NEW YORK STATE

Department of State
Office for New Americans

New York State
Office for New Americans
Ramirez June Initiative

September 10, 2024

Presenters

Rosa Montalvo Pacheco
Immigrant Community Liaison-Long Island
NYS Office for New Americans
(She/Her/Hers)

Cynthia Stewart, MS
Senior Program Manager – ONA Ramirez June Initiative
NYS Office for New Americans
(She/Her/Hers)

Getting to Know You

Raise your hand if:

- Do you have experience assisting new Americans?
- Do you have experience assisting new Americans with disabilities?
- Do you identify as a person with a disability?
- Do you have family members with disabilities?
- Do you identify as a new American?
- Do you speak a language other than English?

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 support through its statewide network of community-based providers.

Who Are New Americans?

A new American is a person who is born outside the U.S. who lives in the U.S.

New Americans are:

- Immigrants
- Refugees, asylees
- Undocumented individuals
- All newcomers who reside in the U.S.

Many new American families are **mixed status** meaning different family members have different immigration statuses.

1 in 4 New Yorkers are New Americans

What is an Immigration Status and Why is it important?

- Immigration status can determine whether someone can enter the U.S., and how long they can remain in the U.S.
- Immigration status affects someone's **authorization to work** in the U.S. and their eligibility to access to public benefits like **Medicaid** and **Supplemental Security Income** (**SSI**)**.**
- Referring new Americans to a trusted free or low-cost **immigration attorney** can assist new Americans to understand what pathways they can take to obtain an immigration status.

The ONA Ramirez June Initiative

A "Mixed-Status" Family Includes People with Different Citizenship or Immigration Statuses.

Almost 90% of children in mixed-status families are U.S. Citizens

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The ONA Ramirez June Initiative

13% of New Yorkers, or 2.5 million, Self-Report having "Limited English Proficiency."

"Limited English Proficiency" (LEP) means someone has difficulty reading, writing, or speaking English. People with LEP may need #LanguageAccess services.

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New York State Language Access Law

- **Codified July 1, 2022**
- All State agencies that interact with the public must provide interpretation services in any language with respect to the provision of agency services or benefits,
- State agencies must translate vital agency documents into the top 12 most commonly spoken non-English languages among New Yorkers based on Census data.
- https://ogs.ny.gov/new-york-state-language-access-laws

Resource on how to Create Language Acces Plans:
https://www.lep.gov/

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What are the Top Non-English Languages in NYS?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

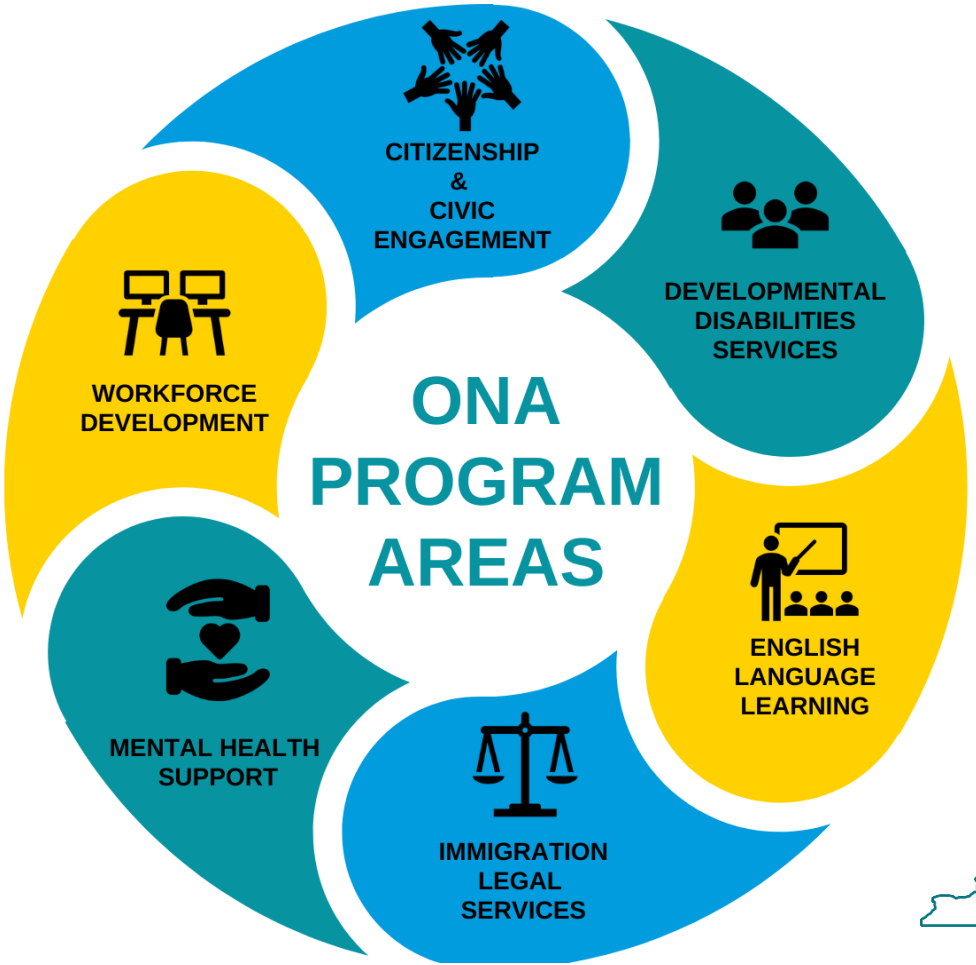
10.

11.

12.

What are the Top Non-English Languages in NYS?

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



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ONA Resources on Long Island

Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN)
Locations: Hempstead in Nassau County & Brentwood in Suffolk County

- **ONA Programs at CARECEN:**
  - ONA Opportunity – Civics
  - ONA Opportunity Center – ESOL
  - Golden Door Support Program
  - Professional Pathways
  - ONA Legal Counsel

https://www.carecenny.org/contact-us

- **ONA Program at New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)**
  - Department of Justice Trainer

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

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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.

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.

Professional Pathways for High-Skilled Immigrants

- Connects high-skilled immigrant job seekers with local ONA Job Coaches.
- Support is also provided by a statewide Lead Agency, to gain the training and certification necessary to be placed in employment that matches their skills and experience.

NYS ONA Professional Pathways Success Story

“Claudia is a Project Manager from Venezuela. She has years of experience in the field and worked with US start-up companies before. When she met her ONA job coach in July 2022, Claudia was working as a freelancer. Claudia and the job coach worked on improving her resume, and best practices for job search, and interview practice. In a short time, Claudia got an interview request for a Project Manager role in her field and was offered a full-time contract-based role working on a project with ConEdison.” - Upwardly Global

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

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Families who Inspired the ONA Ramirez June Initiative

The Ramírez Family

The Family of Siewling (June) Lum

ONA Ramirez June Initiative

- First initiative of its kind in the nation to build capacity at the state level to connect new Americans with developmental disabilities with vital resources, information, and services in NYS.

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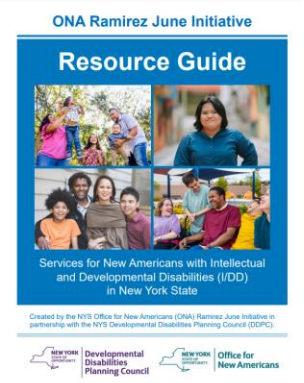
Ramirez June Initiative Activities

1. Cross-system partnerships, collaborations, and technical assistance.
2. Engage immigrant communities and service providers through workshops.
3. Create and distribute multilingual resources.
4. Share findings and recommendations with key stakeholders.



ONA Ramirez June Initiative Resources

ONA Bilingual Coordinator Program

- Case management services that are culturally and linguistically accessible to connect with vital developmental disability and mental health services.
- Launched by the ONA Ramirez June Initiative in February 2023.
- 18-month grant led by the Chinese-American Planning Council in Brooklyn.
- Collects data on the barriers and promising practices.

華人策劃協會 CPC

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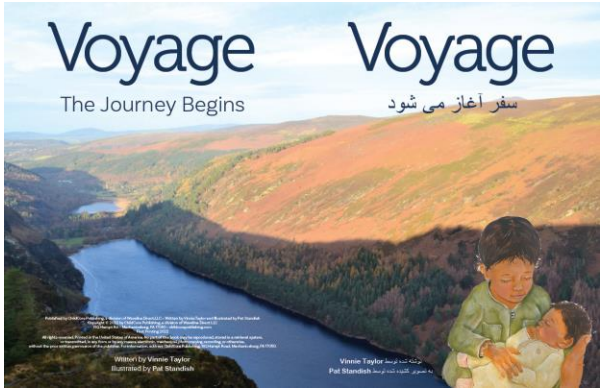
Community Engagement

Voyage

Multilingual Resource Book for New American Families

Ukrainian

Arabic



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What's in *Voyage?*

18 MONTHS DOCTOR VISIT

VIZIT 18 MWA KAY DOKTÈ

It's time for developmental screening! At 18 months, your child is due for general developmental screening and an autism screening, as recommended for all children by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Ask the doctor about your child's developmental screening.

Se moman pou fè tès depistaj devlopman! A 18 mwa, pitit ou a bezwen fè yon tès despitaj devlopman jeneral ak yon tès depistaj otis, jan Akademi Pedyatri Ameriken mande sa pou tout timoun. Poze doktè a kesyon sou tès depistaj devlopman pitit ou a.

Reason for Visit: (Rezon Vizit la) _____

Date: (Dat) _____ Weight: (Pwa) _____ Height: (Wotè) _____

Inoculation: (Vaksinasyon) _____

Remarks: (Remak)_____

_____

_____

MILESTONES – 18 MONTHS

Walks alone · Eats with spoon · Points to get your attention
Can use a crayon to scribble
Follows one step verbal commands
Knows what ordinary objects are for: telephone, brush, spoon
Shakes head and says "no" · Plays simple pretend

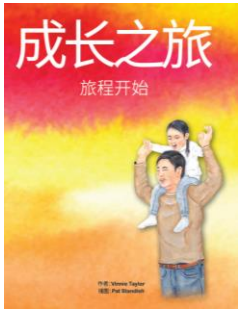
- Multilingual information on child development (2 months – 5 years) and the early identification of disabilities.
- Provides ages for developmental screenings (starting at 9 months), autism screenings (starting at 18 months), Well-Child Visits, developmental milestones, activities to promote child development, and disability resources in NYS.

"Last month, I ordered lots of *Voyage booklets from ONA's* website in Chinese...This is very valuable. Now parents can follow the instructions to monitor their children's developmental milestones. This is what I missed when I had my child. But now if immigrant parents notice something unusual with their babies, they can get and early diagnosis."

- **Bin Feng -** Family Peer Advocate

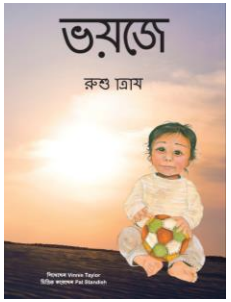
Voyage is available in 10 Languages

Spanish



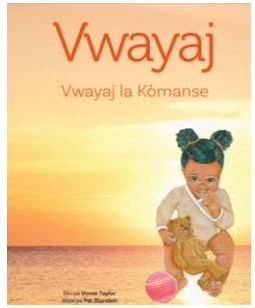
Simplified Chinese

Russian



Bengali

Korean

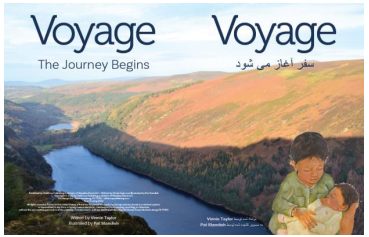


Haitian Creole

Ukrainian

Arabic

Pashto



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Voyage Order Form

Free ONA Ramirez June Initiative & "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Material

Order form: https://bit.ly/OrderVoyage

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Achievements of the ONA Ramirez June Initiative

Between 10/2019 and 07/2023

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Partnership with OPWDD

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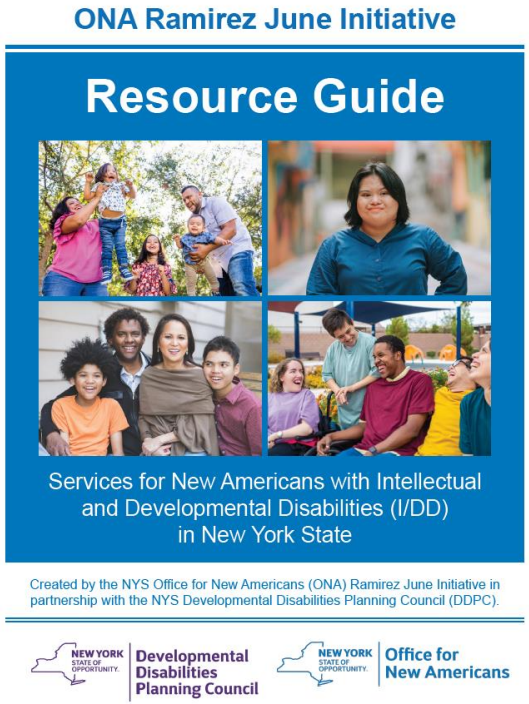
- Strategic partners since 2019.
- Collaborated for a series of Community Conversations in July 2021 with the ONA network and OPWDD staff.
- Partnership recognized in the OPWDD 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.
- We can help you connect with local OPWDD contacts.

Resource Guide: Accessing Services for New Americans with I/DD

Available on ONA Ramirez June Initiative website under the "Resources Tab."

Link: https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/10/resource-guide-services-for-new-americans-with-disabilities.pdf



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Final Report for the ONA Ramirez June Initiative CDD Grant

Read the report to learn about:

- The Ramirez June Initiative Model
- Initiative Activities & Achievements
- Top barriers for new Americans to access developmental disability services
- Recommendations to address barriers and increase access to services

Final Report One Pager:
https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/02/ona_ramirez_june_report_onepager.pdf

Building Capacity at the National Level

6 National conference presentations to elevate the needs of new Americans with developmental disabilities and share the ONA Ramirez June Initiative as a model for other states to replicate.

New Americans Hotline

1-800-566-7636

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

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Connect with ONA

NewAmericans@dos.ny.gov

dos.ny.gov/office-new-americans

facebook.com/nysnewamericans

twitter.com/nysnewamericans

Additional Resources

- **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://empirejustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NYIC-Public-Benefits-Chart-Nov-2021.pdf
- **Migration Policy Institute:**
  - **https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/NY**
- **New York State Office of Language Access (OLA)**
  - https://ogs.ny.gov/office-language-access
- **NYS Department of Labor**
  - **https://dol.ny.gov/**
- **UpWardly Global**
  - **https://www.upwardlyglobal.org/**
- **Department of Labor (DOL) Asylum Seeker Employment Efforts:**
  - **https://dol.ny.gov/asylum-seeker-employment-efforts**
- **Special Education in Plain Language**
  - **English version: https://www.drny.org/vs-uploads/pdfs/1530034163_Special-Education-Plain-Language.pdf**
  - **Spanish version: https://www.drny.org/vs-uploads/pdfs/1530034163_Educacion-Especial-En-Lenguaje-Sencillo.pdf**

We Welcome Your Feedback

Survey: https://forms.office.com/g/Sev1svV2U6