

NATIONAL EXTERNAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM



> An Alternative Path
for Adult Learners

www.casas.org/nedp



a program of **CASAS**

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



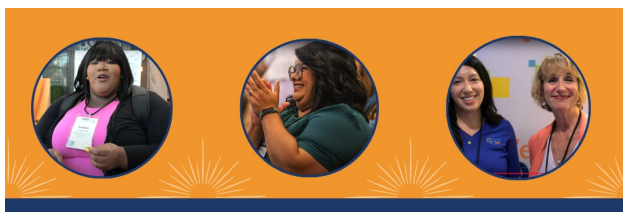
2025 NEDP CHANGING LIVES SCHOLARSHIP

NEDP Changing Lives Scholarship applications are now being accepted on the **NEDP scholarship page**.

Visit the **CASAS / NEDP Changing Lives Scholarship** page for more information.

JOIN US AT THE 2025 CASAS NATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE

NEDP COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



CASAS National
Summer Institute **2025**

June 9-12, 2025
Hyatt Regency
Orange County, California



NEDP will once again host our NEDP luncheon at the close of this year's CASAS National Summer Institute. This annual tradition brings together NEDP staff from across the country to share insights, highlight best practices, and celebrate the work happening at our agencies. Come with your questions, ideas, and reflections—we'll bring the food and conversation!

All NEDP staff are welcome. Keep an eye out for your invitation in the May newsletter.

REGISTER TODAY



NEDP SPRING NATIONAL TRAINING

The Spring 2025 National Training for new and current NEDP staff concluded on April 7, 2025! Please welcome 13 freshly trained NEDP advisors and assessors!

CASAS NATIONAL NEWS AND UPDATES WEBINAR

CASAS National News and Updates

Sign up for the next CASAS webinar on August 20, 2025, 2 p.m. ET/ 1 p.m. MT/ 11 a.m. PT.

Reserve a seat today

Explore CASAS Recorded Webinars

Looking for valuable training or fresh ideas?

Visit the CASAS website to access a library of recorded webinars under the **Past Webinars** section.

Take a moment to browse—you might discover something new and useful!



NEDP TECH TIPS

Remote IOC's don't have to be overwhelming—whether you're a new or seasoned NEDP assessor.

This easy-to-follow infographic guides both assessors and clients through a smooth, successful IOC session.

You'll also find a printable checklist you can share with clients or keep handy as a quick reference for yourself found on the Professionals Page.



Client

Assessor

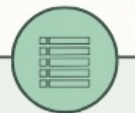
QUIET
ZONE



- ☐ Join the meeting via remote platform with link provided by the assessor
- ☐ Ensure a quiet, private space
- ☐ Use a dedicated computer with strong internet
- ☐ Turn camera on and mic unmuted
- ☐ Share screen (client)
- ☐ Close all unrelated apps, tabs, or programs
- ☐ Log in at mynedp.org

Starting the IOC

Starting the IOC



- ☐ Wait for your assessor to begin the IOC
- ☐ Confirm the pop-up window that appears
- ☐ On the NEDP tree, select the IOC you will complete
- ☐ Only use materials listed in the IOC instructions
- ☐ No phones, outside notes, or help allowed
- ☐ You may write notes – but destroy after the IOC



- ☐ Log in → Select client → Click Remote IOC
- ☐ Confirm the Remote IOC pop-up
- ☐ Instruct client to confirm pop-up on their end
- ☐ Remind client to select the IOC from the NEDP tree
- ☐ Mute yourself and turn off video once client starts

During the IOC

During the IOC



- ☐ Stay on the IOC screen at all times
- ☐ Ask your assessor only procedural questions
- ☐ Do not ask for help on the content
- ☐ IOCs may be completed in any order, except the 21st Century Workplace competency area which must be done in order
- ☐ Inform assessor that all IOCs have been completed



- ☐ Observe screen and behavior
- ☐ Client is expected to complete all of the IOCs within a new competency area during one meeting
- ☐ Record yourself asking the questions along with the client answers for oral IOCs
- ☐ It is not necessary to record yourself reading script or instructions
- ☐ Ensure client does not leave the IOC page or use notes brought into meeting

Finishing Up

Ending the IOC

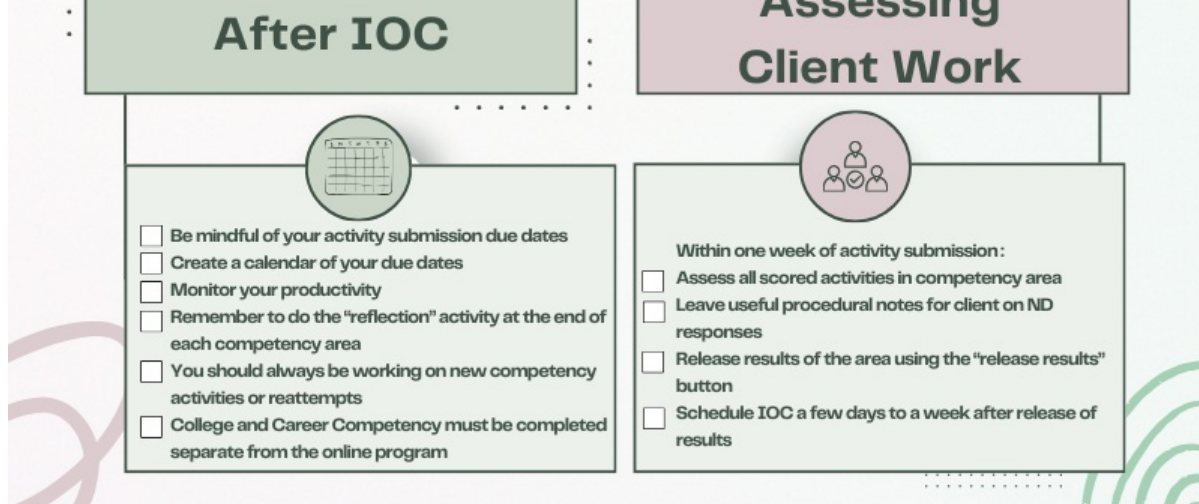


- ☐ Click Save & Submit when done
- ☐ Wait for the assessor to confirm IOC is complete
- ☐ The program will automatically log you out when your assessor ends the IOC session
- ☐ Update your calendar with your next meeting time



- ☐ Click Remote IOC to end session
- ☐ Ensure client has submitted their work
- ☐ Log out/in before ending session
- ☐ Open next competency area
- ☐ Set a due date (1-2 weeks)
- ☐ Recommend standing appointments for consistency

Assessing



NEDP ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FEE

The annual NEDP maintenance fee will remain \$1,200 for Program Year 2026, with invoices scheduled to be sent in August.

This fee supports a range of essential services, including technical support and professional development webinars. If your agency has remaining funds from Program Year 2025 that need to be spent before the close of the year, those funds may be applied toward next year's maintenance fee.

To request an early invoice, please contact Christine O'Hara at cohara@casas.org.



NEDP GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: MEET LAKESIA



"I came in to get my high school diploma. Now I have my associate's, bachelor's, and soon my master's degree."

— Lakesia



Lakesia is living proof that it's never too late to dream big and follow through. Her educational journey didn't just open doors—it transformed her entire life.

She discovered something powerful:

“Getting my education was a passion and a dream of mine.”

It was her twin sister who first inspired her to enroll in the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) at Ballou STAY Opportunity Academy in 2014. While her sister was preparing to graduate, Lakesia began in the Adult Basic Education program to strengthen her reading and math skills.

There were challenges—some personal, some circumstantial.

“School wasn’t my focus back then—survival was,” she said, referencing her time in the foster care system. **“But NEDP gave me a different kind of stability. It helped me find direction.”**

Even when life pulled her away from her educational goals, she returned with greater focus each time. In June 2017, her determination paid off—Lakesia earned her high school diploma through NEDP. But that was just the beginning.

Later that fall, she enrolled at the University of the District of Columbia. She earned an associate degree in Public Administration (2020), followed by a bachelor’s in Business Management with a concentration in Marketing, Logistics, and International Trade (2023). She even studied abroad at Nottingham University in London, where she became certified in Innovation and Design.

Now, she’s six credits away from completing a master’s degree in Adult Education. Along the way, Lakesia made major changes in her life:

“I gained passion, drive, focus. I quit smoking. I stopped hanging with people who weren’t good for me.”

She credits the support and structure of NEDP for helping her build confidence in both her writing and in herself.

“It made me realize that I am special. Anything I want to do—I can do.”

When asked what advice she’d give someone considering NEDP, she doesn’t hesitate:

“Go for it—it will change your life for the better.”

Keep on shining, Lakesia! Keep on shining! - The NEDP Team

Do you know an inspiring client or a dedicated staff member who deserves recognition?

Help us highlight NEDP’s finest by completing the **NEDP Spotlight Form!**

You can also email your nomination to aditto@casas.org.

Let’s celebrate those making a difference!



#NEDP #NEDPAdultEdu #CASAS APRIL 2025



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