



NATIONAL CENTER ON
IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY

***Integration Challenges and
Opportunities in the
Economic Development and
Refugee Resettlement Arenas***

Webinar

MPI National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy

March 12, 2015



Presenters



Margie McHugh, Director, National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, MPI



Steve Tobocman, Director, Global Detroit, WE Global Network



Annie Wilson, Chief Strategy Officer, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



Logistics

- Slides and audio from today's webinar will be available at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/events>
- If you have any problems accessing this webinar, please contact us by email at events@migrationpolicy.org or call +1-202-266-1929.
- Use Q&A chat function on the right of the screen throughout webinar to write questions.
- Or send an email to events@migrationpolicy.org with your question.



MPI National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy

Areas of Work:

➤ Education:

” Early Childhood

” K-16

” Adult Education and Workforce
Development

➤ Language Access and Other Benefits

➤ Governance of Integration Policy

➤ *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes

www.migrationpolicy.org/integration



Overview: Presidential Memorandum

“ Released by President Obama 11.21.14

“ Draws from prior proposals including HR4949, New Americans Success Act

“ Establishes WH Task Force on New Americans charged with:

“ Reviewing policies of all executive departments and agencies

“ Developing a coordinated national integration strategy



Presidential Memorandum

- “ Orders creation of a national Integration Plan within 120 days***
- “ Public input process; interagency review and collaboration on recommendations***
- “ New MPI NCIIP webpage with background on the White House Task Force on New Americans process and related resources:
www.bit.ly/NewAmericansTF***



Presenter



**Steve
Tobocman**
Director,
Global Detroit,
WE Global
Network

Steve Tobocman has spearheaded Global Detroit since 2009, authoring the original Global Detroit study and helping to leverage more than \$7 million in philanthropic, corporate, individual, and government investment into Global Detroit and its partner initiatives. He also has been the driving force around the WE Global Network, a 10-state network of local immigrant economic development initiatives.

From 2003-2008, Steve served as the State Representative from Michigan's 12th State House District in Detroit, home to one of the state's largest immigrant communities, and ended his term as the Majority Floor Leader, the second-ranking position in the Michigan House. During his time in the State Legislature, Steve focused his work on economic development, but also wrote the Michigan Immigration Clerical Assistance Act to protect immigrants from predatory immigrant service providers, fought for in-state tuition equity for undocumented students, and opposed attacks on immigrants' abilities to obtain Michigan driver's licenses.

Currently, in addition to serving as the Director of Global Detroit, Steve also co-directs the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University, one of the nation's premiere bipartisan political leadership training programs.



Global Network

LEADING RUSTBELT IMMIGRANT INNOVATION

**Recommendations for the
National Integration Plan**

Steve Tobocman, Director

www.weglobalnetwork.org



Global Network

LEADING RUSTBELT IMMIGRANT INNOVATION



WELCOMING
AMERICA



🏠 *Building a Nation of Neighbors*



**GLOBAL
DETROIT**



Global Network

LEADING RUSTBELT IMMIGRANT INNOVATION

 <p>Welcoming Center for NEW PENNSYLVANIANS</p> <p><i>Connecting immigrants, employers, and communities</i></p>	 <p>Immigrant Welcome Center</p>	 <p>MONA Michigan Office for New Americans</p>	 <p>st.louis MOSAIC</p> <p>ST. LOUIS MOSAIC PROJECT</p>	 <p>GLOBAL CLEVELAND</p>	 <p>CITY OF CHICAGO INCORPORATED 4th MARCH 1837</p>
 <p>THE CITY OF COLUMBUS MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION</p>	 <p>★★★★★ WELCOME DAYTON IMMIGRANT FRIENDLY CITY</p>	 <p>LUCAS COUNTY</p>	 <p>Welcome Springfield <small>Clark County Welcomes Immigrants</small></p>	 <p>vibrant PITTSBURGH. <small>Growing a diverse workforce. And a brighter future for our region.</small></p>	 <p>GP GlobalPittsburgh® CONNECTED. EVERYWHERE</p>
 <p>International Institute of Buffalo <small>Western New Yorkers Embracing the World</small></p>	 <p>NDC Neighborhood Development Center <small>BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIES FROM WITHIN</small></p>	 <p>GLOBAL LANSING</p>	 <p>Agenda 360 A Regional Action Plan</p>	 <p>GLOBAL DETROIT</p>	 <p>ONEMACOMB EMBRACE SHARE CELEBRATE <small>diversity.macombo.gov</small></p>

WE GLOBAL NETWORK MISSION

The mission of WE Global Network is to engage in activities that strengthen the work, maximize the impact, and sustain the efforts of individual local initiatives across the region that welcome, retain, and empower immigrant communities as valued contributors to local economic development initiatives.

CORE VALUES

1. Immigrant communities are assets to be nurtured and grown as a means of producing economic opportunity for the entire region.
2. Welcoming immigrants into the economic and social fabric of a region helps to make that region more economically competitive and more attractive socially.
3. Regional economic development initiatives can play a role not just in attracting immigrants, but also in retaining them and in enhancing their role in the community's economic and social fabric.



Global Network

LEADING RUSTBELT IMMIGRANT INNOVATION

Economic integration of our immigrant and refugee communities is not only a matter of social justice and a reflection of our national compassion to newcomers, but it is a key pillar of economic prosperity for all Americans.

America's economic future and the prosperity of American families are significantly improved by the presence and contributions of immigrants and refugees and the successful integration of their contributions.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RETENTION



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RETENTION BEST PRACTICES

- “ Michigan Global Talent Retention Initiative
(www.mitgtri.org)
- “ Ohio Board of Regents – Ohio GREAT
<https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/global/GREATreport.pdf>
- “ Massachusetts Global Entrepreneur in Residence

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RETENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- “ Expand the opportunities for practical training after graduation
- “ Improve the data collection about international students and their participation in the U.S. economy
- “ Develop viable means for international student entrepreneurs to start and grow their business enterprises in the U.S.
- “ Approve international student entrepreneurship visas

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Neighborhood
Development
Center

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIES FROM WITHIN

IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP BEST PRACTICES

- “ Neighborhood Development Center (MSP) (www.ndc-mn.org)
- “ Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians Global Enterprise Hub
www.welcomincenter.org
- “ Chicago Mayor’s Office for New Americans

IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

- “ **Partner U.S. Small Business Administration entrepreneurship programs and funding with existing immigrant entrepreneurship programs**
- “ **Utilize federal resources, including Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grants, Office of Refugee Resettlement funds, and U.S. Small Business Administration funds, to support immigrant entrepreneurship programs, as well as microloan and other lending pools**

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BEST PRACTICES

- “ **Pro-Active Immigrant Integration -
Marshalltown, Iowa**
- “ **Utilizing Immigrants to Address
Rural Business Succession
Challenges - Ontario (Canada)
Immigrant Network**
- “ **Entrepreneurship Programs**

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- “ Work with federal agencies (U.S. Small Business Administration, Department of Agriculture) to further support immigrant welcoming, integration and entrepreneurship programs and to pilot best practices**



Presenter



**Annie Wilson,
Chief Strategy
Officer, Lutheran
Immigration and
Refugee Service**

Annie Wilson is Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's Chief Strategy Officer. She has been with the organization for more than 20 years. LIRS works so that all migrants and refugees are protected, embraced, and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities. The organization fosters cultural integration and financial self-sufficiency for migrants and refugees starting over, finds homes for unaccompanied refugee children, and advocates for policies and legislation that uphold the rights and dignity of all newcomers.

Annie has coordinated the development of LIRS's strategic plans and led a fundamental shift in focus from delivering short-term services toward engaging and transforming communities in need. From September 2009 to February 2010 Annie served as LIRS's acting president, leading the organization through a significant leadership transition. Annie joined LIRS in 1990 to direct national grants programs and technical assistance for asylum seekers.

Prior to her work with LIRS, Annie served as domestic programs coordinator for Church World Service's Immigration and Refugee Program, managing a national network of 50 refugee resettlement projects and doubling both the size of staff and the resources available to the program.

Immigrant Integration

MPI Webinar: March 12, 2015



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

**What experience does
Lutheran Immigration and
Refugee Service bring to
this discussion?**



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

LIRS

- “ 75 years old
- “ About 100 national staff; budget \$50m
- “ Work through partners in local communities



LIRS

- “ Refugee resettlement: 11,200 refugees in 2014 through 45 local offices
 - . Iraqis, Burmese, Somali, Bhutanese, Afghans and other nationalities
 - . 3,423 in the Matching Grant program
 - . Reception and Placement, early self-sufficiency, cultural orientation
 - . National Employment Technical Assistance – “Higher”



LIRS

Children's Services in 2014

- “ Unaccompanied Refugee Minors: 221 in 11 foster care sites
- “ Unaccompanied (Migrant) Children (mostly Central American):
 - . 19,000 families helped through the reunification process by 20 local offices
 - . 1,080 children provided with reunification support by 10 local offices
 - . 1,241 in transitional care (usually short-term foster care)
 - . 114 in long-term foster care



LIRS

“ Services to Detained Immigrants in 2014:

- . 5,500 detainees attended Know-Your-Rights presentations
- . 390 Survivors of torture identified
- . 2,605 detainees visited
- . 170 served in alternatives to detention
- . 12,000 Christmas cards and over 1,000 gifts

Stand for Reform
Stand for Justice

STAND FOR
WELCOME

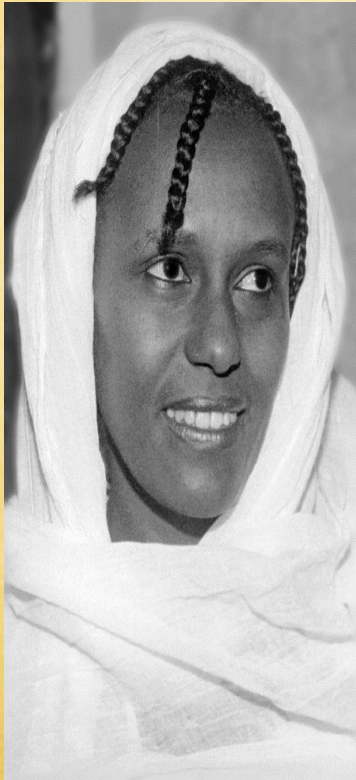


 Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service
www.LIRS.org



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

It's all about brighter tomorrows



“LIRS has been there for me since I began the American leg of my journey as a refugee. Their staff helped connect me and my family to a local church in the community where I resettled—a church whose hospitality could not have been more important in my transition to a welcoming American society.”

“Jacqueline,” asylum seeker and single mother of two

LIRS

“ Community engagement:

- . Refugee sponsors and volunteers
- . Mentors
- . Foster parents
- . Visitors to people in detention
- . Advocates



LIRS

- “ Public/private partnership with the federal government
- “ Federal departments don't coordinate with each other (Department of State, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice)



A holistic approach

- “ Integration results from the interplay of the civic, economic and linguistic aspects
- “ Social connections also matter
- “ Other critical elements:
 - “ Access to healthcare
 - “ Access to justice
 - “ Integrity and unity of the family
 - “ Meaningful opportunities for self-expression and personal development



Collaboration is essential

- “ Hold the big picture; everyone play their part
- “ Multi-sector collaboration
- “ A national integration coordinator . with better coordination of refugee resettlement as a first priority



The Higher model

- . National refugee employment technical assistance program
- . Connects nonprofits and government agencies serving refugees with businesses and corporations to promote employment/economic integration
- . Similar effort needed for the wider immigrant community



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

Recommendations regarding youth

- “ Youth at-risk, youth as an asset
- “ School impact grants
- “ Leadership development (RefugeeCorps, Homies Unidos)
- “ Invest in the stability of the Unaccompanied Children from Central America



Other recommendations

- “ Improve data collection and ensure longitudinal tracking
- “ Broaden the Matching Grant program
- “ Cultural competency audit of all federal programs





MPI: Select Issues and Recommendations

➤ *Economic Integration*

- “ *Important role played by human capital—including language skills, education and training*
- “ *ESL and basic education classes meet tiny share of need; few LEP or low-educated served in training programs*
- “ *Particular concern for refugees where system focus is welfare avoidance rather than family-sustaining skills and wages*



Select Education and Training Success Recommendations

- ***Doubling of overall AEFLA funds***
- ***Equitable access for low-educated and/or LEP individuals***
 - ” ***Incentives rather than penalties for serving low-educated and LEP individuals in WIOA regulations***
 - ” ***New focus in Interagency Career Pathways group***
- ***Refugees:***
 - ” ***Assess education and training needs prior to resettlement; estimate and plan for “tipping point” services***
 - ” ***State Dept/HHS directly support education and training to “tipping point”; caseworkers trained to support education persistence and success***



Late-arriving Immigrant and Refugee Students

- “ Refugee, UAC and other newcomer youth who arrive in the middle and high school years face steep challenges***
- “ Schools may lack will, capacity, know-how; often fear impact on school performance, accountability measures***
- “ K-12 schooling presents a unique cost-shift argument since it is a mandatory service***



Late-arriving Immigrant and Refugee Students

“ Recommendations:

- “ Partner with mayors, school districts, other stakeholders to create goals and benchmarks for effective integration of late-arriving refugee and immigrant youth***
- “ Establish cost ranges for services effective in supporting desired educational and socio-emotional outcomes***
- “ Build consensus on new federal funding approach for essential academic and non-academic supports***



Language Access

- “ Increasing diversity of languages creating new demands on local systems; low incidence languages pose special challenges***
- “ Some federal agencies appear slow in meeting their responsibilities***
- “ Recommendation:***
 - “ Create a federal cross-agency working group that interfaces with state and local governments and considers solutions***
 - “ Increase federal support via technology R&D, group purchasing, etc.***



Q & A

Use Q&A chat function to write questions

Or email events@migrationpolicy.org with your questions

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<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/events>
- MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy has created a new webpage where you can find background on the White House Task Force on New Americans process and related resources: www.bit.ly/NewAmericansTF
- If you have any questions about the report, please email communications@migrationpolicy.org



Thank You For Joining Us!

- MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy has created a webpage with background on the White House Task Force on New Americans process and related resources: www.bit.ly/NewAmericansTF
- Register for our next webinar on March 18 *Cross-Cutting Needs and Opportunities: Language Access, Funding, Multi-Level Partnerships, and Planning for the Long Term* www.bit.ly/Intg318webinar

For more information:

Steve Tobocman
Director
Global Detroit,
WE Global Network
Steve@globaldetroit.com

Margie McHugh
Director of NCIIP
Migration Policy Institute
mmchugh@migrationpolicy.org

Annie Wilson
Chief Strategy Officer,
Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service
AWilson@lirs.org

For additional information and to receive updates:

www.migrationpolicy.org
www.migrationpolicy.org/integration