The Road Ahead

Session 1: Welcome to Our Community

Session Planning Guide

About this Session

This session is built around the theme of **partnership**. This session covers the following topics from the **Cultural Orientation Objectives and Indicators**: *The Role of the Resettlement Agency, Housing, Your New Community,* and *Cultural Adjustment*.

**Guiding Principles:**
- Establish a **positive learning environment**. Build rapport with participants and create an environment where the voices and experiences of participants are valued.
- Use visuals and labels to support participants in accessing content.
- Utilize Settle In resources to provide essential content in the home languages of clients.

**Options for Using Materials:**
- **Minimal Editing**: Use the slide deck and activities as offered with minor revisions on designated slides to reflect local services and information.
- **Moderate Editing**: Personalize speaker notes and slide content to reflect local services. Substitute or add activities to support the needs of a specific group of clients. See related resources on page 2.
- **High Editing**: Incorporate these slides and activities in designing/revising your current CO curriculum. Select slides and activities to supplement or enhance your current CO curriculum.

**Pre-Session Planning**

1. Review the Session Overview on page 2.
2. Download a copy of the Session 1 slide deck to view and personalize.
   - Read the **Say, Notes, Modifications**, and **CO Topics** in the notes section of each slide.
   - Modify the slide deck as needed by adding, deleting, or revising slides and speaker notes.
3. Preview the **Resettlement Services** video and the **Housing** lesson on the **Settle In app**.
4. Review Related Resources and Activities on page 2.
5. Print and prepare needed participant materials.
   - **Home Care Sorting Activity**
   - **Optional Resources**: Fact sheets on **Housing** and **The Resettlement Agency**. Select the language at the top of the page. Then scroll down and click **Download this Page**. Additional materials that may support learning objectives in this session include real-world materials such as a smoke detector, a fire extinguisher, a lease, cleaning supplies, a 911 magnet, or a library card.

**Post-Session Reflection**

Reflecting is a practice that supports our learning and continuous improvement. After delivering the CO session, reflect using the following questions:
- What topics/activities went well? Why?
- What topics/activities were challenging? Why? What modifications could I make?
- What questions arose from participants that I need to follow up on? Follow-up as needed.
- What topics/activities should I revisit in future CO sessions?
## Session Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Welcome**               | **Key Message:** Cultural Orientation is an opportunity to learn about topics relevant to resettling in this community.  
**Estimated Time:** 10-15 minutes  
**Materials:** Slides 4-10  
**Activities:** 1) Introductions, 2) Overview of session topics |
| **Our Partnership**       | **Key Message:** The Resettlement Agency partners with newcomers to meet initial needs, access services, and adjust to living in this community.  
**Estimated Time:** 30-40 minutes  
**Materials:** Slides 11-34  
**Activities:** 1) Essential content presented through a video from the Settle In website and facilitator comments, 2) Review game, 3) Scenarios for group dialogue |
| **A New Place to Live**   | **Key Message:** Housing comes with rights, responsibilities, restrictions, and regulations. Newcomers will partner with the resettlement agency, a landlord, and neighbors to maintain a comfortable and safe place to live.  
**Estimated Time:** 30-40 minutes  
**Materials:** Slides 36-61  
**Sorting Activity** (prepare for participants)  
**Activities:** 1) Essential content presented through a lesson from the Settle In app and images/facilitator comments, 2) Sorting activity, 3) Scenarios for group dialogue |
| **Your New Community**    | **Key Message:** Community and public services are available to support residents, and the RA can help residents become acquainted with the community.  
**Estimated Time:** 15-20 minutes  
**Materials:** Slides 62-74  
**Activities:** 1) Essential content presented through images and facilitator comments, 2) Group dialogue |

Estimated Time includes time allotted for interpretation.

Download a copy of the [Session 1 Slide Deck](#) to review and personalize.

## Related Resources/Activities

Consider utilizing the following resources to deepen, extend, or personalize learning. Activities can be used before, within, or following the CO session.

1. [CORE’s Housing Activity Bank](#) (scroll down to view all activities.)
   - *What’s in My House Scavenger Hunt:* Identify home safety features in the home
   - *Calling 911:* Learn when and how to call 911

2. [Working with the RA Scenarios](#): Additional scenarios for discussion.

3. Consider inviting community guests with knowledge and experience in housing and the local community to participate in the session or follow-up sessions. Read [CORE’s guidance](#) on working with community guests in CO.

The contents of this document were developed under an agreement financed by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, United States Department of State but do not necessarily represent the policy of that agency and should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.