



## WELCOMING CITIES AND COUNTIES

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Welcoming America and its municipal partners are convening U.S. cities and counties to support locally-driven efforts to create more welcoming, immigrant-friendly environments that maximize opportunities for economic growth and cultural vitality and position communities as globally competitive, 21<sup>st</sup> century leaders.

Participating city and county governments will connect with their peers through a community of practice that will share good ideas, develop new tools, and receive recognition for their efforts to create more welcoming communities that improve the quality of life and economic potential for immigrants and non-immigrants alike.

Cities and counties that join Welcoming Cities and Counties will have the chance to:

- Hear from local government leaders who are making the most of their diversity, by creating “immigrant-friendly” welcoming plans.
- Learn about large and small communities that are responding to demographic change and supporting long-term immigrant integration in a way that speaks to and benefits all members of the community.
- Access new tools and resources to help advance welcoming resolutions, initiatives and strategies.
- Receive support and recognition for their efforts to foster more vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming communities.
- Participate in national and transatlantic learning exchanges that highlight promising practices from globally competitive cities.

## **WHAT IS A WELCOMING CITY OR COUNTY?**

Welcoming America defines a welcoming city or county as one that:

1. **PLANS:** All relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit, and others are engaged to work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.
2. **COMMITTS:** Commitments are made to institutionalize strategies that ensure the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers.
3. **BUILDS COMMUNITY:** Newcomers and long-time residents are engaged to find common ground and shared leadership.
4. **COMMUNICATES:** Messages of unity and shared values permeate the community through the media, through the voice of leaders, and among residents.
5. **SUSTAINS:** Policies and practices are considered in order to ensure that interactions between new and longer-term Americans remain positive ones and the community's economic vitality remains strong.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

There is no membership fee to join Welcoming Cities and Counties, but participants commit to:

- Advancing a municipal or county-level proclamation or resolution declaring their locality to be a welcoming one
- Finding ways to institutionalize welcoming efforts through the adoption of policies and/or practices that fit the unique local context and promote inclusion within local government and the broader community
- Joining a cohort of cities and communities that want to become more welcoming
- Appointing at least one key municipal staff contact or preferably a small team of staff from across departments for the project
- Participating in three conference calls per year to share their own accomplishments and challenges and learn from promising practices from other Welcoming Cities and Counties
- Participating in an annual in-person meeting with other municipal leaders (should travel resources be available)

## **POINTS OF CONTACT**

For more information about Welcoming Cities and Counties, please visit [www.welcomingcities.org](http://www.welcomingcities.org) or contact either:

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## **ABOUT WELCOMING AMERICA**

Welcoming America is a national, grassroots-driven collaborative that promotes mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and U.S.-born Americans. Through a countrywide network of member organizations and partners, Welcoming America works to promote a welcoming atmosphere – community by community – in which immigrants and native born residents can find common ground and shared prosperity. For more information, please visit [www.welcomingamerica.org](http://www.welcomingamerica.org).

## **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

Welcoming Cities and Counties has been recognized as a [2013 Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action](#).

This initiative is also supported by a growing list of partner organizations, including:

[City of Chicago](#)

[German Marshall Fund of the United States](#)

[Maytree's Cities of Migration](#)

[AS/COA](#)