

# Municipal Strategies for Immigrant Integration

## An Overview of Approaches and Programs

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# Immigrants' Contributions to Cities

- Pay federal, state and local taxes.
- Start new businesses which hire native-born workers.
- Bring diverse skills to workforce, and generally younger workers.
- Bring contacts which foster international trade and other relationships.
- Bring spending power which boosts local economies.
- Children of immigrants are “high contributors” to economic growth.



# Resources on Immigrant Economic Contributions

**Map the Impact:** New American Economy

**State Fact Sheets:** American Immigration Council

**The Economic and Fiscal Contributions of Immigrants:** National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine



# Preparing a City Immigrant Integration Strategy

- Know your demographics and geography
- Assess your existing capacity, resources and governmental structure:
  - Is any agency, office or individual responsible for overseeing city immigration policies?
  - Who has the most expertise about immigrant needs and services?
  - Who has the most contact with immigrant communities?
  - Who is most trusted by immigrant communities?
- Identify and engage partners (community and faith-based organizations; businesses; ethnic media)

# Municipal Immigrant Integration Structural Approaches

- Centralized Office of Immigrant Affairs or New Americans
  - Mayor's Office? Separate city agency, department or commission?  
Integrated into existing agency or department?
- Inter-agency Task Force, Working Group or Coordination Council
- Immigrant Impact Assessment for all Departmental Policies and Initiatives (the “baked-in” approach”)



# Municipal Immigrant Integration Program Opportunities

- Promote English-language learning, naturalization and workforce skills development.
- Promote access to health care and human services (this may involve partnerships with county, state or federal services).
- Promote participation in neighborhood engagement activities (homeowner associations, neighborhood councils).
- Promote positive relationships with law enforcement.
- Build relationships between immigrants and long-time city residents.
- “One stop” approaches (toolkits, welcoming packets, website, hotline) and in-language assistance.

## Partnerships

Build and strengthen relationships with existing city programs and outside partners:

- Libraries
- Recreational and cultural programs
- Public schools (including adult education programs) and community colleges
- Community-based and faith-based organizations
- Local businesses and professional associations
- “Mainstream” and ethnic media
- Philanthropic community



## Other Resources

### White House Task Force on New Americans

- [Building Welcoming Communities: Roadmap to Success](#)
- [Bright Spots in Welcoming and Integration](#)

### National League of Cities

- [Municipal Innovations in Immigrant Integration](#)

### Migration Policy Institute

- [Immigrant Civic Integration and Service Access Initiatives](#)

### NALEO Educational Fund

- [Immigration Resources](#)
- 1-888-Ve-Y-Vota (1-888-839-8682)
- 1-844-411-DACA (1-844-411-3222)





# Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

- In 2017 and 2018, the Census Bureau will ask state, local, and tribal units of government to review its master list of addresses and provide additions, deletions, and changes.
- Local elected officials need to ensure their jurisdictions participate in LUCA



## Key LUCA Program Dates

**July – September 2017:** Eligible jurisdictions receive and return invitations to participate.

**December 2017:** Deadline for jurisdictions to register to participate.

**February – May 2018:** Address lists sent to participating jurisdictions; participants mark up and return address lists.

**August – October 2019:** Bureau reports back on actions taken on submitted address changes; participants appeal decisions with which they disagree.



# Thank you.

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