

# New Strategies to Build United Communities

## How do localities respond to immigration?

While less than one in five local governments tends toward restrictive policies, almost half tend toward practices that include the interests of immigrants.

More than one-third of localities have no policies in place regarding immigrants, meaning there is room to create positive policies.

Even in areas where residents may not support immigrants, leaders largely see the benefits of welcoming immigrants as workers, business owners and community members.

## What steps should I take?

- 1. Do your research.** Identify what barriers exist in your community, and find out what other municipalities have done. Share findings with community members to build public support.
- 2. Involve key stakeholders.** Gather leaders from local government, non-profits, businesses, places of worship and schools to determine what to prioritize.
- 3. Build a community vision.** Work together to define what welcoming immigrants would look like for your community.
- 4. Exchange ideas with community members.** Seek out opportunities for feedback to develop initiatives that best address the needs of your locality.

## What to include in a community plan?

### Define tangible goals

Have a clear vision of what success would look like in your community. Revisit these goals to track progress.

### Improve access to information

Address existing cultural or linguistic barriers that prevent immigrants from accessing public resources or participating in the community.

### Expand professional development

Educate service providers on immigrant issues to improve cultural competency.

### Empower multicultural leadership

Strive to achieve representation of immigrant populations in leadership positions. Ensure immigrants have a voice in decision-making.

## Toolkit



- [Example of a Community Welcoming Plan](#)
- [Building Meaningful Contact: A How-To Guide](#)
- [Promising Practices for Law Enforcement](#)
- [Welcoming Refugees in Rural Communities](#)
- [Request a Custom Immigration Fact Sheet](#)

This webinar was hosted in collaboration with



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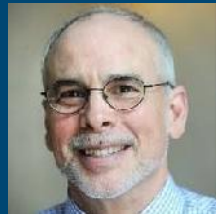
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