



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY

***Cross-Cutting Needs and  
Opportunities: Language Access,  
Funding, Multi-Level Partnerships,  
and Planning for the Long Term***

**Webinar**

**MPI National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy**

**March 18, 2015**



# Presenters

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



**Nisha Agarwal**, Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, New York City



**Cuc Vu**, Director, Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs



**Charles Kamasaki**, Senior Cabinet Adviser, National Council of La Raza



# Logistics

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- Slides and audio from today's webinar will be available at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/events>
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# MPI National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy (NCIIP)

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## 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](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/integration)



## Overview: Presidential Memorandum

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***“ 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

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- “ 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](http://www.bit.ly/NewAmericansTF)***



# Presenter

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**Nisha Agarwal**  
**Commissioner**  
**Mayor's Office**  
**of Immigrant**  
**Affairs**  
**New York City**

Nisha Agarwal is an accomplished public interest lawyer and a leading voice in immigration reform at the local and national level. She brings to the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs an entrepreneurial drive and a proven record of enacting pro-immigrant legislation in New York City and New York State.

Most recently, she worked with Judge Robert A. Katzmann, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, to establish the Immigrant Justice Corps, a new nonprofit that will recruit recent law school graduates and partner them with non-profit legal services providers to offer legal representation to undocumented immigrants. She was previously Deputy Director of the Center for Popular Democracy, the groundbreaking non-profit advocacy group dedicated to advancing pro-immigrant, pro-equality and pro-justice policies at the grassroots and national levels, which she co-founded in 2012. Prior to CPD, Ms. Agarwal served as Director of the Health Justice Program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

Ms. Agarwal received her B.A. summa cum laude from Harvard College and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She currently lives in Brooklyn.

*Promoting the well-being of immigrant communities by recommending policies and programs that facilitate successful integration of immigrant New Yorkers into the civic, economic, and cultural life of the City.*



# New York City as an Example for Immigrant Integration

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Commissioner Nisha Agarwal



# Who is involved in this work?

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- “ In NYC Mayor de Blasio clearly prioritizes creating a welcoming city for new immigrants and supporting the vibrant immigrant communities which are already here
- “ Everyone, from city agencies to legal providers, to funders and community members is involved in our initiatives

# Types of Initiatives

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*Promoting the well-being of immigrant communities by recommending policies and programs that facilitate successful integration of immigrant New Yorkers into the civic, economic, and cultural life of the City.*

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- “ English training
- “ Financial empowerment
- “ Business and entrepreneurial support
- “ Immigration legal assistance
- “ Access and assistance navigating city services and language access
- “ Education about rights as a NYC resident

# Example: Language Access

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*Promoting the well-being of immigrant communities by recommending policies and programs that facilitate successful integration of immigrant New Yorkers into the civic, economic, and cultural life of the City.*

*Promoting the well-being of immigrant communities by recommending policies and programs that facilitate successful integration of immigrant New Yorkers into the civic, economic, and cultural life of the City.*

- ” NYC has over the years developed progressive language access laws
- ” Currently, all public facing city agencies must be equipped to provide translation in at least the top six languages of the city; interpretation in all languages
- ” Manifests in other ways:
  - . Outreach campaigns are multilingual
  - . Looking into use of ethnic and community media to reach people
- ” Recommendation: need wider dissemination of best practices/resources for more challenging areas – e.g. mental health & language access

# Example: Public Education Campaigns

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- “ Working with faith leaders, community based organizations, civic leaders, and public library systems
- “ Multilingual ad campaigns on subways for DACA and then for IDNYC; using an organizing model for outreach
- “ Recommendation: collaborate with local and state partners to identify topics relevant to immigrant communities and key amplifiers within the community

# Example: Workforce Development

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- “ The Economic Development Corporation and Small Business Services have developed innovative programs to support immigrant job-seekers and business owners
  - . Includes an immigrant resource toolkit in different languages, which augments the services staff at workforce development centers can offer
  - . Also includes data collection in order to understand the needs of immigrant job seekers
- “ Recommendation: explore collaboration with CBOs and workers centers in the immigrant workforce space.

# Other Recommendations

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## ” Dedicated Funding:

- . Federal funding would support local and state efforts to aggregate and maintain centralized information in different languages
- . This, in turn, would help ensure that immigrants are able to access and navigate the array of services that are available to them

## ” Convening Cities

- . Having quarterly meetings with cities with substantial immigrant populations to discuss the Task Force's priorities and these recommendations



# Presenter

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**Cuc Vu**  
**Director**  
**Seattle Office of**  
**Immigrant and**  
**Refugee Affairs**

Cuc Vu is the Director of Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. She came to the United States with her family in 1975 as a refugee of the Vietnam War, and settled in Olympia, Washington. In her role as Director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs for the City of Seattle, Ms. Vu not only brings her life experience as a refugee, but also twelve years of experience working on immigrant and refugee affairs as an advocate, issue organizer and non-profit founder and executive.

Prior to joining the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, Ms. Vu most recently served as the first Chief Diversity Officer for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) where she provided the vision and strategy to help the organization fulfill its stated commitment to diversity and inclusion by providing transformative leadership training and creating engagement programs that improve lives. Ms. Vu forged a partnership with the National Association of Latino Elected Officials to position HRC as the only LGBT organization to advance citizenship drives in the immigrant community across 17 cities. Before her time at HRC, Ms. Vu worked as immigration campaign manager for the Service Employees International Union, and at the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Department of Labor to advance working women's issues. Ms. Vu has served on several boards, including the National Immigration Forum, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership.

Ms. Vu earned an undergraduate degree at Pomona College and a graduate degree as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

# City of Seattle

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IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION PLAN

CUC VU, DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE AFFAIRS





# About Seattle

## AT A GLANCE



**180,000**

Residents of WA who are eligible to be naturalized



**8**

WA is the 8th largest refugee receiving state



**19%**

Seattle's foreign-born population

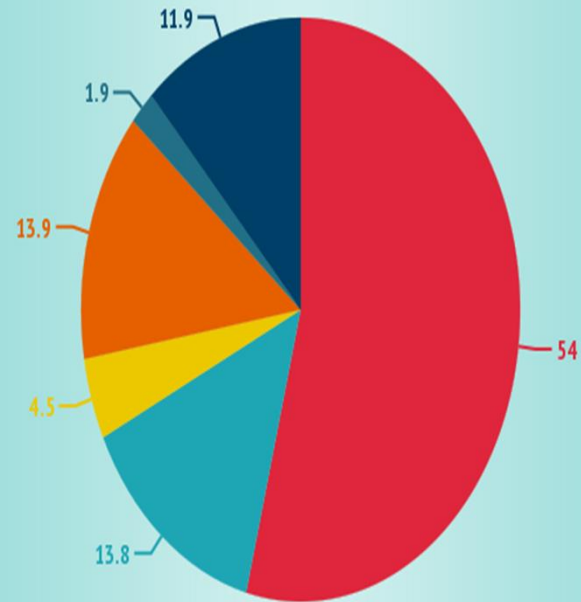


**129**

Number of languages spoken in Seattle Schools

Create infographics [infoqr.am](http://infoqr.am)

## Origins



Asia Europe Northern America Latin America Oceania  
Africa

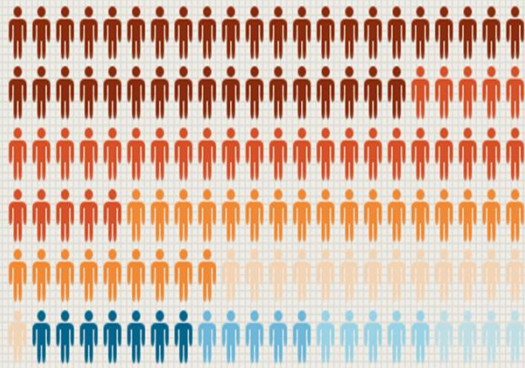
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# About Seattle

## SEATTLE REFUGEE ARRIVALS

Populations 100+, 2007-2012

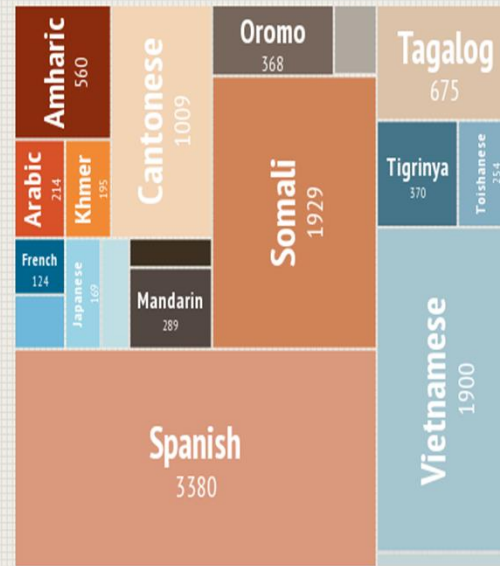


Bhutan Somalia Iraq Eritrea Ethiopia Burundi Russia Iran

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## TOP 20 FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN SEATTLE SCHOOLS

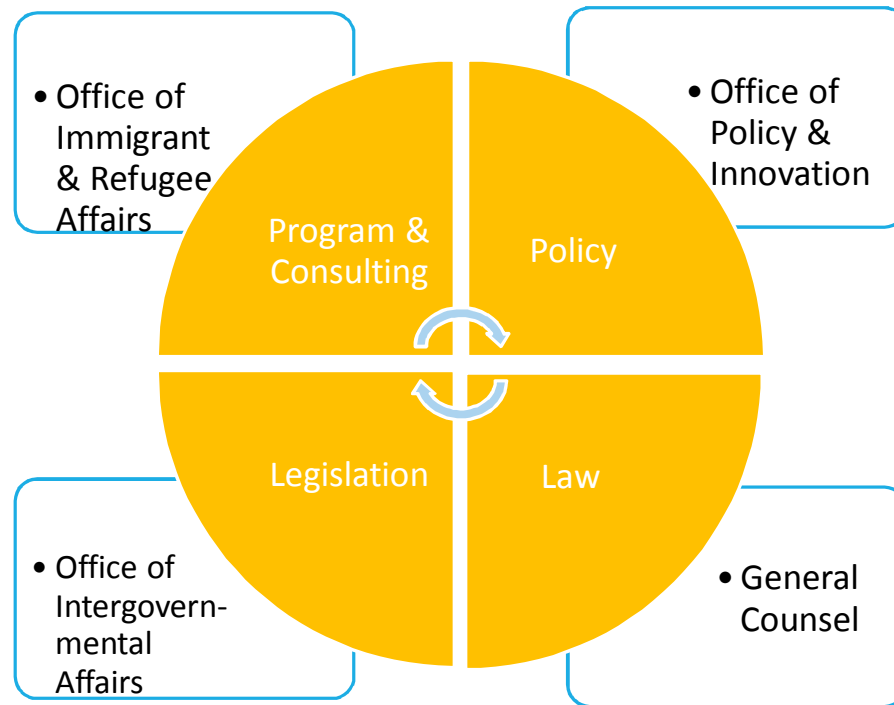


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# Seattle Process

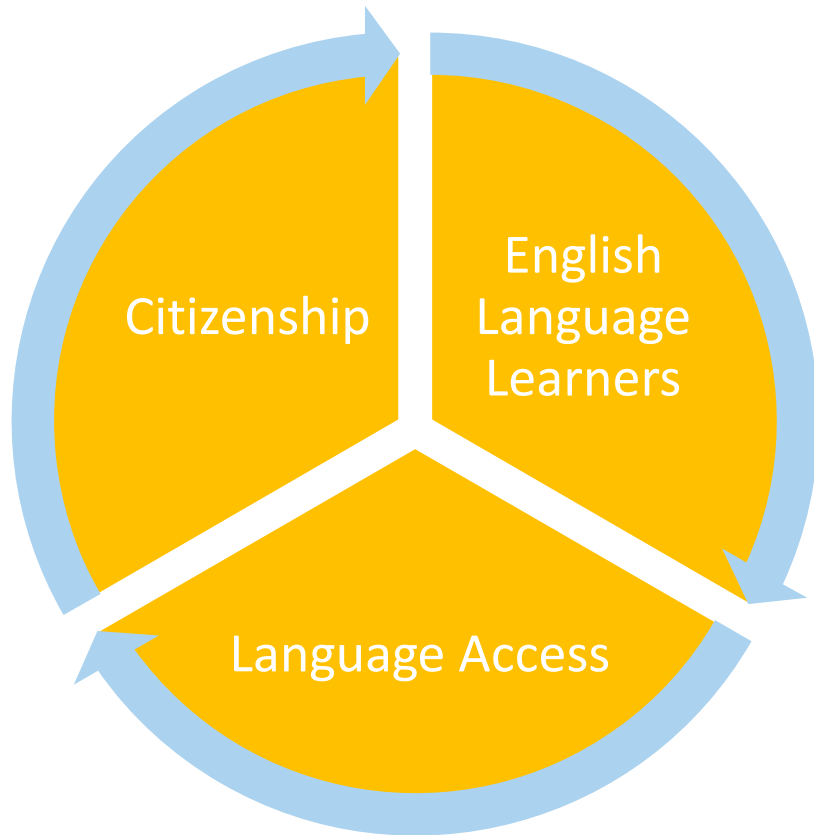
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# Three Rails of Integration – Recommendations to White House

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Allow fee waiver or fee reduction for low-income applicants and seniors; investigate high rates of denial on disability waivers.

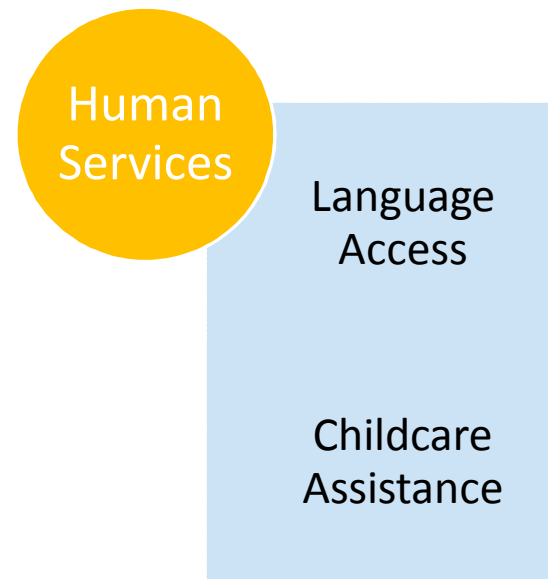
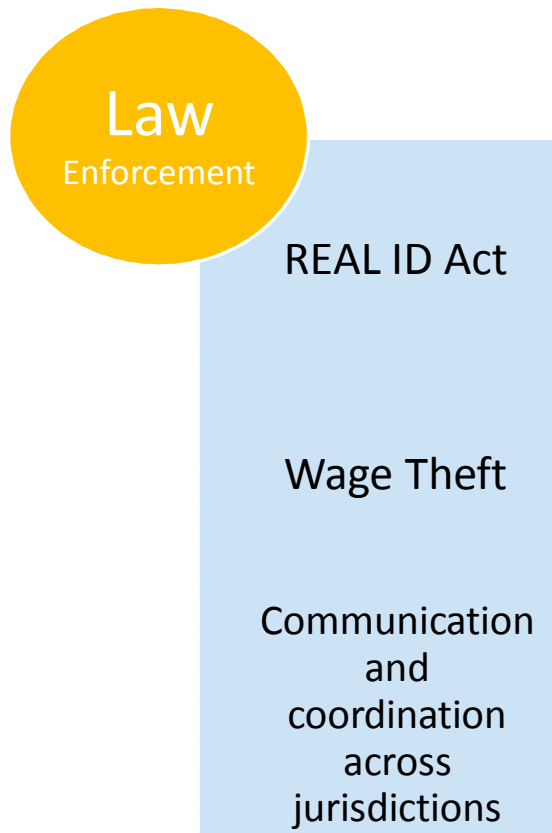
Support innovative adult ESL programming at local level, focus on lowest levels of ESL where unemployment and underemployment are the most persistent.

Quarterly calls for the mayor's offices to interact with the WHTNA on linguistic integration



# Other Issues

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# Presenter

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**Charles  
Kamasaki**  
Senior Cabinet  
Adviser  
National Council  
of La Raza

Charles Kamasaki is Senior Cabinet Adviser for the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). In this capacity he serves as a senior member of the management team of NCLR, the nation's largest Hispanic civil-rights and advocacy organization, representing nearly 300 affiliated community-based organizations that serve millions of Hispanic Americans annually. He is also a Resident Fellow at the Migration Policy Institute, where he is working on a book about the Immigration Reform and Control Act, while on partial sabbatical from NCLR.

Mr. Kamasaki previously managed NCLR's research, policy analysis, and advocacy activity on civil rights, education, economic mobility, housing and community development, immigration, health, and other issues. He has authored, co-authored, and supervised the preparation of dozens of policy and research reports, journal articles, and editorials, testified frequently at congressional and administrative hearings, coordinated pro bono litigation and legal analysis, and represented NCLR at research and policy conferences and symposia.

He has served on numerous nonprofit boards of directors, advisory committees, and task forces. Mr. Kamasaki was educated at Baylor University and Pan American University.



## Overview

- “ NCLR endorsed MPI recommendations; recommendations that follow more illustrative than definitive
- “ Scope & depth of cumulative recommendations demonstrate need for sustained federal-state-local policy intervention
- “ Also requires major nonprofit & philanthropic engagement
- “ In this respect “past is prologue”: The turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw both significant new policy interventions and important social/philanthropic movements



## Health Promotion

- “ Limited access to information on disease prevention and management due to low income, educational attainment and/or English proficiency
- “ Many immigrants ineligible for health insurance coverage; often left out of mainstream social marketing campaigns about prevention and control of disease
- “ ***Recommendation:***  
*National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Office of Minority Health should develop coordinated plans to ensure major campaigns target all affected populations, including immigrants and refugees*

## Financial Services

“ Federal infrastructure to promote access to financial services and protect against predatory schemes is not immigrant-friendly

“ ***Recommendation:***

*The Departments of Treasury, Housing and Urban Development and the Consumer Protection Bureau should develop an integrated strategy to ensure:*

“ *Housing counseling and foreclosure prevention/mitigation programs are fully cultural competent*

“ *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and financial services programs reflect appropriate diversity*

“ *Enforcement programs include public education and appropriate social marketing targeted to immigrant and refugee groups and increase personnel diversity*

## Integration Success Grants

- “ Departments of Ed, HHS and Labor should fund states and/or municipalities to create comprehensive plans addressing civic, linguistic and economic integration
  - “ Similar to Promise Zone program: encourage design of systems that are scalable, replicable yet flexible enough to account for local considerations
  - “ Establish models of best practices that coordinate the three pillars of integration
  - “ Immigrants and receiving communities will benefit from a cohesive policy to address civic, linguistic and economic integration



# White House Office of New Americans

- “ Establish White House Office on New Americans within Executive Office of the President
  - “ Included the *New Americans Success Act* (HR 4949) introduced June 2014
  - “ Congressional authorization not required to create such an office
- “ Nation needs a permanent office with strong mandate to continue Task Force’s work and to create and implement a cohesive national integration strategy



# MPI “Brain Circuitry” Issues and Recommendations

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- “ Whole of government approach needed*
- “ Requires alignment of goals, targets, outcomes, accountability*
- “ Integration goals and indicators should be developed for each agency; provides a framework for longer term efforts*
- “ Data collection: parental place of birth in ACS an important starting point*



# Language Access

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- ***Increasing diversity of languages creating new demands on local systems***
  - “ ***Low incidence languages pose special challenges***
  - “ ***Some federal agencies slow in meeting their responsibilities***
  
- ***Recommendation:***
  - “ ***Create 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.***



# Integration Success Fund

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- “ Most taxes paid by immigrants and refugees go to the federal government, while most service costs are borne by state and local governments***
- “ Almost \$60 billion in suspended wages at SSA due to unauthorized workers***
- “ Recommendations:***
  - “ Create an Integration Success Fund to support strategic integration service or coordination initiatives at state and local levels***
  - “ Form a cross-agency working group to explore options and provide recommendations for creation and implementation of the Fund***



# Q & A

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## Use Q&A chat function to write questions

Or email [events@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:events@migrationpolicy.org) with your questions

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# Thank You For Joining Us!

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## For more information:

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For additional information and to receive updates:

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[www.migrationpolicy.org/integration](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/integration)