

SUPPORTING NEW AMERICAN FAMILIES IN NEW YORK STATE



**NYS OFFICE FOR NEW AMERICANS (ONA)
RAMIREZ JUNE INITIATIVE**

JUNE 11, 2025



Department of State
Office for New Americans

Presenter



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She/Her/Hers

New York State Office for New Americans (ONA)

Agenda

Presentation

- Introduction
- Who are new Americans?
- What free services does the Office for New Americans provide?
- How does the ONA Ramirez June Initiative support new Americans with disabilities?
- **Questions**

Getting to know you

Raise your hand if:

- You've supported immigrant families in your role.
- You've supported immigrants with disabilities.
- You speak a language other than English.

Raise your hand & share:

- What part of your work inspires you most?



Did you know?



1 in 4 New Yorkers are New Americans

Who are New Americans?



New Americans

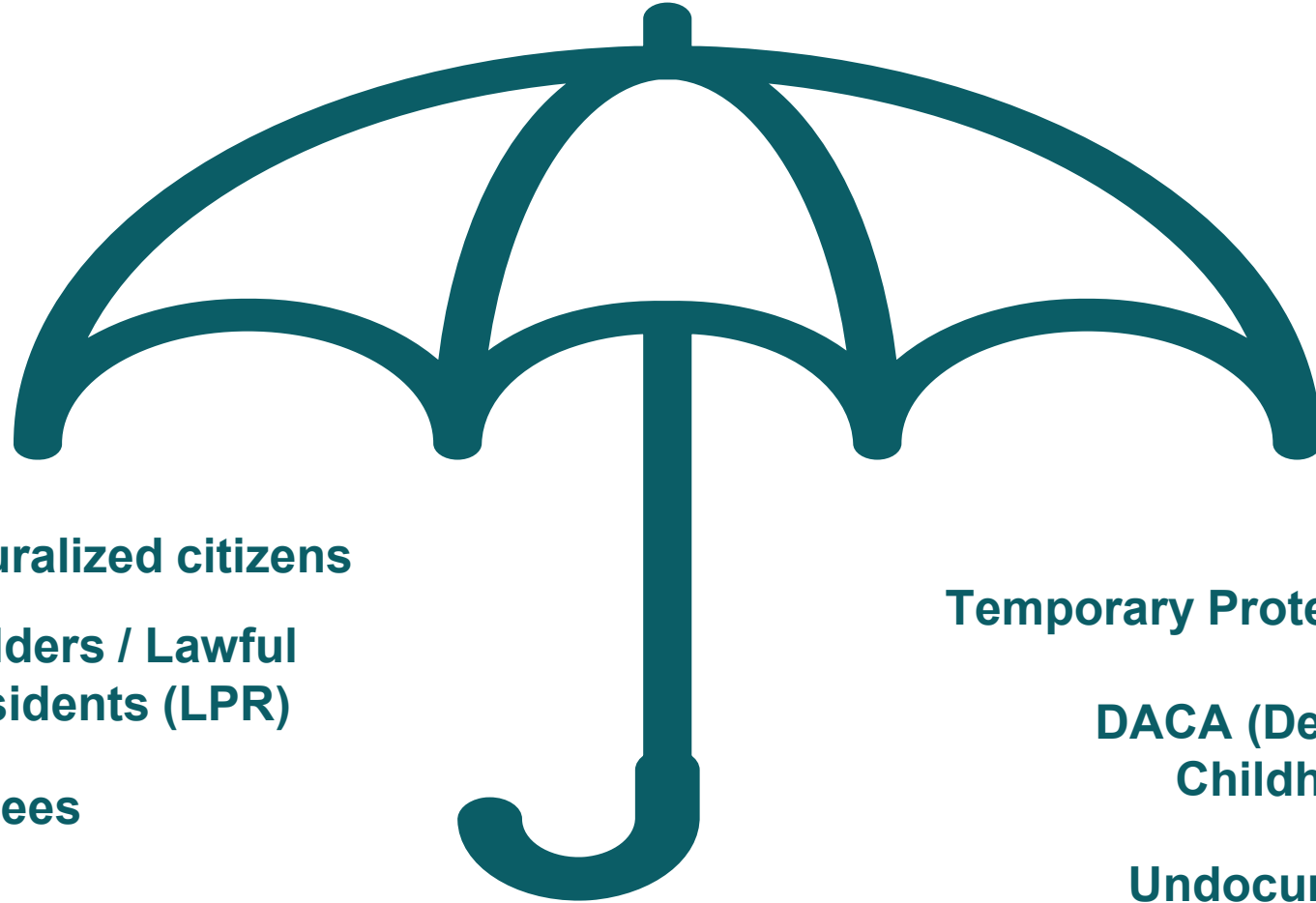
New Americans refers to all people who were born outside the U.S. who moved to the U.S. to live here, regardless of their immigration status.

- New Americans can be people who have recently moved to the U.S. or people who have lived in the U.S. for decades.
- Some new Americans are people with disabilities and developmental disabilities.
- The terms “New Americans” and “immigrants” can both be used.



“New Americans” is an Umbrella Term

New Americans Are:



Naturalized citizens

Green Card Holders / Lawful
Permanent Residents (LPR)

Refugees and Asylees

Asylum seekers

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

DACA (Deferred Action for
Childhood Arrivals)

Undocumented Individuals

And many more!

New ONA RJI Training: Understanding Immigration Status

Immigration Status Examples



Lawful Permanent Residents / Green Card Holder



Refugee



Asylee



Asylum Applicant

Work Authorization



“Green Card”



Employment Authorization Document (EAD)



I94 Form with Stamp

Public Benefit Access



New Americans Speak Many Different Languages

Hello!

Hola

你好

Bonjour



Guess the Top Non-English Languages in New York State!

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

Great Job Everyone!

1. Spanish

2. Chinese
(Mandarin & Cantonese)

3. Russian

4. Yiddish

5. Bengali

6. Korean

7. Haitian Creole

8. Italian

9. Arabic

10. Polish

11. French

12. Urdu

About NYS ONA

- The New York State Office for New Americans (ONA), founded in 2012, is the nation's first statutorily created immigrant services office.
- ONA assists all new Americans with accessing and navigating a variety of free services and supports through its statewide network of community-based providers.

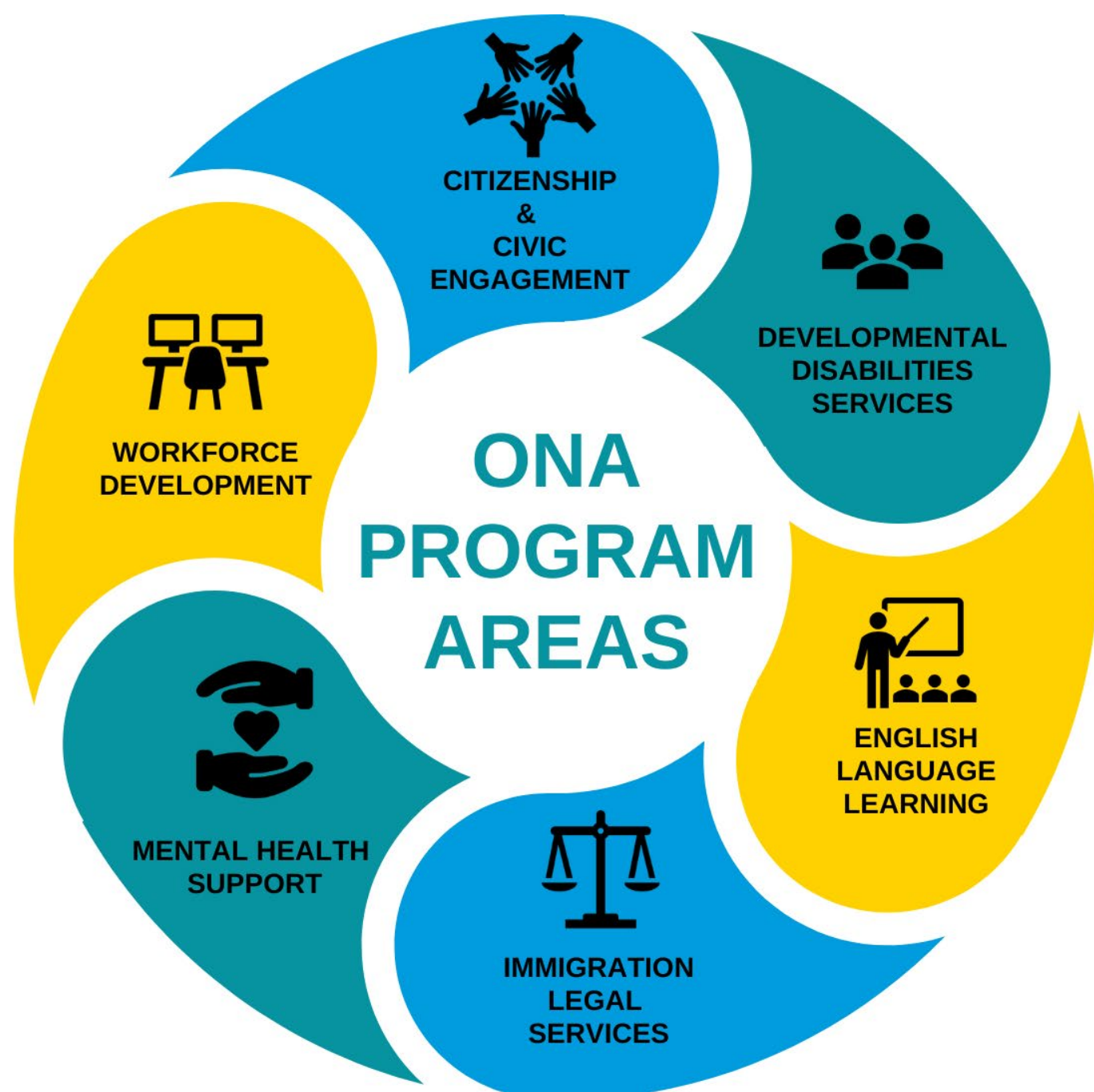


New York State Office for New Americans

The NYS Office for New Americans (NYS ONA) help new Americans in New York:

- Learn English
- Become a U.S. citizen
- Find a job
- Access mental health support
- Have increased access to disability services
- and live their American Dream!





ONA Legal Services

- Statewide network of experienced immigration attorneys
- Free immigration legal services, regardless of your immigration status.
- Consultation days available at ONA Opportunity Centers.
- Know Your Rights and law-related workshops



NYS New Americans Hotline

1-800-566-7636



ONA Opportunity Centers - Civics

- Citizenship Prep Classes
- Immigration Application Support
- Immigration Law Consultations
- Community Workshops
- Workforce Referrals

*All Centers are supported by a qualified immigration attorney



ONA Opportunity Centers – ESOL



- Each **Opportunity Center - ESOL** provides language instruction to immigrants as well as workforce development programming, including assistance with resume building, interview techniques, and employment opportunities.
- Regular ESOL classes combined with individual workforce support and innovative technologies, including Cell-Ed.

Cell-Ed



Free English-language training and skills building through ANY mobile phone, tablet, or computer.

- Cell-Ed allows users to:
 - participate in 3-minute stackable lessons
 - learn at their own pace, anywhere and at anytime
 - measure their progress
 - & earn certificates



Available Through App, Phone, Computer & Cell-Ed

FOUR EASY WAYS TO START — PICK ONE!



Cell-Ed Mobile App

1. Download the Cell-Ed app
2. Enter PIN
3. Select a course



Phone

1. Call 1-866-425-2355
2. Enter PIN followed by the # key
3. Follow the voice instructions



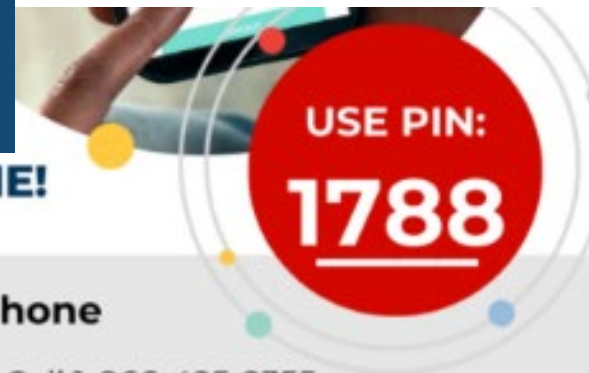
Computer

1. Go to **www.gocelled.com**
2. Enter PIN
3. Select a course



WhatsApp

1. Send "START" to 1-866-425-2355
2. Enter your PIN
3. Follow the voice instructions



ONA Immigrant Resource Program

- A statewide network of Immigrant Resource Coordinators who, with the support of immigrant volunteers, conduct outreach and provide vital information to immigrant communities.
- Services include:
 - Regular Information Session Days
 - Multilingual and culturally appropriate outreach information
 - Referrals to free immigrant services.



Golden Door Program



- Offers mental health support groups for immigrants across the state and connects to other free resources supported by a licensed mental health provider.

Do you know someone who can be helped by Office for New Americans?



Call the New Americans Hotline

1-800-566-7636

- TOLL-FREE
- Operates from 9 am - 8 pm, Monday to Friday.
- Anyone can call for information and referrals, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.
- Calls are confidential and anonymous.
- Assistance available in 200+ languages.
- Information can also be found on the ONA website

<https://dos.ny.gov/office-new-americans>



New Americans with Disabilities



It can be difficult for new Americans to access the disability services they need.

It can be hard to find disability services and resources in languages other than English.

New Americans face additional challenges, for instance, getting assessments and evaluations in languages other than English to meet eligibility requirements to receive disability services.

The ONA Ramirez June Initiative Helps

Increase New Americans' access to disability Services through

Outreach



Training



Partnership



How does the ONA Ramirez June Initiative help New Americans with Disabilities?

- Host workshops.
- Create and share multilingual resources.
- Builds partnerships and provides technical assistance.
- Launched the ONA Bilingual Coordinator Program, in Brooklyn, NY.
- Share strategies to increase access to disability services for new Americans.



The Initiative aims to help new Americans of all ages with all types of disabilities.

5 Years of Partnerships

The ONA Ramirez June Initiative launched as a grant in 2019 from the Council on Developmental Disabilities and the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities signed on as a strategic partner.



**Council on
Developmental
Disabilities**



**Department of State
Office for New Americans**



**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

ONA Bilingual Coordinator Program

Led by the Chinese American Planning Council (CPC) in Brooklyn, NY



- Provides bilingual case management services in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese.
- Connects clients with disability and mental health services with a focus on connecting with OPWDD services.
- Staff help clients to navigate complex eligibility requirements.



Council on
Developmental
Disabilities



Workshops for New Americans

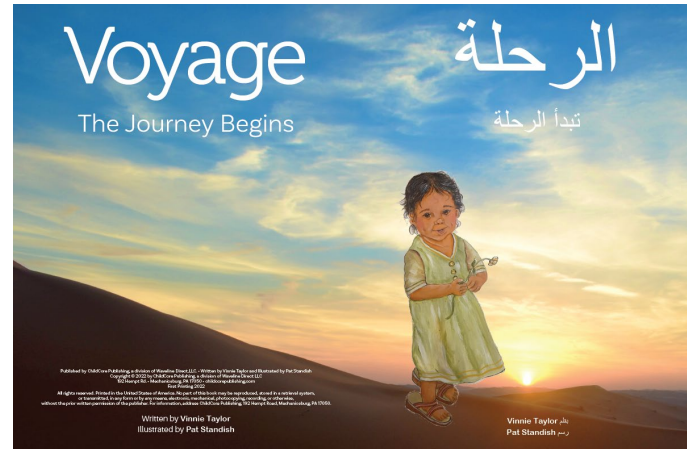


Voyage

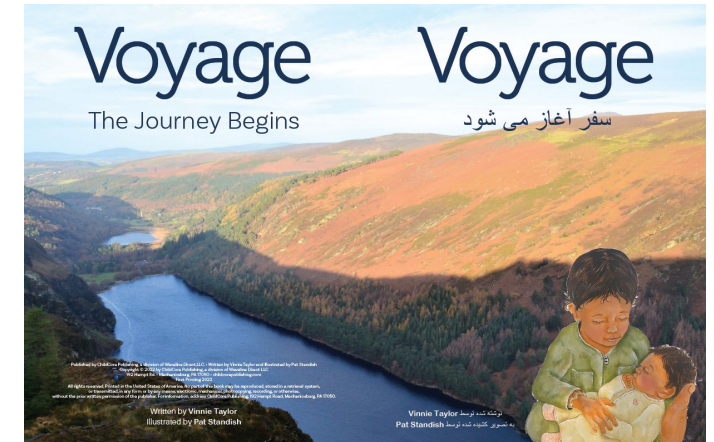
Multilingual Resource Book for New American Families



Ukrainian



Arabic



Dari

What's in *Voyage*?



- Multilingual information on child development (2 months – 5 years) and the early identification of disabilities.
- Each copy is bilingual with all content in English and a second language.
- Provides ages for developmental screenings (starting at 9 months), autism screenings (starting at 18 months), Well-Child Visits, developmental milestones, activities to promote child development, and disability resources in NYS.

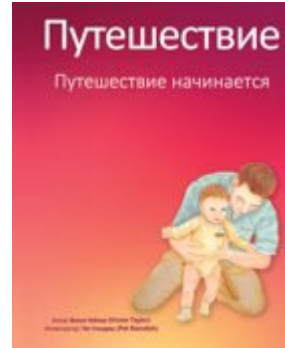
Voyage is in 13 languages



Spanish



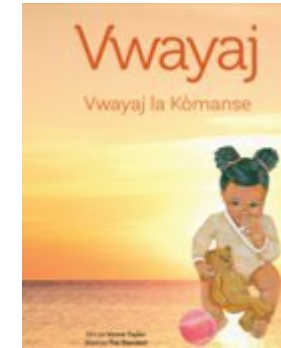
Simplified Chinese



Russian



Bengali



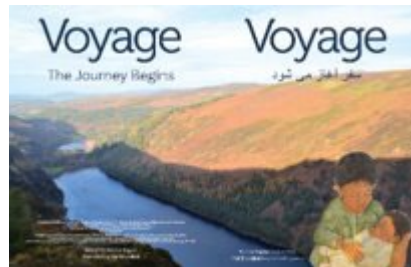
Haitian Creole



Korean



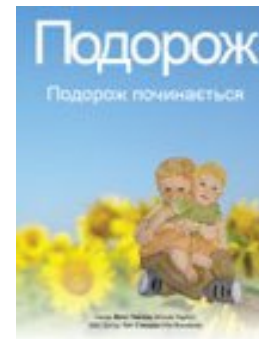
Arabic



Dari



Pashto



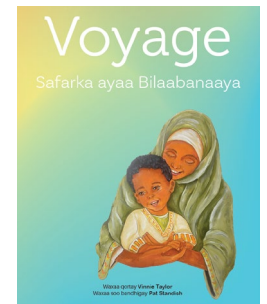
Ukrainian



Burmese



Karen



Somali

Achievements of the ONA Ramirez June Initiative



177 Workshops



5,304 Workshop Attendees



5,507 Copies of *Voyage* mailed

10/01/2019 – 05/07/2025

What's Next?



The ONA Ramirez June Initiative has helped new Americans access disability information and has built partnerships.

More support and collaboration are needed for new Americans to access the disability services they urgently need.

Support and Connect

Support new Americans to access services.



Connect new Americans to an immigration attorney for legal support.



We are all in this Together

New York celebrates diversity as one of its greatest strengths.

When people work together and support each other, it helps all New Yorkers to thrive!



Call the New Americans Hotline

1-800-566-7636

- FREE
- 9 am - 8 pm, Monday to Friday.
- Anyone can call.
- Calls are private.
- Assistance available in many languages.



Connect with ONA



NewAmericans@dos.ny.gov



dos.ny.gov/office-new-americans



facebook.com/nysnewamericans



twitter.com/nysnewamericans

Resources

- Department of Labor (DOL) Asylum Seeker Employment Efforts:
 - <https://dol.ny.gov/asylum-seeker-employment-efforts>
- Facts, Not Fear: How Welcoming Immigrants Benefits New York City
 - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/facts-not-fear-how-welcoming-immigrants-benefits-new-york-city/>
- Immigrant Public Benefit Chart:
 - https://www.nyic.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Public-Benefits-Chart_V4-2025-02-07.pdf
- Migration Policy Institute:
 - <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/NY>
- New York Immigration Coalition (Know Your Rights)
 - <https://www.nyic.org/resources-training/kyr/>
- New York State Office of Language Access (OLA)
 - <https://ogs.ny.gov/office-language-access>
- NYS Department of Labor
 - <https://dol.ny.gov/>
- OTDA Refugee Services Provider Directory
 - <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/bria/providers/>
- UpWardly Global
 - <https://www.upwardlyglobal.org/>



ONA Ramirez June Initiative Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUGpNlovIBY>

THANK YOU!



We Welcome Your Feedback!



Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/g/Sev1svV2U6>

Questions?

