



**CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.**

**Make Immigrant Integration a Program Priority in 2022
November 2021**

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Introduction

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Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

- Over 400 nonprofit organizations in 48 states
- Train 10,000 people each year on immigration-related topics
- Training and Legal Support, Capacity Building, Advocacy, Defending Vulnerable Populations
- Membership applications: <https://cliniclegal.org/find-legalhelp/affiliates>



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Newcomers have arrived! What next?

- Vocabulary
- Collecting the data
- Creating the plan
- Pursuing partnerships
- Program components
- Marketing the program and its successes
- Action Items
- Resources & Q&A



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Framing the Issue, Part 1

- Integration is the long-term goal
- Immigration legal services plays a vital role in the integration journey



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Framing the Issue, Part II

- Concrete understanding of immigration law;
- Understanding of how naturalization and other immigration benefits impact the community;
- Deep and personal connection to immigrant communities;
- Firsthand knowledge of immigrants' strengths and struggles;
- Experience gathering the community around immigration issues;
- Underscoring the importance of immigration legal services to leadership;
- History of creating positive community connections through immigration work;
- Access to immigrant community leaders;
- A large network and capacity to promote integration through partnerships;
- Access to multilingual staff and often bicultural client and volunteer base.



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Today's Training Goals

- Understand and describe what integration is and how it looks
- Learn specific ways you can plan for integration work
- Learn what tools CLINIC offers to support your work



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Test Your Knowledge





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What is Immigrant Integration?

- Immigrant integration results from an **equal partnership** between newcomers and the receiving community who **work together** to make their community more **inclusive**.
- Promoting and pursuing immigrant integration is the **responsibility of both** newcomers and long-standing residents, and it is a **dynamic** process that is most successful at the **local level**.



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What does integration look like?

A piñata pole is installed in the public park for all to use.

A demographically changing community sees its first foreign-born person elected to office, such as the parent-teachers association or city council.

Local libraries have books and other resources available in the languages used by the residents of the community.

Leadership positions and advisory positions within a parish or organization are held by members of the communities represented.

Parishes or community organizations are decorated with items from the countries represented in their congregations or offices.

Organizations offer town halls or distribute surveys in order to learn what community members want and need. Interpreters and translated materials are available.



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True or False?

- **Immigrant integration** and **assimilation** are synonyms. **F**
- **Newcomers** are those arriving from countries outside the United States. **T**
- The **receiving community** is the group of people welcoming the **newcomers**. Often, they were born in the United States. **T**
- **Immigrant integration** is solely the responsibility of the **newcomers**. **F**
- **Immigrant integration** is solely the responsibility of the **receiving community**. **F**



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What are you aiming for?

Welcoming and inclusive communities are communities where historically marginalized communities ("outgroups") **fully participate** in collective processes, all people **feel valued**, and all people have **equal access** to services and support and fulfillment of rights. They are communities in which **differences are respected**, where immigrants and law enforcement and safety agencies have **trusting relationships**, and where community members and community leaders/policy makers promote **immigrant inclusion**. An inclusive community does everything that it can to **respect all its citizens**, gives them **full access to resources**, and **promotes equal treatment** and opportunity. It works to **eliminate all forms of discrimination**, **engages all its citizens** in decision-making processes that affect their lives, **values diversity**, and **responds quickly** to racist and other discriminating incidents.

Evidence Summary: What works to build welcoming and inclusive communities? https://wchbboardta.org/resource/what-works-to-build-welcoming-and-inclusive-communities/?ac_cid=9c3b7e8995&ac_cid=5db3f256d9



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Where is integration in CLINIC's values?

CLINIC's Vision

- The United States is a place where **immigrants are welcomed and fully engaged** in our communities. This vision is rooted in our faith and our heritage as Americans.

CLINIC's Core Values

- We believe that families, communities, and this country are made stronger when **immigrants are integrated into our communities.**
- We believe in empowering communities with the tools and resources to give a **generous welcome to immigrants.**



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What types of data are useful?

- Data that shows how people are using community services
- Data that shows how newcomers feel in their community
- Data that shows the sense of responsibility community members feel
- Data that shows level of understanding about integration by community members and agency staff
- Data that shows level of awareness about agency activities regarding integration



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Where and how can you use this data?

- Gain a multi-dimensional perspective about your community
- Incorporate statistics into agency efforts
- Inform programmatic decision-making
- Share with leadership
- Establishing partnerships
- Inform marketing efforts in the community
- Compare and contrast with other localities



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CLINIC's Immigrant Integration Surveys

- Agency Staff
- Client
- Community Member

- English and Spanish
- Online and hard copy
- 10 questions or so each



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Sample Agency Survey Results

4 in 10 (36%) ask immigrant community about needs before planning and implementing.

3 in 10 (33.34%) have immigrant representation on boards and committees.

3 in 10 (33.33%) include immigrant integration in strategic plan, mission statement and/or measurable goals.



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Sample Client Survey Results

8 in 10 (83%) know where to go for healthcare.

6 in 10 (64%) feel comfortable calling the police.

9 in 10 (94%) feel that they can improve their lives if they want



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Sample Community Member Results

4 in 10 (39%) believe that city government promotes immigrant integration as a benefit for their community.

5 in 10 (47%) believe that immigrants, regardless of legal status, have many of the same basic rights that they do.

7 in 10 (65%) notice culturally and/or linguistically appropriate services at public spaces, such as libraries and public parks.



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Integration Survey Resource Guide

- Integration basics
- How Data Helps Integration
- How to collect and store the data
- How to use it (with specific examples and/or templates)
- How to make graphics with the integration data



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Making a Plan

- Buy-in
- Goals and Objectives
- Data to Demonstrate Success



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Buy-in

- **Community Buy-in**

- Needs Assessment
- Community Outreach to
 - Promote the benefits of the project
 - Promote benefits of supporting integration
 - Recruit volunteers or support for integration project



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Buy-in

- **Organization Buy-in**

- Commitment and Understanding from Staff
- Support from Leadership
- Talking points for why your organization should support integration



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Buy-in

- **Outside Organization Buy-in**

- Involvement of outside orgs will strengthen:
 - Your integration project
 - Overall integration efforts in the community
 - Your ties and connections to other community organizations
- Be prepared to discuss benefits of integration to community and to outside organizations



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Goals and Objectives

- Make Goals and Objectives Concrete and Achievable
- Establish a budget
- Set a time frame



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Data to Demonstrate Success

- Determine what data you will use to show your project's success
- Data can be one point or many, complex or simple, qualitative or quantitative
- Collect data regularly and consider other uses



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Benefits of Partnerships in Integration Work

- Partners may have skill sets: language, cultural awareness, connections to communities, lived experience
- Partners may have access to key community members
- Partnerships can help inform the decision-making process
- Partnerships can help your agency serve many more clients and in different ways
- Partnerships can improve the relationship between immigrants and the receiving community
- Partnerships lead to an more engaged community on integration efforts
- Effective partnerships show community buy-in to funders



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Community Partnerships: **City Government**

- Libraries, public parks, police department, City Council, HHS, public schools
- Access to resources: space, volunteers, marketing
- Access to funding
- Ability to make issues a priority
- Being their trusted source allows you to frame the data and set the agenda on a city-wide scale



City Government

- Repeat funding to distribute
- Naturalization workshops
- Legal services provided at libraries
- Collaborations with local police
- Info sessions to City Council or Chambers of Commerce
- Improve access to school personnel, services and meetings for non-English speakers



Community partnerships: **Local parishes**

- Access to regularly attending community members
- Trusted source
- Safe space
- Welcoming is in the mission
- Newcomers and receiving community are co-existing
- Access to resources: space, marketing, audience, volunteers



Local Parishes

- Regularly scheduled KYR to parishioners
- Free legal services to migrant populations
- Voter registration drives at the church
- Farming co-op program
- Citizenship mentors
- Coffee and conversation



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Community partnerships: **The public**

- Wide array of different communities
- Access to groups/funding/support
- Can carry the mission far and wide
- Diverse set of volunteers



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The Public

Elder Integration Project: St. James Cathedral, Seattle, WA

Goal: Help elderly immigrants integrate into the community while encouraging them to maintain or regain their independence.

Participants: Parish/Community volunteers and the Participants

Results: Participants were taking public transportation, participating in the community garden, volunteering at the State Capital, hosting potlucks.





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Community partnerships: **Other non-profits**

- Existing infrastructure
- Existing volunteer base
- Existing funding support
- Community collaborations can be appealing
- Divide and conquer



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Other Non-profits

CC Pueblo and Los Pobres, Pueblo, CO

Goal: Expand the reach of immigration legal services and gather information from local community

Participants: Local non-profit and CC Pueblo

Results: 12-15 clients are provided free consultations each Thursday, plus additional community members receive KYR training

Key Factors: Sister Nancy is a trusted person within the immigrant community, and her center hosts many different community groups



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Integration Programming Ideas

- Securing a local government advisory committee that does not require a certain immigration status to participate ([Chula Vista](#))
- Joining together to sponsor a series of resident-led projects proposed by residents and their neighbors ([Cleveland](#))
- Connecting the newly arrived with established members of the community who likely speak the same language and share similar cultural values ([NYC](#))



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Integration Programming Components

- Solicits input from the newcomer and receiving community
- Decision-making power is shared by members from both groups
- Is a long-term goal for the community
- Requires compromise from all involved
- Concreate goals and objectives
- Starts small and grows
- Measurement and evaluation methods to define success



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Market Your Sucess

- Share your project's accomplishments with the community through:
 - Social media
 - Local media
 - Community events
- Share Success within your own agency



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Get started today

- Consider collecting survey data
- Look at the imagery used inside the work environment
- Look at the imagery used on websites, publications and marketing materials
- Create an advisory group comprised of newcomers and receiving community members
- Make a list of ways the receiving community has integrated newcomers' language/customs into the work environment and community



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Resources for Making Programmatic Decisions

Needs assessment & Buy-in

- White Paper on integration basics
- Immigrant and Community Integration Step by Step Guide to Local Integration Programming
- Podcasts for staff interest and education

Decision-making & Implementation

- Newsletter: Inclusive Communities: Immigrant Integration and Public Education <https://cliniclegal.org/email>
- Program Inspiration and other lists of ideas
- Holiday Ideas for Parishes

Measurement & Evaluation

- Integration Surveys: Client: Community Member: Agency

www.cliniclegal.org/integration



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Upcoming and New Resources

- Integration Advent Calendar
- Step by Step Toolkit
- Podcast #3
- A Month by Month Guide to Promoting Immigrant Integration in 2022
- [Follow the Faithful: the Vital Role Faith-based Organizations Play in Integration Work](#)
- [Follow the Mission: the Vital Role Immigration Legal Service Providers Play in Integration Work](#)



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The Bigger Picture

“Where migrants and refugees are concerned, the Church and her various agencies ought to avoid offering charitable services alone; they are also called to **promote real integration** in a society where all are active members and responsible for one another’s welfare...”

- Message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. (2013).

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121012_world-migrants-day_en.html. Last retrieved on November 20, 2014.



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Questions and Answers





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Webinar Evaluation

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6594767/Evaluation-Make-Integration-a-Program-Priority-2022>



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