Michigan Office for New Americans
Executive Office of Governor Rick Snyder
Bing Goei, Director
Karen Phillippi, Deputy Director
How We Began

• Prior to election, then private citizen, Rick Snyder worked at Ann Arbor SPARK and had interest in immigration
  • Cultural Ambassador program
  • Retention of international students

• January 2011 in first State of the State address
  • Discussed retention of international talent
  • Introduced initial Global Michigan effort
Governor Rick Snyder created the Michigan Office for New Americans in January of 2014.

• The Mission of the new office is to help grow Michigan’s economy by attracting and retaining global talent, and to promote skills, energy and entrepreneurial spirit of our immigrant communities; and to make Michigan a more welcoming state.
Michigan Office for New Americans

• Supports immigration initiatives for the State
• Coordinates with state agencies providing programs related to services for immigrants
• Analyzes and makes recommendations to the Governor on state and federal policies and programs
• Leads the Global Michigan initiative
• Strive to make Michigan a more welcoming state
Global Michigan
- Collaborative state-wide effort to retain and attract international, advanced degree & entrepreneurial talent
- Develops sustainable partnerships
- Includes state agencies, immigrant service providers, ethnic chambers and economic development organizations
- Advocate for more welcoming immigration policies at local and state levels
• Skilled immigrant licensing guides
  • LARA & Upwardly Global
• State of Michigan EB-5 Regional Center
  • MSHDA
• Cultural Ambassador program
  • Global Detroit
HOW DO WE CHANGE THE CONVERSATION?

• Economic development tool
• Statistics
• Real-life stories
• What does it really mean to be low skilled, skilled or highly skilled?
• Education!!!!!
Here is what we are trying to build upon:

In 2010, new immigrant business owners generated $1.8 Billion in total net business income.


10.4% of business owners in Michigan are immigrants.
WHY IMMIGRATION? WHY NOW?

• Between 2000 & 2009, Michigan lost an estimated 800,000 jobs.

• Since 2010, Michigan has gained 255,000 private sector jobs.

• From 2000 - 2010, Michigan was the only state in the nation to lose population.

• In 2013, Michigan population grew by .13% or roughly 13,103 residents.

• By 2040, nearly 25% of Michigan's population will be 65 years or older.
Gov. Snyder’s Five-Year Proposal

50,000 EB-2 visas for high-skilled, entrepreneurial immigrants to live, work in Detroit over 5 years

- 1\textsuperscript{st} year: 5,000 visas
- 2\textsuperscript{nd}-4\textsuperscript{th} years: 10,000 visas (each year)
- 5\textsuperscript{th} year: 15,000 visas
Ideas for the Future

• State-based visa program
  • State and local authorities are best situated to know needs and capacity
  • Could help with repopulating areas of the State
  • Could require regional area for living/working
    • Flexible to work anywhere within the region
• Temporary work status
  • Will have dual intent to allow for pursuing a green card
“One of the Keys that made us successful in the past is going to again be the key to our future, and that’s... IMMIGRATION.”

Governor Rick Snyder
Questions?

Michigan Office for New Americans

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