

## Follow the Mission: The Vital Role Immigration Legal Service Providers 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.

Nonprofit immigration legal service providers are key partners in effective integration and inclusion work. Naturalization plays a vital role in a newcomer's integration and sense of belonging to their community. Look for a potential partner in CLINIC's network of over 400 affiliates, located in 49 states and over 450 cities.

Consider a nonprofit immigration legal service provider if you seek a partner with:

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

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