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
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