

Follow the Faithful: The Vital Role Faith-based Organizations Play in Integration Work

Immigrant integration results, in large part, from local partnerships between newcomers and the receiving community. Trust between these two entities is instrumental to integration work.

Faith-based organizations, from any faith tradition, are key partners in effective integration and inclusion work.

Consider a faith-based organization if you seek a partner with:

- 1) A long and successful history working on immigrant integration;
- 2) Deep connections to both newcomer and welcoming communities;
- 3) A safe space to bring the community together;
- 4) An organizational mission to welcome the stranger;
- 5) Access to trusted community leaders;
- 6) A large network and capacity to promote integration through partnerships;
- 7) Access to an established volunteer network;
- 8) An influential platform to encourage the broader community to be receptive to integration and participate in integration initiatives;
- 9) Office locations in rural areas, inner city areas and other locations where immigrants live and work;
- 10) Extensive connections with other organizations or city government to recruit as partners.

Visit <u>CLINIC's Center for Immigrant Integration</u> for resources on how to begin or strengthen immigrant integration programming at your location.