



How to serve English Language Learners, Immigrants and Refugees in Workforce with Erica Bouris Ph.D. from International Rescue Committee

More than one-third of California's workforce are immigrants. This population faces cultural, language and other barriers that limit access and opportunities to complete job training programs. The navigator program will provide case management and referrals to support services that will help immigrants and those with language barriers receive the education and skills training needed for income mobility.

"Immigrants will play a key role in California's labor force for decades, and this new program will address the language, education and skills needs of our current and future workforce," said Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary David M. Lanier. "These grants will support the upward mobility of immigrant families who are critical to our economy."

The projects funded will better align adult education and employment training programs by promoting collaboration. Adult education programs have traditionally been the entry point for immigrants for English-language skills. The navigator role is to serve as a career coach and case manager that can ensure participants are on an education or job training path, and have the support to overcome barriers that can include child care, transportation, housing and health care. This assistance brings together workforce training services and adult education to create programs that are more accessible to English language learners and immigrants.

The Orange County Development Board, Pacific Gateway Workforce Innovation Board, Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, San Diego Workforce Partnership, and Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation each received \$500,000 in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I Governor's discretionary funds to begin pilot navigator programs. Implementation of the programs will be coordinated by a statewide effort involving the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Workforce Development Board, Employment Development Department, California Department of Education, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Link to <https://calworkforce.webex.com/calworkforce/onstage/playback.php?RCID=e975ce9e02529dff053ae679b8bc741e>
recording: