

ECO Clearinghouse Services

RFP#	RFP-OWR-1543-CH
Title	Implementation Plan for Strategic & Technical Support Services
Summary	<p>Equity Corps has established a Technical Support & Strategy program to support attorneys in the ECO network in their representation of persons. Immigration law is complex. Immigration advocates, particularly new attorneys or accredited reps or those who do not regularly practice immigration law in the field, often encounter difficult questions of law and fact. Attorneys may become frustrated because they cannot independently navigate a complex situation or legal question. They may spend countless hours working towards a solution that they do not have the independent experience, tools, or expertise to address. Attorneys and program managers can experience frustration and confusion because they lack sufficient resources to troubleshoot cases. Attorneys may feel isolated because there are not other attorneys at their org or firm. The ECO Technical Support, & Strategy program aims to bring a sense of community to the ECO network, and in so doing, sharpen the ability and resilience of all ECO practitioners in their client-facing work.</p>
Date Posted	January 24, 2023
Date Effective	October 1, 2022



PART I. Overview

Equity Corps of Oregon's objective is to provide universal representation, which protects our communities by making sure that no individual faces the risk of deportation or exclusion without legal consultation and representation. Equity Corps ultimately aims to end unjust and unfair deportations and civic exclusions by providing access to an attorney and support services for every eligible Oregonian at risk of removal or civic exclusion on account of immigration status. Oregon Worker Relief awarded a Clearinghouse Services contract to Innovation Law Lab to provide, in part, strategic and technical support to providers through the ECO Network.

Equity Corps of Oregon has established a ECO's Strategic & Technical Support program to support attorneys in the ECO network in their representation of persons. Immigration law is complex. Immigration advocates, particularly new attorneys or accredited reps or those who do not regularly practice immigration law in the field, often encounter difficult questions of law and fact. Attorneys may become frustrated because they cannot independently navigate a complex situation or legal question. They may spend countless hours working towards a solution that they do not have the independent experience, tools, or expertise to address. Attorneys and program managers can experience frustration and confusion because they lack sufficient resources to troubleshoot cases. Attorneys may feel isolated because there are not other attorneys at their org or firm. The ECO Strategic & Technical Support program aims to bring a sense of community to the ECO network, and in so doing, sharpen the ability and resilience of all ECO practitioners in their client-facing work.



PART 2. Services

Strategic & Technical Support. ECO's Strategic & Technical Support program is operated by the ECO Clearinghouse which has extensive and deep expertise in immigration, including the immigration consequences of crimes, different immigration program options, ethical concerns, immigration court practice issues, federal court, and appellate practice, among other topics. ECO network practitioners can obtain strategic and technical support. Strategic & technical support will focus on supporting providers who interview, advise, and counsel individuals on immigration matters or benefits under INA § 201 (immediate relative petitions), § 203 (preference relative petitions), § 204 (other petitions & applications including fiancée, § 207 (asylee relative petitions), § 208 (applications for asylum), § 209 (asylee & refugee adjustment), U-nonimmigrant status, T-nonimmigrant status, DACA benefits, employment authorization, Special Immigrant Juvenile status); § 216A (petition for removal of conditions), § 221 (immigrant visa consular processing), § 240 (pro se motions & limited-appearance filings in immigration court), § 240A (applications for cancellation of removal), § 240B (voluntary departure), § 244 (Temporary Protected Status), § 245 (applications for adjustment of status), § 249 (registry), § 265 (address changes), and other matters.

The Strategic & Technical Support Program provides short-term limited-scope assistance for purposes of advancing the ECO Network and the objectives of universal representation. The program does not and the ECO Clearinghouse lawyers do not provide legal advice or representation to you or your client, and no attorney-client relationship with you or your client is created, intended, or exists. The Program does not make any appearances, sign or appear on any pleadings, or enter into any relationships with your client or others involved in the case for which you seek help. There is no expectation by you or your client that we will provide continuing or further technical assistance services regarding any specific client matters we discuss.



You understand that immigration law is extremely complex and that there is often no clear answer to an immigration issue. You acknowledge that the ECO Clearinghouse cannot perfectly anticipate the interpretation of relevant statutes and that interpretations may be non-intuitive or seem contrary to the statutory language's intent. ECO cannot anticipate whether and how case law will change in this highly litigated area. Our technical assistance is based on the application of our expertise to the facts you describe. You are responsible for the completeness and the accuracy of the factual information you provide. We do not and cannot make any express or implied guarantees to you or your client about the outcomes of any matters you may be handling for your clients. You understand and agree that you are solely responsible for your conduct, that you must use and rely upon your own research, investigation, professional judgment, and consultation with your clients in determining strategy and making decisions about matters you may be handling, and that all decisions you make are your full and sole responsibility. For designated ECO Fellows, the program may provide additional assistance, support, and hands-on engagement to further the objectives of the ECO Network and universal representation.

All services under this program are free of charge to ECO Network practitioners.

Case Rounds. Regularly occurring sessions, of 60 min with a small group of regular participants to discuss cases; cases should be docketed in advance on the agenda, with a question presented. Can include review of case strategy, case plan, and similar. Participants are invited to collaborate on a particular theme or issue, such as objections to scheduling orders, preparing responses to NOIDs for Afghan asylum cases, and similar matters. In order to be eligible to participate, an attorney must be part of the ECO network of providers.

Case Conferences. Regularly occurring session of variable length for providers designated as "fellows" within ECO or OWR. These are new lawyers who participate and perform services to support ECO as a whole, including the provision of clearinghouse services and direct legal services. These conferences are intended to provide pedagogical practice, new lawyer



guidance, and deeply engaged case troubleshooting. Most fellows are required to attend. Attendance may be limited to OWR or ECO designated fellows.