

A Month-by-Month Guide to Promoting Immigrant Integration in 2023

Most successful at the local level, immigrant integration brings togethers newcomers and receiving community members to cultivate and foster a community that is diverse and inclusive of everyone. Partner with your neighbors, local organizations, and local officials to promote immigrant integration for the new year and beyond.

January

Is your organization ready to promote immigrant integration? Take <u>CLINIC's</u> <u>Integration Self-Assessment Tool</u> to measure your organization's immigrant integration efforts at the agency level, in the community, or implementing and sustaining a current integration initiative. Review the tailored resources depending on your score!

February

Start the year strong by establishing those key relationships that will help your organization begin or sustain your integration efforts. CLINIC's recorded webinar on "Increasing Immigrant Integration Through Community Partnerships" dives into how community partnerships can be effective methods for nonprofits to expand their outreach efforts and engage members of the community to accomplish the desired integration goals.

March

For those interested in creating an integration initiative, review CLINIC's Community Integration Toolkit! This resource offers informational content as well as accompanying worksheets to help your organization think through all the core elements for an integration initiative or project. Even programs with an established integration programming can find the materials helpful for evaluating or improving existing efforts.

April

Connect with local nonprofits that work with the immigrant and refugee populations. <u>Immigration legal service providers</u> are wonderful partners for immigrant integration work, as are faith-based organizations. Many

organizations could use your help! To find a nonprofit in your area, visit CLINIC's affiliate directory.

May

April showers bring May flowers! Enjoy the warm weather and initiate monthly walks in your community for an opportunity to walk and learn. For example, the Boulder, Colorado, city government offers the Boulder Walks Program. These community walks allow residents to explore their neighborhoods while getting to know one another. Community walks can encourage people from different language backgrounds to join in, especially if interpretation is offered to those who are interested.

June

It's important to gather community input and buy-in throughout your integration efforts. Data collected from agency staff, clients and community members can help your organization develop local immigration integration programming that reflects the needs of the community. CLINIC offers three immigrant integration surveys, a webinar and toolkit on how to collect and use this data.

July

Kick off Independence Day by attending a naturalization ceremony and celebrate the United States' newest citizens! Visit your local district court to find a naturalization ceremony near you. Or host your very own multicultural Fourth of July Cookout with your neighbors. By creating a safe space, your immigrant neighbors may feel open to sharing their journey to the United States. For some, this may be their first Fourth of July Celebration.

August

As the summer activities begin to wind down, relax by reading CLINIC's <u>affiliate</u> <u>highlights</u> and the many different ways our network has promoted integration. Be inspired to implement something similar within your agency or neighborhood.

September

Join CLINIC as we celebrate <u>Citizenship Week!</u> Follow CLINIC on Facebook and Twitter throughout the week of September 11-17 to receive highlights on resources, advocacy issues, and ways you can help new citizens integration into our communities.

October

Host an international potluck! For example, CLINIC affiliate Catholic Charities of Southern Colorado hosts their annual <u>Taste Around the World Event</u> where they

build relationships with community members by celebrating cultural diversity through food and music.

November

By promoting immigrant integration, an organization can increase the opportunities to access additional or alternate funding streams. Immigration legal providers play a key role in promoting immigrant integration. In addition to offering legal services, nonprofits that promote integration increase their capacity, expand their services, and work with all members in the community. Review CLINIC's Immigrant Integration Funding Guide for tips, resources and a list of potential funders.

December

Stay up to date with all things integration when you sign up for CLINIC's Center for Immigrant Integration newsletter, <u>Inclusive Communities: Immigrant Integration and Public Education Resources</u>. 2024 will bring more resources to assist you in promoting integration in your agencies and communities.