

CONCEPT PAPER

OPTION FOR RESPONDENT TO REQUEST A CULTURAL/TRAUMA INFORMED IMMIGRATION ADJUDICATION

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Introduction and Project Rationale.

It is well documented high percentages of those entering the immigration process in the US (“Respondents”): (a) come from very different cultural context and (b) have suffered trauma and may have PTSD. As a result, Respondents are disadvantaged and therefore are denied “due process” in their adjudication. The purpose of this initiative is to provide an option for a Respondent to request placement in a protocol that is culturally and trauma informed for adjudication of the respondents claims (“Protocol”). The Protocol would be designed using the input from civil society organizations working in immigration as well as psychologist or sociology is familiar with the immigration context.

Project Objectives

Design and implement a protocol that:

- Reduces the adverse effect of trauma on Respondents in immigration proceedings.
- Does not adversely affect the ability of immigration judges or the Department of Homeland Security to complete their duties in immigration adjudications.
- Does not significantly increase the time needed to adjudicate immigration cases.
- Is fully compliant with applicable laws and regulations.
- Ensures that only appropriate Respondents are permitted to use the Protocol.

Project Strategies and Activities

- Develop invent a proposed protocol or protocols. See Exhibit 1 as an example.
- As appropriate, confirm with DOJ and DHS to explain and encourage the usage thereof.

Project Results

The expected project results would be the development and implementation of a protocol that enhances the ability of Respondents to participate in immigration adjudications minimizing the effects of trauma and cross-cultural communication.

References

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Exhibit 1

