

# Top 10 Signs of a Welcoming Community



CATHOLIC LEGAL  
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1. There is an office dedicated to welcoming immigrants and refugees either at the state or city level (or both).



2. There is funding for Immigration Legal Services and/or [deportation defense programs](#).



3. Professional licensing laws exist that do not prohibit licenses to individuals based on their immigration status. The state will also acknowledge education and expertise gained abroad and have laws and programs that help migrants continue working in their given profession. (States with [E-verify](#) laws are red flags).



4. Language access is prioritized across government agencies, libraries, religious, and other public groups. Pro-immigrant messaging is also important.



5. There are educational opportunities such as tuition equity for undocumented immigrants and others to receive in-state tuition, as well as programs that fully embrace bilingual education and support non-English speaking students and their guardians in educational opportunities.



6. The community provides access to health care that includes immigrants.



7. There is access to state unemployment benefits or similar emergency funding available to immigrants.



8. Strong relationships exist between immigrant communities and local law enforcement. For example, law enforcement does not cooperate with ICE except when required to do so by law; law enforcement signs U visa certifications.



9. There is a large support network in the community, including many pro-immigrant organizations.



10. Refugee resettlement efforts are vast and comprehensive within the state.