

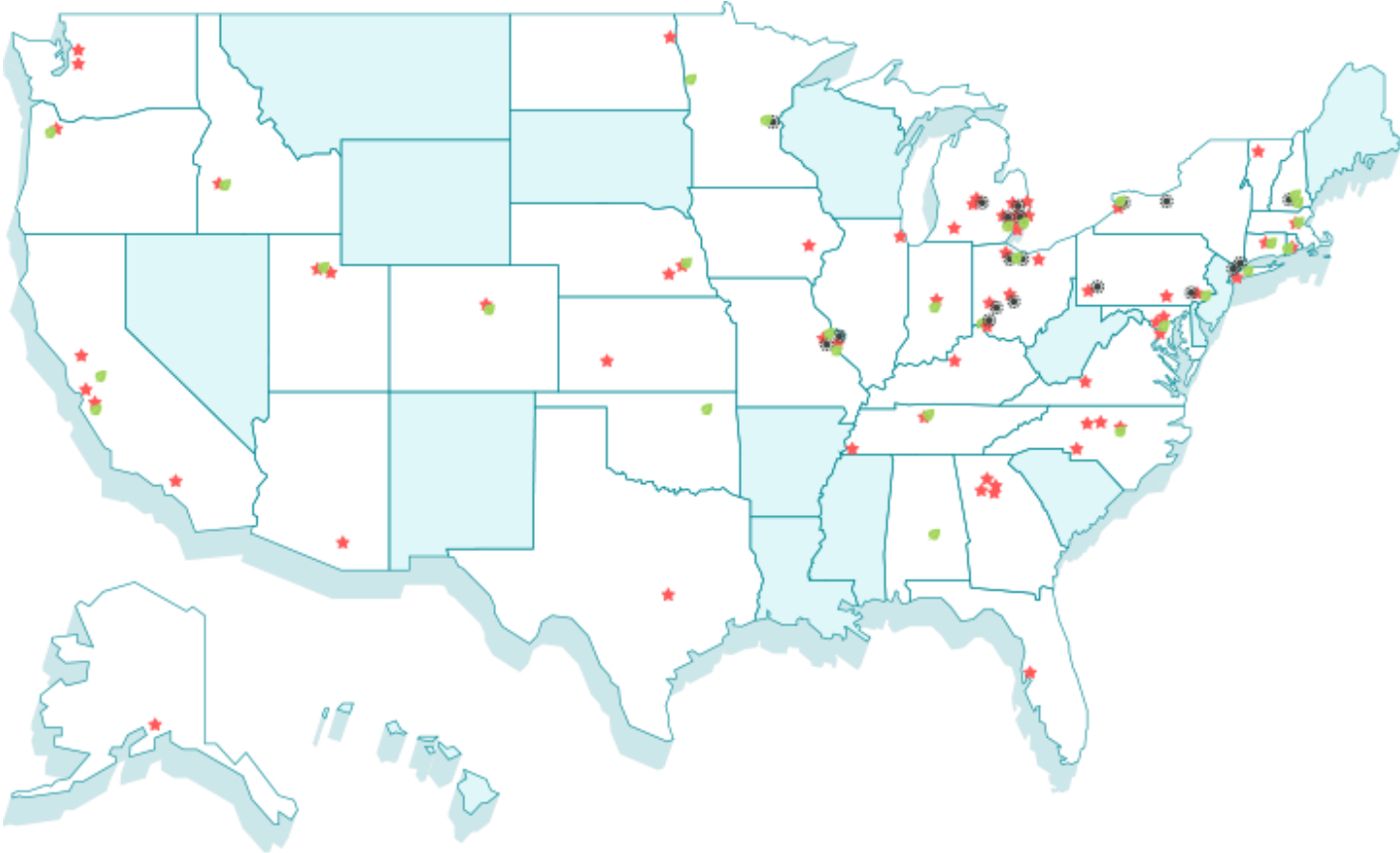
# Cooperation at the Municipal Level

Christina Pope, Welcoming America

# WHERE WE WORK

1 IN 8

Americans now lives in a community in the Welcoming America network.



● WE Global Network    ★ Member Municipality    ■ Nonprofit Organization

# MUNICIPAL WELCOMING PLANS



# MAKING THE CASE



BUILDING A NATION OF NEIGHBORS

## ECONOMY

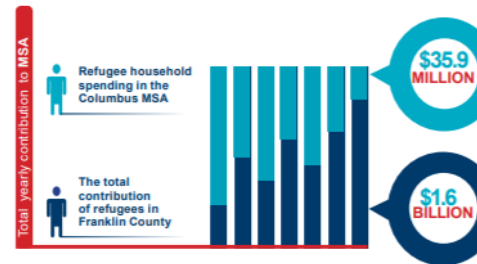
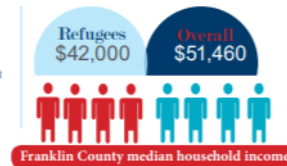
**13.6%** Employed refugees age 16 and older who are business owners

Is more than double the general Franklin County rate of entrepreneurship (6.5%); indicating that local refugees are more than twice as likely to own a business as the general population.

There are an estimated **873** refugee-owned businesses in the Columbus MSA employing 3,960 workers.

The local refugee community supports an estimated total of **21,273** jobs in the Columbus MSA.

*Through entrepreneurship, self-sufficiency, networking, and job skills, local refugees are able to build social capital, which can have a positive impact on the region.*



IMPACT

WELCOMING AMERICA



# PROGRAM/POLICY DEVELOPMENT



Office of Immigrant Affairs

@PhillyOIA

Our Deputy Director @SymbolLai has officially kicked off our first Immigrant Workers Academy! Thank you for everyone that has come out to spend their Saturday with us!

[pic.twitter.com/EzNM585Ayb](https://pic.twitter.com/EzNM585Ayb)

10:18 AM - May 5, 2018 · Philadelphia, PA



5 See Office of Immigrant Affairs's other Tweets

“Our hope is to be able to bring the program/curriculum to every immigrant community. Each time we hope to partner with a local organization in the neighborhood that works with the local immigrant community and hold classes in collaboration with them.”

- Miriam Enriquez,  
Director of the City of  
Philadelphia’s Office of  
Immigrant Affairs



# ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC MESSAGING



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

July 30, 2018

The Honorable Lee Francis Cissna  
Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20529

Re: Consistent Backlog of Citizenship Applications Before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Dear Director Cissna:

On behalf of the 729,400 lawful permanent residents ("LPRs") who are living in our cities and waiting, sometimes for as long as 20 months, for their citizenship applications to be processed, we respectfully urge you to significantly reduce the time that it is currently taking U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") to process citizenship applications.

The eligible LPRs waiting for their applications to be processed are residents of our cities, integral parts of our communities and families, and prosperous actors in our local, state, and federal economies. They have been in our country for many years and have completed all that has been asked of them in order to apply within the legal process that was envisioned by our nation's founders, enshrined in the Constitution, and codified in federal law.

Unfortunately, the enormous backlog of citizenship applications at USCIS is preventing at least 729,400 LPRs from accessing an equitable process to attempt to naturalize. The year of 2017 saw USCIS fail to naturalize more LPRs with pending applications than it actually naturalized, for the second year in a row.

And the problem is only getting worse. In the last two years, the backlog has increased by over 87 percent, despite the fact that citizenship applications have consistently decreased since April 2017. In just the last year, the backlog increased from 636,164 applications to the current backlog of 729,400 applications, despite a 25 percent decrease in applications submitted during that same time period. At the current rate, it would take USCIS over 25 years to get back down to the Obama administration's backlog level of 380,639 applications in 2015, and that is assuming no new applications. That is just not acceptable.

the goal of reducing the backlog and an analysis of why they did not achieve their intended purpose.

As cities with immigrants and eligible LPRs who contribute so much to our communities, culture, and economy, we urge you to take aggressive action to end the backlog of citizenship applications and allow them to opportunity to join the nation as citizens.

Sincerely,

Mayor

Mayor Lyda Krewson, St. Louis, MO  
Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Atlanta, GA  
Mayor Alan L. Nagy, Newark, Alameda County, CA  
Mayor Riley H. Rogers, Dolton, IL  
Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter, San Leandro, CA  
Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park, MD  
Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Somerset, MD  
Mayor Kurt Metzger, Pleasant Ridge/Oakland, MI  
Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orlando, FL  
Mayor Jorge Elorza, Providence, RI  
Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Everett, MO  
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan, Seattle, WA  
County Executive Celine Kennelly, City and County of San Francisco, CA  
Mayor Michael B. Hancock, City and County of Denver, CO  
Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, CA  
Mayor Mark E. Farrell, San Francisco, CA  
Mayor Libby Schaaf, Oakland, CA  
Mayor Muriel Bowser, Washington, D.C.  
Mayor Antonio Martinez, Brownsville, TX  
Mayor David Briley, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, TN  
Councilmember Sue Higgins, Oakley, CA  
County Executive Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County, IL  
Mayor George Van Dusen, Skokie, IL  
Mayor Jacqueline M. Biskupski, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston, TX  
County Executive Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County, TX  
Mayor Victoria Woodards, Tacoma, WA  
Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville Metro Government, KY  
Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach, CA  
County Executive Gregory Thomas, Gary, IN  
Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway, NJ

WELCOMING  
AMERICA



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