

“What Now?” Panel: Making an IMPACT for Refugees and Immigrants

Workshop 6 - Sunday, April 3, 9:00am-10:30am

Objective

In this panel discussion, participants will have the chance to engage with representatives from the partner organizations of the refugee and immigrant issues track. Presenters will build on the track's content by presenting on the career, advocacy, and networking opportunities for making an impact for refugees and immigrants in our country. Participants will get a chance to ask questions of the diverse group of professionals, who will also share how to translate service experience into a career and the various ways to make a lasting impact.

Materials

- Computer with Internet access
- Projector
- Panel format/set-up

Handouts

- Partners may have their own resources to hand out
- Track Evaluation

Brief Outline

This workshop will include the following sections:

1. Panel Introductions | 5 minutes
2. Panel Presentation | 45 minutes
3. Q&A Session | 30 minutes
4. Track Evaluation | 10 minutes

Facilitator Guidelines

1. Panel Introductions | 15 minutes

Begin the session by introducing panelists. It may be useful to gather their biographies ahead of time. Panelists should represent a diverse array of sectors (nonprofit, private, and public) and careers (community organizer, agency staff, policymaker, professor, student activist, etc.).

2. Panel Presentation | 45 minutes

The facilitator can use the questions below (or add to them), inviting presenters to answer as it applies to them:

1. What path (professionally or personally) brought you to this type of work?
2. What role are students able to take on at their service sites to help build capacity? What knowledge or skills do they need?
3. Explain the relationship between the private sector and the nonprofit sector as it affects your work. Between the government and the nonprofit sector? How do these relationships affect your organization and its impact?
4. Who has the power to make the structural change needed to impact the lives of immigrant and refugee populations in the US? Abroad?
5. What service models have helped shaped your organization's mission, approach, and programs?
6. How does your organization involve itself in advocacy? What gains has your organization made in affecting policy change? What more needs to be done?
7. What events, policies, or trends have affected your organization's service to immigrant and refugee populations?
8. What words of advice would you offer our students about pursuing a career in this field? What opportunities exist?
9. What insight would you have for those entering into the nonprofit or service sectors (in general)?

3. Q&A Session | 30 minutes

Invite participants to ask questions. It may be useful to reflect back on the "Challenges and Opportunities" chart that participants created in the first session, asking if they have been able to fill some of the gaps throughout the track — and what opportunities they'd like to pursue going forward.

4. Track Evaluation | 10 minutes

At the end of this session, be sure to have participants complete the track evaluation.