

# USING DATA TO FURTHER IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## DATA COLLECTION TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR DATA USAGE



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CATHOLIC LEGAL  
IMMIGRATION  
NETWORK, INC.

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***Immigrant Integration results from an equal partnership between newcomers and the receiving community who work together to make their community more inclusive.***

# INTRODUCTION

The importance of creating an integrated, inclusive and welcoming community cannot be overstated. Creating such a community takes dedication, time and, most of all, planning. Data is a vital component of programming for community-wide integration. Before beginning to work actively towards immigrant integration programming, programs should take the time to survey the stakeholders: agency staff, clients and community members, including immigrants.

What information can data provide? Why is data helpful, and why should an agency take the time to collect it? What can an agency do with the data once it is collected? This guide outlines the contents of CLINIC's three Immigrant Integration Surveys. These three surveys, when used together, provide a multi-perspective picture of immigrant integration in your community. Data collected from these surveys can help an agency develop local immigrant integration programming that reflects the needs of community members.

This guide offers the following tools to help your program collect, analyze and use data in strategic ways.

## Would you like to know:

- How newcomers are using community services?
- How clients are able to engage with their community?
- If community members feel a sense of responsibility to welcome newcomers?
- What agency staff understand about immigrant integration?
- What agency staff understand about agency integration-related services?

*\*Data collected using CLINIC's Immigrant Integration surveys*

# 80%

OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
FEEL THAT THEIR TOWN IS A  
WELCOMING PLACE TO LIVE

# 59%

OF CLIENTS FEEL  
COMFORTABLE SPEAKING TO  
THEIR CHILD'S TEACHER

# 33%

OF AGENCY STAFF REPORT  
IMMIGRANT REPRESENTATION  
ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES



# INTEGRATION BASICS

Immigrant Integration results from an equal partnership between newcomers and the receiving community who work together to make their community more inclusive. Efforts to promote and encourage community-wide integration fall squarely in line with the Catholic social teaching of welcoming the stranger.

Integration takes place on the front porches of homes where neighbors of various backgrounds socialize, in parish pews where people from different countries join to worship, and in public spaces like libraries and public parks. Unlike concepts such as assimilation or acculturation, integration is a joint responsibility of all community members, newcomer and receiving community member alike. Integration addresses the needs of newcomers and the broader community because all parties contribute ideas, support and labor. Integration work is most effective when shaped and done at the local level. Please take a look at CLINIC's White Paper, [Immigrant and Community Integration: Fulfilling Catholic Social Teaching and American Values](#), to gain a better understanding of immigrant integration as a concept. CLINIC's second white paper, [Immigrant and Community Integration Step by Step Guide to Local Integration Programming](#), will help your agency design, implement, evaluate and reassess your integration initiatives while demonstrating how to actively promote integration in your community.

## What does integration look like?

- A local parish hosts a coffee and conversation event, where newcomers and parishioners practice English and learn about each other's' cultures.
- A local nonprofit conducts focus groups and other information-gathering activities to learn what services newcomers need in order to feel more at home. It then collaborates with the newcomers to address those needs.
- A church runs a fundraiser, recruiting among new and existing members to chair the committees, market the event, collect the money and decide what to do with the funds.
- A demographically changing community sees its first foreign-born person elected to office, such as the parent-teachers association or city council.
- A nonprofit learns that immigrant clients need a form of identification to use city services. It works with the government local places of business, the local police force and the immigrant community to create the necessary ID.
- A city council identifies integration as a primary goal and works with all levels of the public and government stakeholders to create a multi-year city-wide immigrant integration plan.



# DATA TYPES AND USES

CLINIC offers three different immigrant integration surveys. These surveys each provide different information and can be used separately or as a set of three.

## SURVEY 1: AGENCY STAFF PERSPECTIVE

Staff should discuss the concept of immigrant integration before planning for integration programming. This ensures that staff are speaking openly about the topic. As a group, staff need to have a similar understanding of the term “immigrant integration”. Staff should agree on the steps needed to promote an inclusive community.

This survey can be administered yearly in order to track changes in staff understanding of the topic. The survey will help your organization to be intentional, thoughtful, and proactive about incorporating immigrant integration into your work in a holistic way.

This survey is available in English and Spanish, and both are available as an online survey or hard copy. Please visit <https://cliniclegal.org/issues/immigrant-integration/laying-foundation> to request an on-line survey link or non-sample versions of the surveys.

### Survey Questions

1. Does our agency promote immigrant integration as a benefit for our community?
2. Does our organization assist our clients in pursuing citizenship, including offering immigration legal services, English as a Second Language and citizenship test preparation classes, and registering to vote?
3. Do all our staff members understand the basic rights immigrants have as U.S. residents as well as have a basic understanding of U.S. immigration law?
4. Do we include immigrant integration in our strategic plan, mission statement, and/or measurable goals?
5. Does our organization foster relationships between newcomers and the receiving community through our programming, public events, and public outreach?
6. Are immigrants represented on our Board or in other advisory capacities?
7. Are immigration legal services clients connected to and encouraged to obtain other services offered by our agency?
8. Does our organization advocate for immigrants within our community at the local and state government levels?
9. Does our organization offer leadership development opportunities to immigrants?
10. Does our organization ask the immigrant community what services or support they need before we develop programs that serve this community?

## Immigrant Integration Measurement Survey: Agency Staff Perspective

Date:

In order for an agency to collectively promote and encourage immigrant integration, it is vital that all staff members be aligned in their thinking and planning. Immigrant integration can be actively pursued as an agency goal, and efforts to increase integration in the community can be achieved when staff are supporting this goal collectively through their individual work.

Before beginning to work actively towards immigrant integration programming, it is vital to discuss immigrant integration with all staff. This ensures that staff are speaking openly about the topic and that as a group, staff have a similar understanding of the term 'immigrant integration' and agree on the paths that should be taken to promote it.

Please see CLINIC's [Center for Immigrant Integration](#) for several resources on immigrant integration. Contact Leya Speasmaker at [lspeasmaker@cliniclegal.org](mailto:lspeasmaker@cliniclegal.org) for additional resources on immigrant integration and for ideas on how to promote integration within your community.

This survey should be administered yearly in order to measure and track staff perspectives on integration and agency change over time. Here is a sample spreadsheet your agency could use to keep track of the data and its changes over time.

Question	Yes	No	IDK	% IDK	% Yes	% No
Does our agency promote immigrant integration as a benefit for our community?						
Does our organization assist our clients in pursuing citizenship, including offering immigration legal services, English as a Second Language and citizenship test preparation classes, and registering to vote?						
Do all our staff members understand the basic rights immigrants have as U.S. residents as well as have a basic understanding of U.S. immigration law?						
Do we include immigrant integration in our strategic plan, mission statement, and/or measurable goals?						
Does our organization foster relationships between newcomers and the receiving community through our programming, public events, and public outreach?						
Are immigrants represented on our Board or in other advisory capacities?						
Are immigration legal services clients connected to and encouraged to obtain other services offered by our agency?						
Does our organization advocate for immigrants within our community at the local and state government levels?						
Does our organization offer leadership development opportunities to immigrants?						
Does our organization ask the immigrant community what services or support they need before we develop programs that serve this community?						

## **SURVEY 2: CLIENT PERSPECTIVE**

This survey measure clients' perspectives on their community — their access to and use of public resources, their feelings as community residents, and their access to and involvement in community leadership opportunities.

This survey can be administered during intake at the start of a client's service journey with an agency, during a citizenship or ESL class, or at other service delivery points. This survey will help your program to ensure that you are providing integration programming that truly meets the needs and wants of immigrants in your community.

This survey is available in English and Spanish, and both are available as an online survey or hard copy. Please visit <https://cliniclegal.org/issues/immigrant-integration/laying-foundation> to request an on-line survey link or non-sample versions of the surveys.

### **Survey Questions**

1. I have a bank account.
2. I have a job.
3. I communicate with my children's teacher.
4. I am comfortable calling the police if I need help.
5. I visit the local library, public parks or other public spaces.
6. I feel like my town is a welcoming place to live.
7. I have friends who are from the United States.
8. I can speak to my coworkers or supervisors in English.
9. I read the local newspaper, watch the local news or listen to local radio in English.
10. I volunteer in the community, at my church/mosque/synagogue or serve on local community groups.
11. I know where to go to access health care for myself or my family.
12. I feel like I can improve my life if I want.



## Immigrant Integration Measurement Survey: Client Perspective

Date:

It is important to measure your clients' perspectives on their community – their access to and use of public resources, their feelings as community residents, and their involvement in leadership opportunities. This survey can be administered during intake at the start of a client's service journey with your agency.

This information can be used in a variety of ways. These could include:

1. Informing agency strategic planning for comprehensive service provision for immigrant clients.
2. Assisting agency staff in offering additional, targeted help to increase immigrants' access to public services and involvement in the community.
3. Including the resulting statistics in grant applications and reports to justify additional resources being devoted to efforts to increase immigrant integration.
4. Providing agency staff with a new perspective on how immigrants experience their community.
5. Allowing the receiving community a way to understand how immigrants access and perceive their community.

### Implementation Ideas

The usefulness of this survey depends on the regularity at which your agency can collect data from clients in a systematic way. This survey does not attempt to measure the changes in integration rates by client. Rather, it seeks to measure overall immigrant impressions of your community and to help pinpoint areas of support that might be offered to newcomers. Tips for collecting the data:

1. Distribute the survey to each client at intake.
2. Input the data into a master spreadsheet; an example is below.
3. Use the data to determine client impressions of the community, areas where services might be offered, and rates of basic hallmarks of integration.

Question	Yes	No	N/A	% Yes	% No
I have a bank account.					
I have a job.					
I communicate with my children's teacher.					
I am comfortable calling the police if I need help.					
I visit the local library, public parks or other public spaces.					
I feel like my town is a welcoming place to live.					
I have friends who are from the United States.					
I can speak to my coworkers or supervisors in English.					
I read the local newspaper, watch the local news or listen to local radio in English.					
I volunteer in the community, at my church/mosque/synagogue or serve on local community groups.					
I know where to go to access health care for myself or my family.					
I feel like I can improve my life if I want.					

## **SURVEY 3: COMMUNITY MEMBER PERSPECTIVE**

This survey gathers community members' perspectives on integration, including where they encounter people who are not born in the United States and their basic understanding of immigrants' rights and sense of responsibility in creating a welcoming community. This survey is not limited to residents born in the United States .

This survey can be administered at the beginning or the end of any community gathering. City officials could take and distribute the survey at community meetings. Community leaders could distribute this survey to their community members. It is appropriate for any audience in which community members are present.

This survey will help your organization to engage local residents around the topic of integration, gauge receptiveness to integration projects, and solicit potential ideas for future programming.

This survey is available in English and Spanish, and both are available as an online survey or hard copy. Please visit <https://cliniclegal.org/issues/immigrant-integration/laying-foundation> to request an on-line survey link or non-sample versions of the surveys.

### **Survey Questions**

1. I feel like my town is a welcoming place to live.
2. Integrating into a community is only the immigrant's responsibility.
3. It is my responsibility to help make my community welcoming to people born outside of the United States.
4. It is possible for an immigrant to improve his or her life while living in our community.
5. Immigrants are treated with respect in my community, even if they prefer to speak a language other than English.
6. Our city government promotes immigrant integration as a benefit for our community.
7. I am interested in meeting immigrants living in my community.
8. Immigrants, regardless of legal status, have many of the same basic rights that I do.
9. I notice culturally and/or linguistically appropriate services at public spaces, such as libraries and public parks. An example of this could be Spanish language or Vietnamese language books at the library.
10. I interact with people who I believe were born outside of the United States: (circle all that apply)
  - a. my place of worship
  - b. my place of employment
  - c. my neighborhood
  - d. my child's school
  - e. in public spaces, such as the library, park or community center
  - f. I typically do not interact with people not born in the United States
11. What could our community do better in order to be a welcoming city to immigrants and their families?

# Immigrant Integration Measurement Survey: Community Member Perspective

Date:

It is important to assess community members' perspectives on integration, including where they encounter people who are not born in the United States and their basic understanding of immigrants' rights and sense of responsibility in creating a welcoming community. This survey can be administered either at the beginning or the end of any community meeting or training. It is appropriate for any audience in which community members are in attendance. This survey is not limited to residents born in the United States only. It is a tool to gather the thoughts and perspectives of anyone living in your community.

Survey data could be used in a variety of ways, including to:

- inform an agency's strategic planning for community engagement;
- assist agency staff in offering additional, targeted help to increase community members' interactions with residents with whom they don't typically interact;
- draw on and enclose the resulting statistical data in grant applications and reports to substantiate additional resources being devoted to immigrant integration efforts; and
- provide agency staff with perspectives on how community members view immigrants.

## Implementation Ideas

The survey's usefulness will depend on the systematic way with which your agency can collect data from community members. This survey does not attempt to measure changes in integration rates. Rather, it seeks to assess overall community members' impressions of your shared location and to help pinpoint areas of support that might be offered to the community, as it works to become more welcoming.

Data collection tips: 1) Distribute the survey to community members during events offered by your agency; 2) Input the data into a master spreadsheet (see example below); 3) Use the collected data to determine community members' impressions of the community and possible areas where services might be offered or expanded.

Question	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No	IDK
1. I feel like my town is a welcoming place to live.								
2. Integrating into a community is only the immigrant's responsibility.								
3. It is my responsibility to help make my community welcoming to people born outside of the United States.								
4. It is possible for an immigrant to improve his or her life while living in our community.								
5. Immigrants are treated with respect in my community, even if they prefer to speak a language other than English.								
6. Our city government promotes immigrant integration as a benefit for our community.								
7. I am interested in meeting immigrants living in my community.								
8. Immigrants, regardless of legal status, have many of the same basic rights that I do.								
9. I notice culturally and/or linguistically appropriate services at public spaces, such as libraries and public parks.								
Question	a	b	c	d	e	f		
10. I interact with people who I believe were born outside of the United States. (circle all that apply)								
11. What could our community do better in order to be a welcoming city to immigrants and their families?								

# COLLECTING AND STORING INTEGRATION DATA

The survey’s usefulness will depend on the systematic way with which your agency can collect data from the target audiences. CLINIC’s surveys assess stakeholders’ impressions of your shared location and help pinpoint areas of support the community needs as it works to become more welcoming.

The data collected through the surveys is useful in both one-year increments as well as multi-year sets. Therefore, it is useful to create an easy, systematic way to store the collected data so that your agency can have it readily available as/when needed.

Data is collected either through online surveys or through paper surveys. There are advantages and disadvantages to each method.

<b>Online Surveys</b>	<b>Paper Surveys</b>
<p><b>Pros</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data is deposited and stored automatically into a spreadsheet or other repository</li> <li>• Data can be analyzed more quickly</li> <li>• Surveys can be sent easily to the targeted responders via email</li> <li>• Respondents can complete the survey online</li> <li>• Reminders to complete the survey can be easily sent</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pros</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys can be collected at any event and in any location</li> <li>• Staff can sit with clients to help complete the survey</li> <li>• Paper copies can be left at public locations and collected at a later date</li> <li>• Staff can require a survey be completed before exiting a training or event</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey recipients may need reminders to complete the survey in their email</li> <li>• Computer access is needed in order to complete the survey</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data must be entered into the data collection tool</li> <li>• Paper surveys can be misplaced</li> <li>• Paper surveys need to be stored</li> </ul>

## Sample data collection steps:

- Distribute the survey to community members during events offered by your agency;
- Input the data into a master spreadsheet (see example below);
- Use the collected data to determine community members’ impressions of the community and possible areas where services might be offered or expanded.

# USING INTEGRATION DATA

Now that the data is collected, it is time to put the information to work.

## Here are several ideas for how the integration data can be used:

- Inform agency strategic planning for comprehensive service provision for immigrants and for engagement between the welcoming community and newcomers;
- Assist agency staff in offering additional, targeted help to increase community members' interactions with residents with whom they don't typically interact;
- Assist agency staff in offering additional, targeted help to increase immigrants' access to public services and involvement in the community;
- Provide agency staff with a new perspective on how immigrants experience their community;
- Provide agency staff with perspective on how community members view immigrants;
- Provide funders and board members data to justify additional resources devoted to efforts to increase immigrant integration;
- Provide local municipalities, school systems, police departments, commerce, philanthropists and other stakeholders with local data on community perspectives;
- Enhance grant applications and reports with local, relevant, recent data in order to underscore the need for funding requests; Allow the receiving community a way to understand how immigrants access and perceive their community;
- Distribute local data on how immigrants and community members perceive and interact with one another on social media and other venues;
- Include local data on marketing materials to encourage participation.



# MAKING INTEGRATION DATA VISUALLY APPEALING

Integration statistics fit easily into a funding application or grant report. Other audiences might appreciate seeing the data in picture form. Graphics of the data are appropriate for social media, in PowerPoint presentations, in board reports and for marketing purposes. It is important to keep these visuals simple and the text concise. It is also important to include an agency logo or website on the graphic so that viewers can connect the information with your agency's mission.

## Here are some examples:



**36% of surveyed agency staff report their agency asking immigrant community about its needs before planning and implementing services.**

yourwebsite.com


**85% of newcomers surveyed have native-born friends.**

yourwebsite.com



**86% of community members surveyed want to meet immigrant neighbors.**

yourwebsite.com



**Approximately 70% of community members noted culturally appropriate services in public spaces such as the library.**

yourwebsite.com



**33% of agency staff surveyed reported immigrant representation on boards and committees.**

yourwebsite.com

**95% of foreign-born clients surveyed felt that the opportunity to improve their life was available in their community.**

yourwebsite.com





**For more immigrant integration resources, including access to the surveys, a saved webinar about using the surveys, and more, please visit: [cliniclegal.org/integration](https://cliniclegal.org/integration).**

***“Our strategy builds upon both the church’s call to welcome newcomers and upon the U.S. history as a place where people from around the world are welcomed and given a chance to succeed. ”***

– Immigrant and Community Integration: Fulfilling Catholic Social Teaching and American Values (CLINIC Resource)

## **ABOUT THE CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC.**

Grounded in Catholic social teaching, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., is the largest network of community-based nonprofit immigration legal programs, with over 400 affiliates in 49 states and the District of Columbia. CLINIC’s principal services include legal and management training for our affiliates, advocacy for humane immigration policies, representing foreign-born religious workers, and leading several national projects to protect the rights and promote the dignity of immigrants. We also provide some pro bono representation to detained individuals and families, and offer public education materials on immigrants’ rights and Catholic teaching on migration.



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