

Community Economic Development

The Community Economic Development (CED) program delivers career mentoring and networking programs to support newcomers to obtain employment in their field, develop an understanding of the Canadian workplace culture, build networks and develop strategies for employment maintenance and advancement within the Canadian workplace.



WHO WE ARE

Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO) supports immigrants through the journey of making Canada their home by providing creative and responsive programs that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, by building community through mutual respect and partnerships, and by fostering healthy and inclusive spaces for open dialogue and healing.

HOW WE CAN HELP | Key Programs & Services for Job Seekers

All CED individual and group services, including mentor and mentee intake, orientation, training and job search workshops are taking place virtually, by phone or Zoom videoconferencing. Please feel free to contact the staff below for services.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Career Mentoring Program – Supports internationally educated professionals to obtain employment in their field. Clients are matched with a volunteer Career Mentor working in the same or a related field. Mentors and mentees meet weekly. Mentorship lasts from 3 months up until one year.	Michelle LaBarre Blouin, <i>Mentorship Facilitator</i> 613-725-5671 x340 mentoring@ociso.org
Ottawa Connector – A formalized networking initiative that helps broaden Internationally Educated Professionals' networks through one-on-one meetings with established business leaders who work in the same field. Gain access to successful professionals with well-established networks in Ottawa to expand and diversify your professional network.	Amal Aramouni, <i>Mentor Recruiter & Liaison</i> 613-725-5671 x366 aaramouni@ociso.org
Federal Internship for Newcomer Mentorship – In partnership with FINP provides mentoring support to the Interns in the Federal Public Service within and beyond their Internship by matching an experienced federal government professional (Mentor) with Interns to provide advice and support for up to 8 months.	Tonya Pomerantz, <i>FINP – Mentorship Facilitator</i> 613-725-5671 x255 tpomerantz@ociso.org
Refugee and Immigrant Supports to Employment (RAISE) – Supports refugee clients with limited official language proficiency and work experience within the Hospitality, Trades, Service Industry, Childcare, and Healthcare sectors to obtain and maintain employment.	Mazen Homsy, <i>Program Facilitator</i> 613-725-5671 x333 mhomsy@ociso.org
Foreign Credential Recognition Mentorship – Supports internationally trained professionals to obtain employment within the regulated professions including health-related, law, engineering, teaching and more. FCRP Mentorship matches newcomer clients with Mentors who are Ottawa-based licensed/certified professionals within their given regulated professions.	Josephine Mensah, <i>Project Coordinator</i> 613-725-5671 x307 jmensah@ociso.org
Pre-arrival Mentorship – In partnership with YMCA-YWCA and JVS Toronto to support internationally educated professionals destined to Ontario with mentorship support before they actually arrive in Canada.	Saunia Keddon, <i>Project Facilitator</i> 613-725-5671 x399 skeddon@ociso.org
Job Search Workshops – Designed to help access labour market information and learn about hiring practices in specific fields. Consists of two modules, one week each that answer questions about working in Canada and prepare you for the Canadian job market. <i>Eligibility: Permanent resident, convention refugee, or live-in caregiver Intermediate level of English (CLB 5+).</i>	Zahra Karimi, <i>Employment Counsellor</i> 613-725-5671 x355 zkarimi@ociso.org
One Hub – Co-lead with World Skills to support the social and economic integration of aspiring entrepreneurial newcomers by connecting them with training, business support, networking opportunities, mentorship, and with other market actors to pursue self-employment with the skills and confidence to launch their business.	Tatanisha Riggan, <i>Mentorship Coordinator</i> 613-725-5671 x293 triggan@ociso.org