



Approaches to Immigrant Integration in CA Cities

Opportunities for Local Officials



Strengthen cities by integrating newcomers

- What immigrant integration means to CA cities - [San Francisco](#)
- Welcoming Initiative in [Redwood City](#)
- Citizenship Classes and Block Leaders in [Cupertino](#)
- [Fresno](#) - What local officials can do to engage immigrants



Setting the context

- Why immigrant integration matters
- Phases on the continuum of immigrant integration



Immigrant Integration Continuum

- Civic participation/getting engaged
- Citizenship and voting
- Giving back - serving as a community leader



Welcoming Redwood City

Profile of the Community

- ❖ Silicon Valley - an immigrant microcosm of the U.S.
- ❖ 1/3 of residents are immigrants
- ❖ 1/2 of the workforce is foreign born
- ❖ 2/3 of youth under 18 are children of immigrants



Welcoming Redwood City

- ❖ Model of immigrant integration promotes mutual benefits for immigrants and their receiving communities
- ❖ Offers newcomers enhanced civic participation and improved economic mobility



Welcoming Redwood City

- ❖ Redwood City 2020 - 20 years of collaboration to address complex issues and improve outcomes for children, youth and families
- ❖ Governance by leaders of City, County, School Districts, Healthcare Organizations, Stanford University
- ❖ Initiatives: Address barriers to educational success, promote positive youth development, address environmental factors to support wellness, build community through interaction



Welcoming Redwood City

- ❖ Redwood City - one of two CA affiliates of Welcoming America
- ❖ Welcoming America is a national, grassroots-driven collaborative that works to promote mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and U.S. born Americans
- ❖ The ultimate goal of Welcoming America is to create a welcoming atmosphere - community by community - in which immigrants are more likely to integrate successfully into the social fabric of their adopted hometowns



RWC Welcoming Strategies

Engage long term residents with immigrants through:

- ❖ Joint leadership development
- ❖ Direct dialogue in a variety of settings
- ❖ Positive messaging: art, cultural events, media, connecting with existing community traditions
- ❖ Use RWC 2020 as “home” for the effort



Cupertino - City Initiatives

Neighborhood focus

- Citizenship Classes
- Block Leaders



Fresno - Elected Leadership

- Immigrant and Refugee Committee participation
- Making resources available to immigrants



Immigrant Integration

Discussion