we were able to assist 506 TPS holders renew their Nevada ID or Driver's License.

Rapid Response

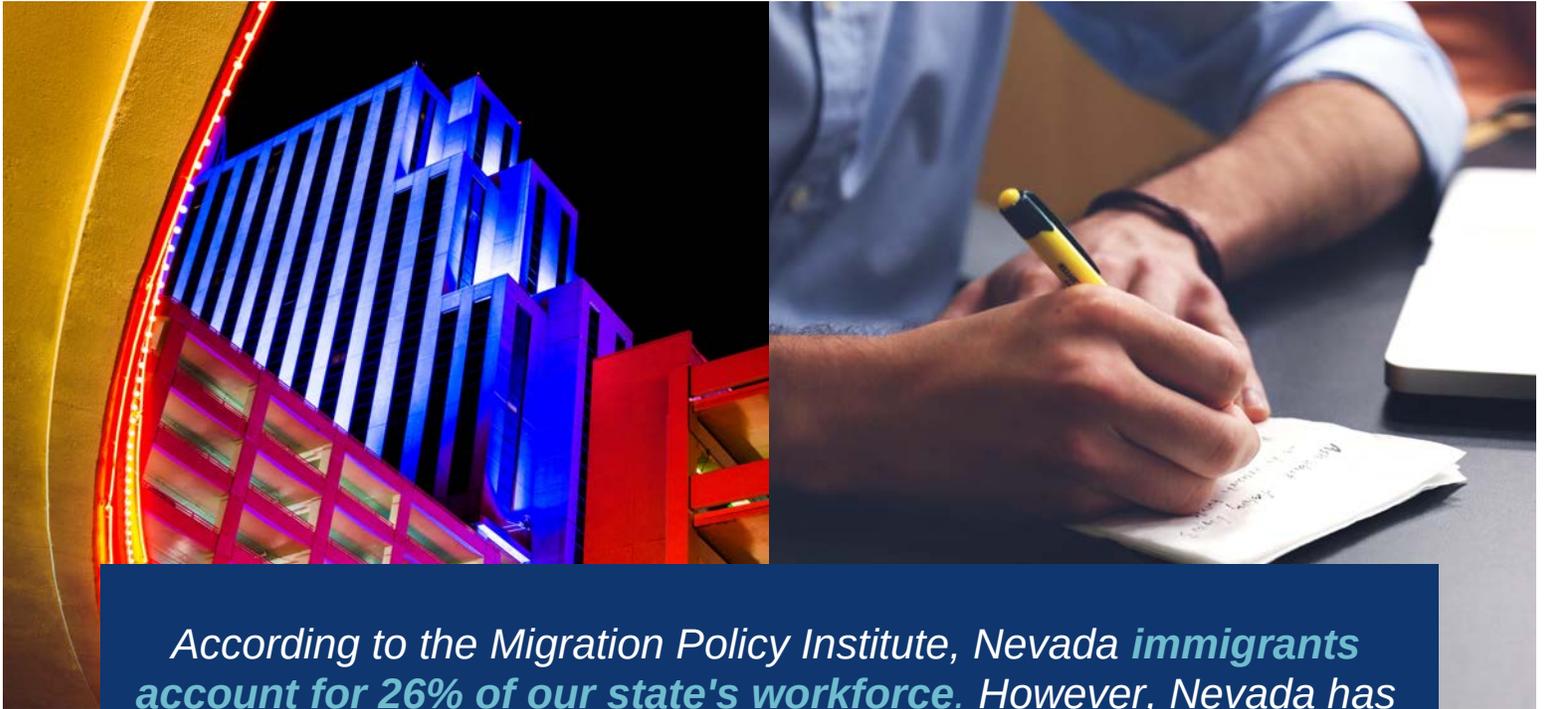
We also work with our state agencies when there is an immigration policy from the federal level that (1) affect our immigrant population and (2) has an impact on their current processes.

Last July, the federal administration suspended the [J-1 visa program for educators](#). ONA, the Nevada Department of Education, and Clark County School District worked with the Governor's Office to urge the administration to provide an exemption for teachers. This was done by the Governor penning a letter to the then President. Note that 250 educators are on a J-1 visa at any given time in our State. The regulation impacted approximately 100 teaching positions that were to be filled for that upcoming school year.

In December 2019, in response to a [Presidential executive order requirement to seek consent from states and localities in resettling refugees](#), the Office for New Americans together with our three refugee resettlement agencies in the state, advocated for the state to consent to refugee resettlement. Governor Steve Sisolak sent a letter to the then US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo to affirm that the State of Nevada will continue to take part of the U.S Refugee Admissions Program.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



According to the Migration Policy Institute, Nevada **immigrants account for 26% of our state's workforce**. However, Nevada has a **36% share of brain waste among the immigrant population**.

Source: [Migration Policy Institute](#)

Immigrant Workforce Development Group (IWDG)

ONA is spearheading an Immigrant Workforce Development Group, which brings together relevant agencies and organizations to focus on immigrant workforce development in the state.

While still on its strategic planning phase, the aim of this group is to create a train-to-hire pipeline to leverage the skills and talents of our immigrant population.

The state's refugee resettlement agencies, community colleges, state agencies, workforce boards and workforce development providers are part of this working group.

Skilled Immigrant Integration Program (SIIP)

ONA was selected to be part of the [World Education Services, Global Talent Bridge's 2020 Skilled Immigrant Integration Program](#) (or SIIP) cohort. Through the SIIP grant, ONA is receiving technical assistance to help skilled immigrants integrate better in the state and to address the brain waste issue in Nevada.

As part of our goals, ONA has hosted two webinars in partnership with [National Skills Coalition](#) on how to leverage WIOA funding to bring immigrants into the workforce development space. Each webinar was **attended by over 40** statewide immigrant-serving community-based organizations.



ONA'S VISIBILITY: NATIONAL & LOCAL

On the National Stage

The Office for New Americans has been gaining some visibility in the national stage for the work that we have been doing to ensure the inclusion and integration of immigrants and refugees in Nevada.

Last year, ONA was invited to present at three virtual national events with the [National Governors Association \(NGA\)](#), the [New American Economy \(NAE\)](#), and the [National Partnership for New Americans \(NPNA\)](#). Through these events, ONA had the opportunity to highlight our accomplishments and ongoing work to make Nevada an even more welcoming state for all.

This exposure has garnered interest from other national organizations not only to further invest in our state but as a model for other states, as well.

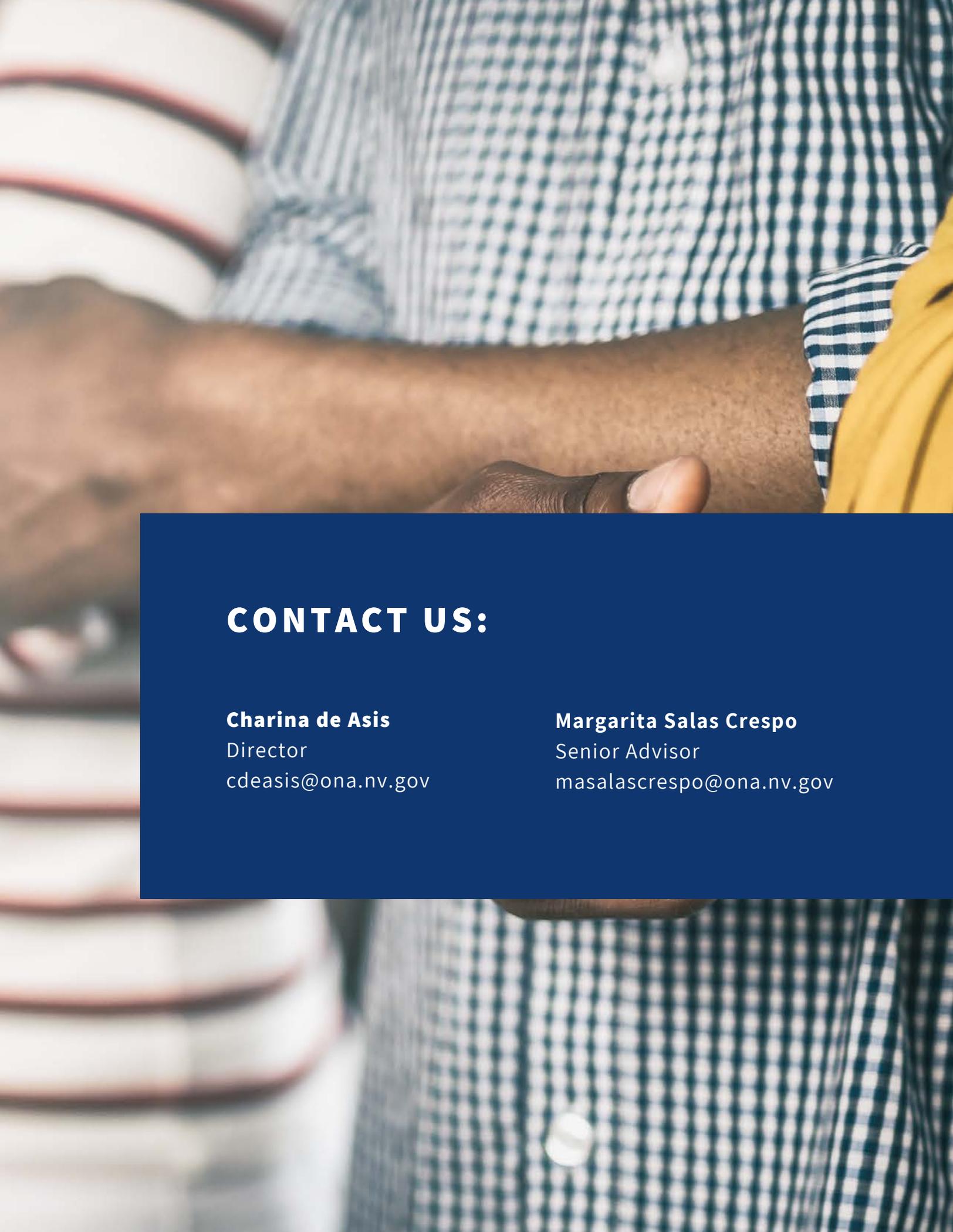
Local Engagement

Since this Office's inception, ONA actively engages with the population we serve to address matters that directly impact them.

We have conducted numerous one-on-one meetings with state agencies and divisions, immigrant-serving community-based organizations, the business community and other stakeholders, and leaders in our state to better understand how we can best serve our constituency.

Recently, ONA hosted its first statewide stakeholder meeting with [over 80 stakeholders and leaders](#) who work with and serve the immigrant and refugee population in our state. Keeping our stakeholders abreast of our ongoing work is an important an accountability measure.

Who are its members
Goals



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