

The Welcome Back Initiative:

A Program Model for Integrating Immigrant Health Professionals

Note: This publication summarizes selected content from a 60-minute webinar. To view a recording and slides from the presentation, please visit www.imprintproject.org.

Welcoming immigrant health professionals into the American workforce benefits not only individuals and their families but also our country overall.

This 2-page summary explains:

- ◆ The benefits of integrating immigrant health professionals
- ◆ A program model for serving immigrant health professionals
- ◆ How to launch a program in your community

THE BENEFITS

For the individual:

- ◆ Family-sustaining wages
- ◆ Opportunity to use prior education and training

For the United States:

- ◆ Immigrants can help meet the demand for health professionals created by an aging/growing population and the Affordable Care Act's extension of medical coverage to new individuals
- ◆ A culturally and linguistically diverse workforce can help alleviate the nation's persistent racial & ethnic health disparities
- ◆ Integrating immigrant health professionals is a time & cost-efficient solution to the current demand while we train future health workers



THE WELCOME BACK INITIATIVE

The nonprofit Welcome Back Initiative bridges the gap between the pool of internationally-trained health professionals already in the US and the US health sector's need for a more diverse workforce.

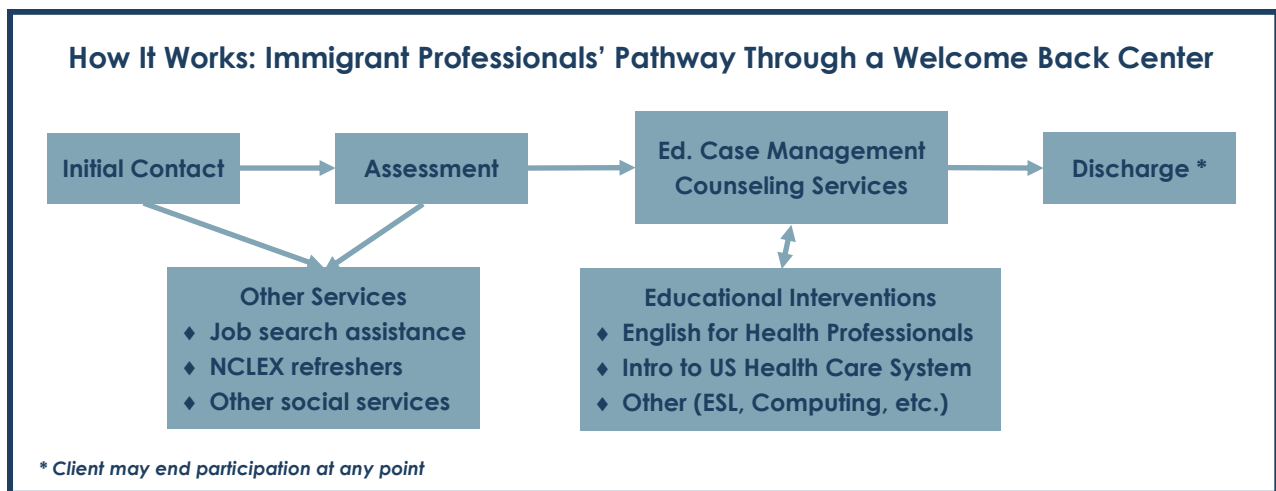
Through partnerships with local educational resources, each of WBI's ten Welcome Back Centers across the country assists immigrant clients in:

- ◆ Understanding the US healthcare system
- ◆ Developing a career plan that builds on their prior education and experience
- ◆ Exploring relevant educational programs
- ◆ Preparing for licensing exams
- ◆ Entering the health field in a professional role



PROGRAM MODEL

- ◆ WBI partners with local educational resources to start a Welcome Back Center
- ◆ WBI's toolkit for launching a Welcome Back Center includes: guidelines for establishing and managing a center, course planning tools, information on professional licensing processes, and program evaluation tools.
- ◆ Each center is responsible for securing its own funding, typically a mixture of:
 - ◆ Government funding
 - ◆ Foundation support
 - ◆ Donations
 - ◆ Fees and other revenue
- ◆ Each center is slightly different, but all follow the same basic model for helping immigrant clients. (See flow chart below.)



WANT TO PARTNER?

Key considerations before starting a WBC:

- ◆ Does the area have potential participants?
- ◆ Does the area have a documented need for WBI services?
- ◆ Are there key partners in the area?
- ◆ Will funding be obtainable?
- ◆ Is the political climate receptive?

Questions?

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