



**Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Investment Connection Proposal**

Proposal title	ACCESS
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Organization name/address	IISTL 3401 Arsenal St. St. Louis, MO 63118
Mission statement	IISTL's mission is to help immigrants and their families be productive Americans and to champion ethnic diversity as a cultural and economic strength.
Overview of organization	<p>For almost 100 years, the International Institute of St. Louis (IISTL) has operated St. Louis' Welcoming Center for New Americans. IISTL's integrative services reach more than 7,500 immigrants from 80 countries annually. Our core services include English classes, job placement, small business development and micro-lending. Since 1979, IISTL has sponsored more than 22,000 refugees for resettlement in our region. We offer a wide range of services to adult immigrants of all English comprehension levels and with diverse professional credentials and skills.</p> <p>Our deep roots and knowledge of St. Louis' immigrant and refugee communities have positioned us as the authority on refugees and immigration issues in our community</p>
Website	www.iistl.org
Social media link(s)	
Location of project/activity	St. Louis, MO-IL (MSA) Missouri
Geographic Impact	Citywide Regional
Support request	Grant
Requested dollar amount	\$250,000

<p>Proposal description and structure</p>	<p>ACCESS will offer an innovative career and entrepreneurship pathway for foreign-born with a skilled background and/or college-level education. The open entry/exit services of ACCESS will be customized so participants can receive an array of services which address each person's unique needs. Each registrant will be assessed, taking into account English competency, profession, and market/access issues. Then they will be enrolled for credit and non-credit training and programs at IISTL or elsewhere in St. Louis' career path ecosystem</p> <p>ACCESS's approach to immigrant economic integration is different from the traditional American programs. ACCESS will blend career advancement and entrepreneurship tracks, enabling candidates to explore both options wherever and whenever interests and opportunities intersect. This innovative approach will serve as a strong retention tool for immigrants and refugees already living in St. Louis and could well attract other professionals from around America.</p>
<p>Issues addressed</p>	<p>Economic/Workforce Development Small Business Development/Technical Assistance</p>
<p>Target population/geography</p>	<p>Immigrants with university education and/or professional experience earned abroad. Initially, it is expected that all participants will be recruited from immigrants and refugee professionals who are already living and working in the St. Louis region. However, we anticipate the immigrants and refugees will also be attracted to move to St. Louis as ACCESS's reputation spreads to other regions. These new arrivals may need welcome services that include housing referrals, transitional employment services, and the like.</p> <p>These newcomers will be served under IISTL's various adjustment and employment grants where they are eligible. But others, will require the services of a Welcoming Specialist to ensure that they are connected and economically self-sufficient as quickly as possible.</p>
<p>Population served including income</p>	<p>ss</p>
<p>Anticipated outcomes/impact</p>	<p>ACCESS will empower foreign-born professionals to engage productively with our local economy. The program will harness the power of their diverse background and education by providing them with the valuable information and skills they need to make an immediate and positive economic impact. At program completion, graduates will be able to leverage their past experience and education to meet their career or business goals. Working with a specially trained placement officer and utilizing mentorships, on-the-job training and other transitional paths, recent graduates</p>

	will be eased into the most appropriate and best employment or education option exists.
How will the program be evaluated	<p>Participants will be assessed and in-depth career counseling and English comprehension testing will be completed. A written career plan will be prepared utilizing test results and knowledge of the recertification requirements for each applicable profession. Participants will then elect to move forward to achieve the plan goals or may identify an alternative, meaningful career path or entrepreneurial opportunity. Licensing timeframes vary significantly by profession and could result in some immigrants choosing alternate career path options.</p> <p>Depending on the profession, goal-setting and training components will be offered by ACCESS staff or will be sought at collaborating public and private educational and training institutions. Programs will feature intensive career-focused English classes and skills development tailored to quickly advance each participant's ability to reach their personal goals quickly and successfully</p>
Project time frame	New Program Project Duration: 1-3 Years
Other significant partners in the proposal	
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