

Overview of “A Fresh Start: Renewing Immigrant Integration for a Stronger Maryland”



Maryland Council for New Americans: A Strong Workforce Appeal

- A majority of Maryland's workforce growth since 2000 has been from immigrants.
- Segments of this workforce are not reaching their full potential.
- Leading causes are: limited English proficiency, lack of job training and obstacles transferring credentials.
- Citizenship assistance, job training and English language proficiency are proven ways that families can learn more, earn more, and contribute more to Maryland.



Source: Maryland Council for New Americans

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High Labor Participation Rates Among Immigrants

Economic Characteristics of Maryland's Immigrant Community

	Native Born	Foreign Born U.S. Citizen	Foreign Born Non-U.S. Citizen
Median Household Income	\$65,441	\$73,326	\$52,723
Below 100% of Poverty Level	7.7%	5.5%	10.7%
Workers per Household	1.29	1.52	1.73
In Civilian Labor Force	67.9%	73.0%	74.5%
In Professional Occupations	42.9%	50.7%	31.8%
In Sales/Office Occupations	26.3%	19.7%	15.8%
In Service Occupations	14.2%	16.5%	24.4%
In Construction Occupations	8.3%	5.8%	18.4%
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	3.3%	5.9%

Source: 2006 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

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Establishing the Maryland Council for New Americans

- Established by Executive Order 01.01.2008.18 on December 3, 2008 to assist the Governor and State agencies to maximize immigrant integration in Maryland.



Source: Maryland Council for New Americans

Workforce Recommendations

- 1. Improve licensing, credentialing and support systems for foreign-trained professionals
- 2. Strengthen and standardize training and ELL systems statewide
- 3. Increase coordination among public, private, and nonprofit sectors to maximize efficiencies

Current Activity

- Foreign-trained Health Professionals (17)
- I-Best Program (18)
- Marriott's English Language Initiative (19)

Citizenship Recommendations

- 4. Establish and fund a robust coordinated citizenship initiative for Maryland with a companion citizenship public education campaign.
- 5. Reduce the financial burden on LPRs pursuing citizenship.
- 6. Establish regular community meetings with Local, State and Federal Government
- 7. Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform at a Federal Level

Current Activity

- Americorps Citizenship Program
- Welcome Back Centers

Financial Services Recommendations

- 8. Create mechanisms within State government to assist in reducing frauds and scams that prey on immigrant communities
- 9. Provide educational outreach tools to increase understanding, trust, and interpretation of government and law
- 10. Provide linkages to a wide variety of financial service providers

Current Activity

- Foreclosure workshops (DHCD)
- Educational Campaigns

Governmental Access Recommendations

- 11. Establish Cabinet-level Office for New Americans
- 12. Track data concerning New Americans accessing government
- 13. Develop and monitor agencies' cultural and linguistic competencies
- 14. Make critical information easily available through New American Welcome Centers
- 15. Encourage and support county and municipal "New Americans Initiatives"

Current Activity

- Montgomery County's Office of Neighborhoods
 - Outreach
 - Language Access

- Joint Commission Assembly

Challenges to Implementation

- Economic Downturn
 - State Models have budgetary backing (24)
- Leveraging partnerships
 - Example: Financial Services (34)
- DATA!
 - State agencies, local departments
 - Example: Latino Health Initiative

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