



Building Welcoming Communities Campaign

White House partners with local communities to strengthen immigrant integration efforts

In September 2015, the White House Task Force on New Americans (“Task Force”) launched the ***Building Welcoming Communities Campaign (BWCC)*** to encourage local communities to engage in local immigrant integration efforts, in partnership with Welcoming America, a national non-profit organization with expertise in welcoming efforts. The President is calling on local communities to act on a set of principles to build inclusive, welcoming communities that allow all residents to thrive and advance integration efforts in three core areas: civic, economic, and linguistic integration.

Today, 41.3 million foreign-born residents live in the United States and are contributing to the vitality of our country and their communities. Foreign-born workers represent close to 17 percent of the current U.S. labor force. Over the next 20 years, immigrants and their children will account for 85 percent of the net growth in the U.S. labor force. Immigrants are entrepreneurial, starting 28 percent of all new businesses. Moreover, a study by the Partnership for a New American Economy found that immigrants or their children have founded more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies, which collectively employ over 10 million people worldwide and generate annual revenues of \$4.2 trillion.

Building Welcoming Communities – Principles

There are many ways in which state and local governments across the country can demonstrate their commitment to building welcoming communities and immigrant and refugee integration including establishing Offices of New Americans or Immigrant Affairs, passing proclamations or resolutions, or creating and implementing local integration plans. Regardless of your community’s level of effort to date, the Obama Administration encourages your community to participate in BWCC. Communities can participate by committing to one of three tiers of involvement:

Tier 1: Making the Initial Commitment: Communities that are new to welcoming efforts, can commit to:

- ✓ Bring immigrants and refugees and the broader community together to **develop policies, programs, or initiatives that build welcoming communities** and provide all residents with the knowledge and tools to thrive and fully participate in their communities.
- ✓ **Communicate the value for all residents** of advancing an immigrant integration agenda, recognizing that a community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed. This could include hosting events or issuing a proclamation, resolution or press release to commemorate Immigrant Heritage Month (June), World Refugee Day (June 20), Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (September 17), or National Welcoming Week (September).
- ✓ **Share information on progress**, using BWCC’s [roadmap to success](#), as well as the tools and resources to be offered through this campaign.

Tier 2: Enhancing Collaboration: Welcoming communities can take the next step by committing to:

- ✓ **Establishing a multi-sector collaborative to create a vision and strategy and a comprehensive plan,** to expand opportunities for new Americans and all residents.

Tier 3: Taking Action and Demonstrating Progress: These welcoming communities commit to serving as national models by **demonstrating exceptional progress along the roadmap and in one or more of three key action areas:**

- ✓ **Encouraging immigrants and refugees to fully participate in civic life** by building bridges with longtime residents, educating newcomers on their rights, promoting awareness of the importance of citizenship, preparing those eligible for naturalization, and encouraging all residents to give back to their communities.
- ✓ **Harnessing the full potential of all residents** by ensuring that workforce systems are able to leverage the skills, education, and talents of immigrants and refugees, empowering newcomers with the tools to build and grow small businesses and pursue professional opportunities, and building the financial capability for newcomers through financial education and access to safe, affordable products and services, unlocking the doors to homeownership.
- ✓ **Supporting English language learning** of new Americans by strengthening and expanding dual-language learning, providing pathways to postsecondary education and career training and development, creating welcoming schools, engaging parents and families, and investing in young leaders.

BWCC Benefits & Opportunities

Participating communities, depending on their level of commitment, will receive:

- ✓ **Recognition for BWCC participation,** in public materials, including community profiles on the White House website and recognition opportunities as an outstanding Welcoming Community at a White House event.
- ✓ **Technical assistance and consultation** from federal agencies through webinars, direct coaching, and site visits, as well as additional support through a public private partnership from non-governmental partners led by Welcoming America.
- ✓ **Opportunities to attend White House events.** Participating communities attended the **White House Building Welcoming Communities Convening** in October 2015 where local communities, and national stakeholders shared best practices and Federal agencies provided technical assistance. The Task Force looks forward to planning Regional Convenings, in collaboration with select BWCC communities, next year.
- ✓ **Information on funding opportunities** as well as the opportunity to build capacity for future funding opportunities.

Participating Cities and Counties

There are currently forty-seven (47) cities and counties that have signed on to the join BWCC. The group includes big and small cities and counties from across the country: See below for a full list of participating communities.

Participating Cities and Counties		
Akron, OH	Crete, NE	New Orleans, LA
Allegheny County, PA	Dayton, OH	New York, NY
Anchorage, AK	Decatur, GA	Oakley, CA
Atlanta, GA	Denver, CO	Philadelphia, PA
Austin, TX	Detroit, MI	Pittsburgh, PA
Baltimore, MD	Grand Forks, ND	Salt Lake City, UT
Beaverton, OR	High Point, NC	Salt Lake County, UT
Boise, ID	Houston, TX	San Jose, CA
Boston, MA	Jersey City, NJ	Santa Fe, NM
Buffalo, NY	Lincoln, NE	Schuyler, NE
Charlotte, NC	Los Angeles, CA	Seattle, WA
Chicago, IL	Louisville, KY	St. Louis, MO
City & County San Francisco, CA	Macomb County, MI	St. Louis County, MO
City of Dodge City, KS	Montgomery County, MD	Sterling Heights, MI
Clinton Township, MI	Nashville, TN	Toledo-Lucas County, OH
Columbus, OH	Newark, NJ	York, PA

Sign-up Now

Signing up for BWCC is easy two-step process:

1. Notify the White House that your city or county will participate in the ***Building Welcoming Communities Campaign***. Email NewAmericans@who.eop.gov and include a point of contact on your staff.
2. Help the BWCC team tailor its programming to meet your needs by completing a short survey.