

Ramirez June Initiative

Connecting New Americans with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families to Vital Resources, Information, and Services in New York State

Mission

The New York State Office for New Americans Ramirez June Initiative was created to support new Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in New York State. The initiative's mission is to help affirm the dignity, value, respect, contribution, and worth of all New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by assisting new Americans with IDD and their families to connect with vital resources, information, and services. The Ramirez June Initiative is a collaboration between the NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) and the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC).

Inspiration

New American families who faced complex barriers to accessing services for their family members with intellectual and developmental disabilities in New York State inspired ONA and the DDPC to create the Ramirez June Initiative. The initiative is named after two new American families who live in New York State, the Ramírez family and the family of Siewling (June) Lum.



Goals of the Ramirez June Initiative

- Expand the capacity of ONA staff and community partners to assist new Americans with IDD and their families in connecting with vital resources, information, and services.
- Conduct outreach and community engagement with new Americans with IDD and their families as well as immigrant service providers in NYS.
- Develop and distribute disability-themed resource materials.
- Increase awareness for the identification and prevention of human trafficking of new Americans with IDD.
- Share strategies, promising practices, and lessons learned with the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and other key stakeholders. (cont.)



**Office for
New Americans**



**Developmental
Disabilities
Planning Council**

The New York State Office for New Americans (ONA)

Founded in late 2012, ONA is the nation's first statutorily created immigrant services office. ONA's statewide network of Opportunity Centers are nested within existing community-based organizations that deliver a variety of services and support, including legal services, to New York's new American communities. Any immigrant that needs free legal assistance or immigration referrals can call the confidential, multi-lingual New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636. For more information on ONA's services and programs, visit <https://www.newamericans.ny.gov/> or follow ONA on Twitter at @NYSNewAmericans or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NYSNewAmericans>.

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council addresses the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the development of demonstration projects around advocacy, systems change, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion in all facets of life. For more information about the DDPC, visit <https://ddpc.ny.gov> or follow the DDPC on Twitter @NYSDDPC or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nysddpc>.

The Ramírez Family

The Ramírez family came to New York State from Oaxaca, Mexico, in 2003 in search of a better life and access to opportunities for their children Herminia, Monica, Humberto and Victor. Their son Humberto has cerebral palsy and uses assistive technology which helps him communicate. Humberto's sister Monica said, "Humberto is a great brother who I see as a role model. He has inspired me to achieve my goals and taught me that there are no limits. That it is always better to focus on one's ability. Humberto is a person who gives a lot of love and receives a lot of love."

The Family of Siewling (June) Lum

Siewling (June) Lum is originally from Malaysia. June overcame complex barriers and waited years to access disability-related services for her son who has autism. Now June is a member of the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council's (DDPC) Cultural Competency and Language Access Workgroup and she supports families with developmental needs as a self-direction broker.

To connect with the Ramirez June Initiative contact: NewAmericans@dos.ny.gov

To access any of the NYS Office for New Americans (ONA) free services

call the NYS New Americans Hotline: 1-800-566-7636

Monday to Friday 9 a.m.-8 p.m. (except holidays)

Calls are confidential. Assistance available in 200+ languages.

<https://newamericans.ny.gov/>



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