



# The White House Task Force on New Americans

Strengthening Communities by  
Welcoming All Residents

*A Federal Strategic Action Plan on Immigrant &  
Refugee Integration*

# Task Force on New Americans

*On November 21, 2014, President Obama created the White House Task Force on New Americans. The Task Force includes 18 Federal departments, agencies, and White House offices. Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, and León Rodríguez, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services serve the Task Force co-chairs.*

# Task Force Timeline

## Summer 2014

- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual White House Integration Convening

## Winter 2014

- Call for Ideas Blogpost
- National Listening Sessions

## Fall 2014

- POTUS Announces Immigration Executive Actions Creating the Task Force on New Americans

## Spring 2015

- Task Force on New Americans Report Released
- White House New Americans Landing Page Launched
- New Americans Volunteer Webpage Launched ([serve.gov](http://serve.gov))

# Why Integration?

- **41.3 million** foreign-born residents live in the United States and are contributing to the vitality of our country and their communities
- Since 1970, **3 million** refugees have resettled from countries that span the globe
- These immigrants and refugees are already adding much to our country's **social and cultural fabric**, and are also critical to our country's **continued economic prosperity**



*“For more than 200 years, our tradition of welcoming immigrants from around the world has given us a tremendous advantage over other nations. It’s kept us youthful, dynamic, and entrepreneurial. It has shaped our character as a people with limitless possibilities—people not trapped by our past, but able to remake ourselves as we choose.”*

*- President Barack Obama, November 21, 2014*

# Trends Among Immigrants and Refugees



Changing **composition of foreign-born population** is transforming and diversifying the nation

- In 1970, the foreign-born population primarily originated from **Europe**
- Today, the majority of immigrants hail from **Asia and Latin America** though other populations have grown considerably. **African foreign-born** increased from 80,000 in 1960 to 1.6 million today



Immigrants settling in **non-traditional immigrant destinations**

- In 1900, the 20 largest immigrant populations were concentrated in Northeast and Midwest cities like **Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston**. By 2010, the 20 largest immigrant destinations included several metropolitan areas in South and West such as **Atlanta and Las Vegas**
- Top destinations continue to include traditional states (**CA, TX, NY, FL**) but shifting patterns reflected in states with largest growth of immigrant populations (**NC, GA, NV, AR, UT**)



Increasing numbers of refugees from **Near East, Asia, and Africa**

- From 1975 to the mid-1980s, refugees primarily hailed from **Asia**. The number of refugees from the **former Soviet Union** significantly increased in the late 1980s
- More recently, the primary source regions have shifted, with the majority of refugees originating from the **Near East and South Asia**, followed by **East Asia and Africa**

# Economic Benefits of Integration



Foreign-born immigrants/ individuals are **13 percent of the U.S. population** but represent nearly **17 percent of the U.S. workforce**



**7.1 percent** of immigrant- and refugee-owned businesses are **exporters** compared to just **4.4 percent** of businesses owned by U.S.-born



Influx of immigrants leads to **employment growth** and **declining unemployment rates**



Immigrants start **28 percent** of all new businesses. Immigrant small business owners employed **4.7 million people** and generated **\$776 billion in 2014**



Immigrants and refugees can **help us meet labor force needs as the Baby Boom** generation reaches retirement age. By 2030, the working age (18–64) population will drop to approximately 57 percent of the total population. At the same time, the vast majority (**78 percent**) of immigrants are of working age

# Benefits for New Americans



- Naturalized immigrants earn higher wages than non-naturalized immigrants. If eligible immigrants naturalized, total U.S. income would increase by as much as **\$9 to \$13 billion per year**
- Citizenship also encourages **investment** in communities and selves, including starting a business, investing in education/skills, volunteering or purchasing a home



- Immigrants started more than **25 percent of all businesses** in seven of the eight fastest growing sectors
- Over **half** of new tech startups in Silicon Valley had at least **one immigrant founder**. Foreign-born workers obtain patents at **two times the rate of native-born workers**



- Immigrants with higher levels of English proficiency are more likely to achieve **greater educational attainment** and to **earn higher wages**
- Among adults who immigrated to the United States as children, greater **fluency in English** is associated **with higher earnings** later in life

# Overview of Goals and Recommendations



Building Welcoming Communities



Strengthening Existing Pathways to Naturalization and Promoting Civic Engagement



Supporting Skill Development, Fostering Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth, and Protecting New American Workers



Expanding Opportunities for Linguistic Integration and Education



# Building Welcoming Communities

- ✓ Building Welcoming Communities Campaign
- ✓ Toolkit for Local Communities on Federal Efforts to Support Welcoming Communities and Integration Efforts.
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual White House Convening on Immigrant and Refugee Integration
- ✓ New Americans AmeriCorps VISTA Program to Build Local Capacity
- ✓ Build Strategies and Better Practices to Enhance Integration of Refugees.
- ✓ Emphasize Existing Funding Opportunities to Assist New Americans and Welcoming Communities.
- ✓ Connect the Promise Zone Initiative with Welcoming Communities Efforts.
- ✓ Ensure Federal, State, and Local Government Programs Uphold Civil Rights Obligations.
- ✓ Increase Low-Cost Legal Services Capacity for Immigrants and Refugees.
- ✓ Combat Notario Fraud.
- ✓ Promote Productive Engagement between New Americans and Law Enforcement.

# Strengthening Existing Pathways to Naturalization and Promoting Civic Engagement

- ✓ Expand Citizenship Preparation Programs in Communities.
- ✓ Presidential Ambassadors to Promote Citizenship and Naturalization.
- ✓ Launch a Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign.
- ✓ Assess the Potential for Partial or Graduated Fee Waivers.
- ✓ Allow Naturalization Applicants to Pay Application Fees with Credit Cards.
- ✓ Assess the Feasibility of Increasing USCIS Mobile Services.
- ✓ Online Naturalization Preparation and Application Filing Tools.

# Strengthening Existing Pathways to Naturalization and Promoting Civic Engagement

- ✓ Identify Opportunities to Inform LPRs of Their Potential Eligibility for Naturalization.
- ✓ Provide Access to Critical Information for New Citizens.
- ✓ Expand Citizenship Outreach Partnerships.
- ✓ Provide Individuals with Settlement Resources before They Arrive, or upon Arrival, in the United States.
- ✓ Encourage New Americans to Volunteer/Serve.
- ✓ Launch a Refugee AmeriCorps Program.

# Supporting Skill Development, Fostering Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth, and Protecting New American Workers

- ✓ Expand Economic Integration Efforts through WIOA Implementation.
- ✓ Enhance Outreach and Guidance to the Workforce System.
- ✓ Strengthen New Americans' Connections with American Job Centers.
- ✓ Increase Grant Opportunities to Support Innovative Training Models that Assist New Americans.
- ✓ Issue Guidance to the Workforce System on Citizenship Nondiscrimination.
- ✓ Enhance Employer Knowledge of Their Rights and Responsibilities.
- ✓ Promote Best Practices for New Americans' Credential Attainment.
- ✓ Bolster Outreach to Immigrants and Refugees to Promote Awareness of Labor Protections and Rights.

# Supporting Skill Development, Fostering Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth, and Protecting New American Workers

- ✓ Develop Training Courses and Outreach Materials Tailored to New Americans to Promote Small Business Development.
- ✓ Launch “Made It in America” Campaign to Amplify New American Entrepreneur Success Stories.
- ✓ Promote Immigrant Entrepreneurship through the President’s Ambassadors for Global Entrepreneurship (PAGE).
- ✓ Launch Business Sunday Events in Partnership with New Americans and Receiving Communities.
- ✓ Provide Meaningful Access to Housing Programs for New Americans in Multiple Languages.
- ✓ Reduce Barriers to Quality Housing and Enhance Opportunities for Home Ownership for New Americans.
- ✓ Ameliorate Refugee Resettlement Financial Barriers.

# Expanding Opportunities for Linguistic Integration and Education

- ✓ Create and Disseminate Resources to Provide New American Families with Accessible Information on the Importance of High-Quality Early Learning.
- ✓ Explore Ways to Improve the Effectiveness of Federal Education Programs for ELs, Including New Americans.
- ✓ Provide Technical Assistance and Disseminate Evidence-Based Practices to Ensure That the Language Needs of ELs Are Being Supported Locally.
- ✓ Develop Guidance for Schools, Districts, and States for Promoting Inclusive School Climates, Cultural Responsiveness, and Wraparound Supports for Immigrant and Refugee Children and Youth.

# Expanding Opportunities for Linguistic Integration and Education

- ✓ Amplify and Disseminate Guidance and Toolkits for Teachers, Administrators, School Leaders, and School Systems on Integration.
- ✓ Encourage Employers, Educational Systems, State and Local Governments, and Other Career-Building Institutions to Increase Access to ESL Courses.
- ✓ Highlight Effective Institutional Programs, Community Models, and State Policies that Enhance Opportunities for New Americans.
- ✓ Identify Education Grant Programs with Untapped Potential to Support New Americans, Including Programs that Employ Place-Based Strategies.
- ✓ Explore Research that Evaluate Effective EL Instruction and Interventions.

# Task Force Next Steps

On-going

- Develop Agency Implementation Plans

Spring  
2015

- Outreach & Feedback on Task Force Report

Summer  
2015

- Prioritize & Implement of Recommendations
- Launch Building Welcoming Communities Campaign

Winter  
2015

- Submit Status Report to the President



# To Learn More About the Task Force:



[www.Whitehouse.gov/New-Americans](http://www.Whitehouse.gov/New-Americans)



[www.Serve.gov/New-Americans](http://www.Serve.gov/New-Americans)



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# Q & A

