



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



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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.



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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



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MICHIGAN ONA INITIATIVES

- 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





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MICHIGAN ONA PARTNERSHIPS

- 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!!!!



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Here is what we are trying to build upon:

In 2010, new immigrant
business owners generated

\$1.8

Billion

In total net business
income



30,233

Immigrants became new
business owners in
Michigan between 2006-2010

10.4%

of business owners in Michigan are immigrants



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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

- 1st year: 5,000 visas
- 2nd-4th years: 10,000 visas (each year)
- 5th year: 15,000 visas





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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



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“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



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Questions?

Michigan Office for New Americans

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