



Global Great Lakes

Participating Organizations



Agenda 360 is a regional action plan designed to collaboratively transform Cincinnati USA into a leading metropolitan region for talent, jobs, and economic opportunity for all who call the region home by the year 2020.

Agenda 360 has three overarching goals:

- Keep talented workers in the region and attract new ones;
- Grow new jobs and retain existing jobs and
- Provide economic opportunity and a good quality of life for everyone.

Key measures of success:

- Talent: 150,000 additional 20-34 year olds in the region's workforce
- Jobs: 200,000 net new jobs in the region
- Economic Opportunity: Gainful employment for 90 percent of our labor force by 2020

Agenda 360 works closely with Vision 2015, a similar plan for growing Northern Kentucky's economy, bringing the work to a regional scale. Both organizations use collective impact as their framework for transformative change.



The **Office of New Americans (ONA)** is dedicated to improving services and engaging Chicago's global immigrant communities through enhanced collaboration with community organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector. Through the creation of the ONA, the City has affirmed and strengthened its support for immigrant communities, entrepreneurs, and businesses.

The ONA has undertaken a series of initiatives and administrative reforms to achieve Mayor Rahm Emanuel's goal of making Chicago the most immigrant-friendly city in the country, including launching the New Americans Small Business Series that fostered small business growth in immigrant communities, and creating Citizenship Corners and Citizenship Hubs at Chicago Public Libraries to host citizenship workshops and disseminate information on the naturalization process. Most recently, the City of Chicago opened up nearly 23,000 internship and job opportunities for DREAMers, or undocumented youth, and has begun accepting applications for approximately 500 City internships, volunteer, and job opportunities offered year-round, 30 Mayor's Office Fellowships, and more than 22,000 opportunities to participate in summer jobs, internships, and job training programs offered through the One Summer Chicago program.



High Point, NC was settled by Quaker and German immigrants before 1750 and was incorporated in 1859. Being the highest point on the North Carolina Railroad, our founders foresaw the city's location would appeal to industry and commerce. Today, High Point is a thriving city of 109,000 residents making it the ninth largest city in NC. High Point is the only municipality in the state seated in four counties; mainly situated in Guilford, its boundaries stretch into Davie, Forsyth, and Randolph counties.

Located alongside Greensboro and Winston-Salem, we are the third largest major city in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina – the nation's 37th largest metro area with a population exceeding 1.6 million.

A globally-connected city, High Point's nicknames are North Carolina's International City™ and Home Furnishings Capital of the World™. High Point Market is the world's largest home furnishings trade show and is proudly hosted by the City twice a year.



Established in 2011, the mission of **Global Cleveland** is to attract and connect newcomers to Greater Cleveland's opportunities, resources and services and to cultivate a welcoming place for all in order to increase the population of the Cleveland Metropolitan Statistical Area. This will be accomplished by connecting and convening local employers, colleges and universities, and community organizations with newcomers.

Its Board of Directors is diverse, representing the civic, business and philanthropic sectors of Northeast Ohio.



Global Detroit is an effort to revitalize Metro Detroit's economy by pursuing strategies that strengthen Detroit's connections to the world by making the region more attractive and welcoming to immigrants, internationals, and foreign trade and investment. Since 2010, Global Detroit has helped connect over \$6.5 million in philanthropic, corporate, and government investments with over a half dozen ambitious initiatives since completing an initial Global Detroit study in 2010. These initiatives include the first international student retention program in the country, Global Talent Retention Initiative of Michigan; the most active state chapter of Welcoming America's 22 local affiliates, Welcoming Michigan; a neighborhood revitalization strategy that removes obstacles for entrepreneurs to rebuild their local economy, ProsperUS Detroit; and a network of the more than 100 nonprofit service organizations in the Detroit metropolitan region designed to facilitate access to integration services for newcomers to the state, Welcome Mat Detroit. Additionally, Global Detroit has worked with Upwardly Global to serve skilled immigrants and refugees to connect them to careers in their professions.

Global Detroit is a powerful contribution to Detroit's rebirth. It has established itself as a key innovator and doer in the revitalization of the regional economy, and as a national leader in immigrant economic development. The organization's efforts leverage the innovation and entrepreneurship offered by immigrant communities to grow the regional economy and help Detroit to reclaim its place as a thriving world-class city.



Global Lansing is a group of individuals in the greater Lansing region working to educate, engage and empower the community to connect, support and leverage more than 7,000 international students currently attending Michigan State University as well as the refugees living in the area and the foreign-born entrepreneurs looking to become business owners. Lansing's focus is to educate, engage, and empower the Greater Lansing community to further support and leverage the vast number of international students, scholars, business-owners, and residents in the Lansing region.



GlobalPittsburgh brings together globally-minded people in the Pittsburgh region through membership activities and hosting programs. It helps universities and English Language programs attract more international students, and coordinates visits for international delegations through the U.S. Department of State. GlobalPittsburgh is a non-profit organization founded in 1959 as the Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors practicing what is known as citizen diplomacy, which means "the concept that every global citizen has the right, even the responsibility, to engage across cultures and create shared understanding through meaningful person-to-person interactions."

As a charter member of the Washington, DC-based Global Ties U.S. (formerly NCIV) GlobalPittsburgh is the State Department's designated regional service provider for the International Visitor Leadership Program and other government-sponsored international exchange programs, and now has a network of over 500 members, volunteers, and citizen diplomats who ensure that visiting leaders' and students' time in the Greater Pittsburgh region provides value to all members of the community.

GlobalPittsburgh maintains three core programs:

- International Leaders Program: Hosting Global Delegations
- GlobalPittsburghCONNECT: Membership Program connecting internationals and local community through regular activities, events, hosting and homestay opportunities.
- Study Pittsburgh: Helping Colleges, Universities & English Language Programs Attract International Students through a consortium of 17 regional institutions.



Immigrant Welcome Center (IWC) was established in 2006 in Indianapolis, as a direct result of the growing immigrant and refugee population and an increased demand for support and resources. Today the organization is focused on strengthening immigrant families and supporting and implementing activities that build community.

In doing so, IWC runs a 'Natural Helpers Program' in which trained immigrant volunteers work within communities to connect newcomers to the basic services, educational programs, employment opportunities and information on housing that they need to feel welcomed and be successful. With five branches in existing community-based sites, IWC is helping to increase outreach efforts in neighborhoods where there is a high concentration of immigrants. These branches improve access to information and resources to individuals and families. Every month, IWC hosts community workshops and education sessions on a variety of cross-cultural topics intended to increase community knowledge and awareness about diversity issues. Session topics are geared towards foreign-born and U.S.-born residents. IWC is working in partnership with Welcoming America.



There are 48 languages spoken in Hartford. **International Hartford** is a one year-old non-profit which supports small business development among the region's smaller language and cultural minorities. It is an on ramp and off ramp to small business education, training, counseling and licensure for fledgling entrepreneurs whose home language is not English. It provides culturally suitable guidance and support for education, and prepares and pre-qualifies borrowers. International Hartford identifies common barriers to market entry by immigrant entrepreneurs, giving business startups tools to surmount them. Our mission is to grow immigrant self-employment, income and opportunity.



The **International Institute of Buffalo** was established in 1918 to support War Brides coming to the United States after World War I. As the needs of landed immigrants and newcomers changed, the International Institute developed into a Buffalo mainstay, helping ethnic communities rapidly integrate, while honoring and preserving their heritage. Currently, the International Institute of Buffalo is dedicated to assisting refugees and immigrants overcome language and cultural barriers so that they can become self-sufficient, productive members of our community, as well as promoting global education and international connections in Western New York. On an average day, we welcome more than 200 people into our building to learn English, get oriented to life in America, acquire job skills, seek refuge from domestic violence, receive interpreting and translation assistance, or learn about cultures, languages and countries around the world.



Louisville Office of Globalization

The Office for Globalization was created by Mayor Greg Fischer in 2011 to focus on avenues to make Louisville a more competitive city in this global and multicultural world by:

- Integrating internationals in all aspects of the city – civic, cultural, political and administrative
- Spurring Immigrant Entrepreneurship
- Facilitating international trade

Some activities include - networking opportunities for internationals, International Councils, RISE (Refugees and Immigrants Succeeding in Entrepreneurship), World Fest, International sports, and international trade interactions. It promotes active coordination between all international organizations and activities to realize a shared vision.



The **Board of Lucas County Commissioners, Lucas County Land Bank, and The Board of Community Relations of the City of Toledo** in 2014 formed a collaboration with other community organizations to transform the Toledo-Lucas County area into a welcoming community. In recognition of our growing and diverse community, a city/county wide strategy was developed to promote and create a supportive environment for residents and immigrants focused on social justice, equal opportunity, and a harmonious environment. Our key objectives are to host extensive community conversations, develop a local system of supporting organizations, promote neighborhood redevelopment opportunities for all residents, support economic development strategies that empower new residents, and connect refugees to services in the community.



The **Michigan Office for New Americans (ONA)** was established by Governor Rick Snyder in January 2014. Its mission is to help grow Michigan's economy by attracting and retaining global talent, and to promote the skills, energy and entrepreneurial spirit of our immigrant communities; and to make Michigan a more welcoming state. The Michigan ONA supports the Governor's immigration initiatives for the State of Michigan; 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 relating to immigration; and leads the Global Michigan initiative.



For 21 years, in eight ethnic communities and 25 low-income neighborhoods around the Twin Cities, **Neighborhood Development Center** has been providing business training, loans, technical assistance and incubators to entrepreneurs driven to improve their lives. This drive and energy in turn revitalizes their neighborhoods, offering stability, safety and community gathering spots. Currently, there are more than 500 NDC-assisted businesses in operation representing about 2,500 jobs.



Mayor Michael B. Coleman's new American Initiative was created in 2005 to give all immigrants and refugees living in Columbus access to city services and programs to help improve their lives. This initiative gives equal opportunity to all refugees and immigrants and allows them to become responsible, productive residents of Columbus.

The New American Initiative is very involved in helping immigrant and refugee businesses grow. More specifically, the team helps to facilitate partnership, workshops with businesses in developing brand identities and marketing plans, hosts business certification forums with Equal Business Opportunity Office and Department of Development. In addition to services related directly to business and economic development, the New American Initiative offers civic guide & citizenship training, capacity building supports.

The program coordinates with the Resettlement agencies, County, State and Federal Agencies to implement programs that promote diversity and cultural awareness, youth oriented services, advocacy, community outreach, engagement and empowerments facilitations and presentations. The New American Initiative hosts thru educational forums including NAI's own Global Columbus TV monthly program, and specific community focused public awareness campaigns. Also, The New American Initiative leads Global Columbus – a group of 20+ agencies that collaborate to help position Columbus to thrive in a Global Society.



The Purpose of **OneMacomb** is to promote multiculturalism and inclusion efforts in Macomb County, MI. It's three main objectives are to 1) identify and implement best practices in recruiting, hiring, training employees and delivery of county services, 2) strengthen Macomb's economy, and 3) advocate for an inclusive community that values and supports multiculturalism. OneMacomb was sparked by a comprehensive study titled, "The New Macomb County" prepared in partnership with Macomb Community College, Macomb County and Data Driven Detroit in 2012 that documented their changing demographics and the need to embrace the current and future make up of citizens that make Macomb their home. In June 2013 Macomb County joined the Welcoming Counties and Cities initiative through Welcoming Michigan and are appreciative of their support and proud of our partnership in making Macomb a more welcoming community.



ST. LOUIS MOSAIC PROJECT

The St. Louis Mosaic Project (originally called the Immigration & Innovation Initiative) started with research from Professor Jack Strauss of St. Louis University in 2012 showing that the region was #19 in MSA population but #43 in number of foreign born, with less than 5% foreign born in the region. And, because the foreign born have higher levels of college and advanced degrees plus are more likely to start businesses, St. Louis is missing economic and cultural growth. In addition, in 2012 a Steering Committee of 22 regional leaders from government, business, education, and social services was commissioned by the Mayor and County Executive to develop a plan. The International Institute of St. Louis, serving 7,000 immigrants (including refugees) annually, is a key Steering Committee member. In 2013, another study from Professor Strauss made 9 recommendations on how to attract more foreign born. The newly renamed St. Louis Mosaic Project hired a Director in 2013, Betsy Cohen, and housed it within the World Trade Center-St. Louis, part of the regional St. Louis Economic Development Partnership. The Steering Committee continues to meet and support with a range of financial and programmatic resources. St. Louis Mosaic Ambassadors of local welcoming supporters passed 350 people, both native born and foreign born. The Professional Connector Program links professional globally minded leaders with skilled immigrants for networking information in the immigrant's job search. At the request of corporate leaders in town, a new Woman's Connector Program introduces wives of international corporate leaders who moved to town to a local university woman's club for immediate entry into a learning and social welcoming group of women. Programs in development to launch fall 2013 include initiatives to get more international students to be hired by local companies and a program for immigrant entrepreneurs, for both high tech and neighborhood businesses.



Vibrant Pittsburgh was launched in December of 2010 as an economic development entity to work collaboratively with employers and community organizations for the purpose of ensuring the growth and economic competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region. The organization’s mission is to embrace inclusion; ensure the Pittsburgh region’s growth by attracting, retaining and elevating a diversity of talent; and promote the region nationally and internationally as a diverse, welcoming region of opportunities. With the support and participation of human resource departments, recruiting firms, elected officials, professional organizations, employee resource groups, universities, colleges and civic groups, Vibrant Pittsburgh is attracting diverse talent to the region and increasing the flow of diverse candidates pursuing opportunities with local employers. The organization’s retention efforts include a Welcome Center with newcomer programs; strategic partnerships with Affinity Groups that serve as magnets for more diverse talent; community engagement initiatives that promote the region’s diverse communities and support networks to create an environment where people of all backgrounds can come, pursue a career and thrive. Vibrant Pittsburgh is committed to welcoming newcomers while also working with community leaders to elevate and advance local diverse talent and address barriers to a more inclusive and diverse region.



The **Welcome Dayton** Plan – written by the community and endorsed by the City Commission - was established in 2011. It provides a broad policy framework for creating a more welcoming and inclusive environment for immigrants. Welcome Dayton connects projects already underway, while also promoting new initiatives, creating a community-fueled, collaborative agenda to transform Dayton into an immigrant-friendly city.

Since its formation, Welcome Dayton has increased positive community police relations, built community through the arts, increased access to services for limited English proficient residents, changed perceptions of immigrants through positive media coverage, and built awareness of existing immigrant friendly services offered throughout the private and public sectors.



*Connecting immigrants, employers,
and communities*

The **Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians** connects newly arrived individuals from around the world with the economic opportunities that they need to succeed in our region. Since opening our doors in 2003, we have assisted more than 11,000 people from over 140 countries.

We believe that a steady influx of new customers, workers, and entrepreneurs can reinvigorate Pennsylvania's aging population, renew its neighborhoods, and re-energize our economy. By making Pennsylvania a magnet for immigrants, we will become a more vibrant, more creative, and more dynamic competitor in today's global economy.

Our mission is clear - to be a centralized resource and referral center for the region's growing immigrant community by promoting immigrant participation in the area's political, social, and economic life. To that end, we work closely with the many regional organizations that have a stake in immigration. These include government agencies, service providers, employers, business associations, trade unions and economic development groups.

Our data-driven approach draws on our own and others' research to inform local, state and national policy and practice. In response to national interest in our program model and tools, the Welcoming Center provides technical assistance and training on a consulting basis.



Welcome Springfield and the Midwest Consortium for Immigration Research are two new entities located in southwestern Ohio that are dedicated to the economic empowerment of immigrants in Ohio and throughout the Midwest. Welcome Springfield is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization devoted to helping Clark County Ohio attract and serve immigrants and the businesses that employ them. Clark County is a rural county that has lost 20,000 residents (-13%) since 1970. Its principle city, Springfield was recently identified as one of ten fastest shrinking cities in America and is projected to lose nearly 10,000 more residents during the next 15 years. The *Midwest Consortium for Immigration Research (MCIR)* is a brand new entity devoted to providing academic research to communities like Springfield and Clark County throughout the Midwest. We desire to complement the efforts of organizations like Global Great Lakes by providing objective data on the economic impact of immigration, and by helping communities develop strategies to recruit immigrants and maximize their economic impact. MCIR will be based at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio and will serve researchers and communities across the Midwest.