

Navigating Integrations: Best Practices for Newcomer Economic Support

Background

- This project for the New Canadian Centre (NCC) explores volunteer-run economic initiatives for migrants, refugees, and newcomers in the City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton County, City and County of Peterborough, and Northumberland County.
- Volunteer-run economic initiatives are community-driven programs that support newcomers by fostering connections, enhancing skills, and assisting them in navigating local job markets.
- Beyond benefiting newcomers, these programs also support local businesses and industries by fostering a diverse and skilled workforce.
- To maximize their impact, it is essential for resettlement agencies to implement best practices in delivering these initiatives.

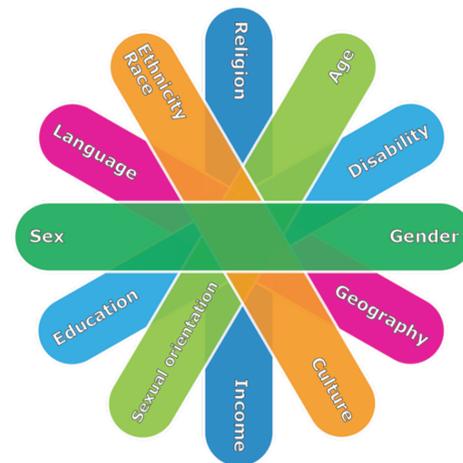
Inquiry Focus

What are the best practices for economic volunteer-run tutoring programs for newcomers in Peterborough?

1. What are the differences between formal and informal economic volunteer-run tutoring programs for newcomers?
2. What are the strengths and barriers of economic volunteer-run tutoring programs for newcomers based on gender and race?
3. What are the key tenets of rural and urban economic volunteer-run tutoring programs for newcomers? How do they differ?

Methodology

A qualitative literature review was conducted to identify best practices and gaps in volunteer-run economic programs for newcomers in Peterborough and surrounding counties.



Government of Canada, Government of Canada's approach on Gender-based Analysis Plus, 2022.

Scholarly databases (such as Omni and Google Scholar) were searched with keywords: government-assisted programs [2]; systemic challenges; rural versus metropolitan [5]; economic integration [1]. The grey literature search included municipal websites, government reports and policy briefs. Using keywords such as economic tutoring [3], volunteerism, cultural humility [4] and newcomer integration [6], we identified key themes, successful program elements, and areas for improvement, providing insights into the current landscape and future opportunities.

References:

1. Bartram, D. (2013). Happiness and 'economic migration': A comparison of Eastern European migrants and stayers. *Migration Studies*, 1(2), 156-175.
2. Bokore, N. (2021). Syrian refugees: Reflection on Canada's sponsorship programs in understanding the refugee experience in the Canadian context. In B. Sethi, S. Guruge, & R. Csiernik (Eds.), *Refugee and immigrant health: A Canadian perspective*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
3. Grey, D., & Osborne, C. (2018). Perceptions and principles of personal tutoring. *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 44(3), 285-299.
4. Lekas, M., Pahl, K., & Fuller Lewis, C. (2020). Rethinking cultural competence: Shifting to cultural humility. *Health Services Insights*.
5. Omotosho, S. (2021). Informality and entrepreneurship in developing economies: Case for entrepreneurial financing. In *Accounting and finance innovations*. IntechOpen.
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Findings

The research compared resettlement agencies and volunteer organizations with private initiatives examining their support networks, cultural orientation, and legal services. The study confirmed their importance and identified challenges in economic programs for newcomers. Key barriers to economic integration were found, including neighborhood impacts on job prospects, issues faced by female Government-Assisted Refugees (GAR), limited community interaction, and inadequate administrative support. These factors address the need for resource-intensive strategies to tackle high unemployment in specific neighborhoods while addressing the unique needs of marginalized groups, such as women and LGBTQ+ individuals. Proposed solutions include developing an affordable AI-powered job-matching platform and partnering with local organizations for cultural humility training and low-cost, volunteer-led skills workshops to enhance employability and economic integration.

Recommendations

High Cost

Comprehensive Workforce Development Program

Medium Cost

AI-Powered Job Matching Portal

Low Cost

Community Volunteering and Skill-Building Initiatives

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