



WHAT IS IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Immigrant Integration results from an **equal partnership** between newcomers and the receiving community who **work together** to make their community more inclusive. The Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., or CLINIC, promotes immigrant integration and encourages the furthering of integration efforts among its network of more than 400 affiliates.

Immigrant integration efforts promote increased equality, security and a sense of belonging for all community members. Integration also promotes human dignity. CLINIC has highlighted over [70 unique immigrant integration initiatives](#) across the United States, demonstrating the most successful integration efforts occur locally. Immigration legal service providers, faith leaders, nonprofits, and grassroots organizations can help shift the unequal power dynamics often found in communities among newcomers and long-standing residents through immigrant integration.

Four key steps contribute to successful immigrant integration efforts. These steps are: 1) completing a needs assessment in the community; 2) gathering community buy-in and feedback from stakeholders; 3) implementing the initiative; and 4) assessing and evaluating the efforts consistently. The process of preparing, implementing, and measuring success must include the participation and feedback of newcomers and the receiving community alike.

Immigration legal service providers are trusted members of the community and often the first allies to engage with newcomers after their arrival. Therefore, immigration legal service providers are well-positioned to work alongside community members to design and implement integration initiatives to address the unique needs of the community. Whether hosting public events to bring residents together, ensuring newcomers have equal access to resources and information, or advocating and promoting more welcoming and inclusive communities, local nonprofits and faith leaders are key players in promoting integration.

Immigrant integration can look like:

- [843,593 naturalized citizens in FY 2019.](#)
- [Local libraries having books and resources in languages other than English.](#)
- [Immigration legal service providers soliciting input from community members on presentation and workshop topics.](#)
- [Local law enforcement collaborating with nonprofits to welcome newcomers.](#)

To learn more about immigrant integration and ways to promote it in your organization and community, visit the [Center for Immigrant Integration](#). Sign up for our triannual newsletter, [Inclusive Communities: Immigrant Integration and Public Education Resources](#) to stay up to date with all of CLINIC's integration resources and highlights!