

Increasing Immigrant Integration and Inclusion Through Community Partnerships

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Introduction

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Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

- Over 400 nonprofit organizations in 48 states
- Train 10,000 people each year on immigration-related topics
- Training and Legal Support, Capacity Building, Advocacy, Defending Vulnerable Populations
- Membership applications: <https://cliniclegal.org/find-legalhelp/affiliates>

Training Agenda

- Immigrant integration basics
- Integration data: what kind, how to use it, where to get it
- Community partnerships: nexus with data, identifying, examples, management
- Questions

Test Your Knowledge

- **Immigrant integration** and **assimilation** are synonyms.
- **Newcomers** are those arriving from countries outside the United States.
- The **receiving community** is the group of people welcoming the **newcomers**. Often, they were born in the United States.
- **Immigrant integration** is solely the responsibility of the **newcomers**.
- **Immigrant integration** is solely the responsibility of the **receiving community**.

Immigrant Integration

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

Promoting and pursuing immigrant integration is the **responsibility of both** newcomers and long-standing residents, and it is a **dynamic** process that is most successful at the **local level**.



What does integration look like?

A piñata pole is installed in the public park for all to use.

Local libraries have books and other resources available in the languages used by the residents of the community.

Parishes or community organizations are decorated with items from the countries represented in their congregations or offices.

A demographically changing community sees its first foreign-born person elected to office, such as the parent-teachers association or city council.

Leadership positions and advisory positions within a parish or organization are held by members of the communities represented.

Organizations offer town halls or distribute surveys in order to learn what community members want and need. Interpreters and translated materials are available.

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What is our long-term goal for the communities we serve?



How are clients impacted if our programs concentrate solely on service delivery?

How can we collectively work to improve integration and inclusion?

Integration efforts are most effective at the
local level.

Two keys to successful integration programming at the local level are **data** and effective **partnerships**.

Before getting started, you need data.

- Data that shows how people are using community services
- Data that shows how clients feel in their community
- Data that shows the sense of responsibility community members feel
- Data that shows level of understanding about integration by community members and agency staff
- Data that shows level of awareness about agency activities regarding integration

CLINIC's Immigrant Integration Surveys

- Agency Staff
- Client
- Community Member

- English and Spanish
- Online and hard copy
- 10 questions or so each

Sample Agency Survey Results

36.41% ask immigrant community about needs before planning and implementing.

33.34% have immigrant representation on boards and committees.

33.33% include immigrant integration in strategic plan, mission statement and/or measurable goals.



Sample Client Survey Results

82.64% know where to go for healthcare.

64.21% feel comfortable calling the police.

94% feel that they can improve their lives if they want



Sample Community Member Results

39% believe that city government promotes immigrant integration as a benefit for their community.

47% believe that immigrants, regardless of legal status, have many of the same basic rights that they do.

65% notice culturally and/or linguistically appropriate services at public spaces, such as libraries and public parks.

Where and how can you use this data?

- Forming partnerships
- Funding apps
- Social media
- Public statements
- Media
- Project proposals

The Nexus Between Data and Partnerships

- Data indicates a need that another community organization could help address
- Data indicates a need, and another organization works with a different population
- Data shows progress in a community-wide goal, and more partners are needed to progress
- Data underscores a need in the community the government should address
- Data underscores a need that a parish or other religious organization could address
- A local collaborative needs data to defend a funding proposal
- Data can show progress on an initiative

Benefits of Partnerships in Integration Work

- Partners may have skill sets: language, cultural awareness, connections to communities, lived experience
- Partners may have access to key community members
- Partnerships can help inform the decision-making process
- Partnerships can help your agency serve many more clients and in different ways
- Partnerships can improve the relationship between immigrants and the receiving community
- Partnerships lead to an more engaged community on integration efforts
- Effective partnerships show community buy-in to funders

Community Partnerships: **City Government**

- Libraries, public parks, police department, City Council, HHS, public schools
- Access to resources: space, volunteers, marketing
- Access to funding
- Ability to make issues a priority
- Being their trusted source allows you to frame the data and set the agenda

City Government

- Repeat funding to distribute
- Naturalization workshops
- Legal services provided at libraries
- Collaborations with local police
- Info sessions to City Council or Chambers of Commerce
- Improve access to school personnel, services and meetings for non-English speakers

Community partnerships: **Local parishes**

- Access to regularly attending community members
- Trusted source
- Safe space
- Welcoming is in the mission
- Newcomers and receiving community are co-existing
- Access to resources: space, marketing, audience, volunteers

Local Parishes

- Regularly scheduled KYR to parishioners
- Free legal services to migrant populations
- Voter registration drives at the church
- Farming co-op program
- Citizenship mentors
- Coffee and conversation

Community partnerships: **The public**

- Wide array of different communities
- Access to groups/funding/support
- Can carry the mission far and wide
- Diverse set of volunteers

The Public

Elder Integration Project: St. James Cathedral, Seattle, WA

Goal: Help elderly immigrants integrate into the community while encouraging them to maintain or regain their independence.

Participants: Parish/Community volunteers and the Participants

Results: Participants were taking public transportation, participating in the community garden, volunteering at the State Capital, hosting potlucks.



Community partnerships: **Other non-profits**

- Existing infrastructure
- Existing volunteer base
- Existing funding support
- Community collaborations can be appealing
- Divide and conquer

Other Non-profits

CC Pueblo and Los Pobres, Pueblo, CO

Goal: Expand the reach of immigration legal services and gather information from local community

Participants: Local non-profit and CC Pueblo

Results: 12-15 clients are provided free consultations each Thursday, plus additional community members receive KYR training

Key Factors: Sister Nancy is a trusted person within the immigrant community, and her center hosts many different community groups

Integration Programming Ideas

- Securing a local government advisory committee that does not require a certain immigration status to participate ([Chula Vista](#))
- Joining together to sponsor a series of resident-led projects proposed by residents and their neighbors ([Cleveland](#))
- Connecting the newly arrived with established members of the community who likely speak the same language and share similar cultural values ([NYC](#))

Features of a Strong Partner

- Long term partner potential
- Shared interest
- Has expertise in a different service delivery area
- Attracts different populations
- Already has a volunteer pool
- Is reliable and organized
- Is willing to coordinate the partnership
- Includes perspective of lived experience in the decision-making

Red Flags

- Bad reputation
- Past negative experience
- Funders are wary
- Doesn't want to coordinate the partnership
- Hard to get a hold of
- Engaged in the unauthorized practice of law
- Overpromises
- Is not interested in asking the community what it wants and needs

Questions to Ask Yourself

- What do we bring to the table?
- What more can we accomplish with partnerships?
- Are we an agency others would consider to be a strong partner?
- What internal structures do we have in place to participate in a partnership?
- Can we follow through on obligations?

How to Manage a Partnership

- Clear division of labor
- Clear understanding of responsibilities
- Signed statement of expectations
- Regular meetings
- Volunteer management
- Coordination of agency-specific dates
- Staff training and quality control

Integration Resource Guide

- Integration basics
- How Data Helps Integration
- How to collect and store the data
- How to use it (with specific examples and/or templates)
- How to make graphics with the integration data

<https://cliniclegal.org/issues/immigrant-integration/Immigrant-Integration-Surveys>

More Resources

Our webpage:

<https://cliniclegal.org/issues/immigrant-integration>

Sign up for our newsletter:

Inclusive Communities: Immigrant Integration and Public Education Resources

<https://cliniclegal.org/email>

The Bigger Picture

“Where migrants and refugees are concerned, the Church and her various agencies ought to avoid offering charitable services alone; they are also called to **promote real integration** in a society where all are active members and responsible for one another’s welfare...”

- Message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. (2013).

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/migration/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121012_world-migrants-day_en.html. Last retrieved on November 20, 2014.

Questions?

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