



CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.

**CLINIC's Efforts to Promote and Encourage
Immigrant Integration**

Catholic Immigrant Integration Initiative Conference

November 29th, 2016

Leya Speasmaker

Agenda

- Why does CLINIC view integration as a priority, especially now?
- What support does the CLINIC network want?
- What has CLINIC learned through this work?



Why does CLINIC view integration as a priority?

“Intentionally, the work we're doing linking parishes with newcomers, will in the long run, create the bridge between newcomers and those established.... I hope the bridges we have built will be strong enough to bear the tensions we know are coming.”

- Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County (California)



“I think part of **the buy-in** we were able to garner from community officials, local funders, public services agencies, etc. is because we do offer employment services and are known to assist immigrants who have limited English proficiency get entry level jobs...Therefore, our stakeholders and the greater community **don't see the immigrant/refugee community as being a burden on our tax base.**”

- Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga (New York)



“...I do think we are in a better place to serve and protect our newest neighbors given the past 20 years of **very intentional partnered work** we've done in the community. It's all a question of how threatening will this all really be under the new administration, and... just how much are communit(y) allies willing to risk to serve, protect, and love their neighbors as themselves.”

- Rev. David Fraccaro, FaithAction House

What support does the CLINIC network want?

Inspiration

Example: Information on successful models

Guidance

Example: Assistance with performance measurement and program development

Support

Example: More information on how to make integration a priority

What support does the CLINIC network want?

Inspiration

- Affiliate program highlights within the CLINIC network
- Center for Immigrant Integration website
- Visionaries project: Story of Us

What support does the CLINIC network want?

Guidance

- Webinars and toolkits on specific subjects
- Partnering with prominent groups (CCUSA, USCCB, Welcoming America)
- Text4refugee Campaign
- Adaptable resources that can be used locally in their name (2017)
- Workshops at CLINIC Convening and at various events

What support does the CLINIC network want?

Support

- Recommendations for federal integration initiatives and other national endeavors
- Immigrant Integration Partners
- Citizenship Navigators project
- Tools to assess agency readiness & client perspectives on immigrant integration



What has CLINIC learned through this work?

Successful immigrant integration programming results from purposeful planning, execution, and evaluation.



What has CLINIC learned through this work?

Coffee and Conversation

Hogar Immigrant Services, Manassas, VA

“Coffee and Conversation is a great tool for all levels of learners of English. The students show an eagerness to speak and converse in their new language and get an opportunity to practice listening to spoken English. As a volunteer, I enjoy learning about the students and their diverse cultures.”

- John McKusker, volunteer teacher

“For me, it’s been very helpful. Class is very good but I like having extra practice. I am getting more comfortable speaking and it will help for when I go to my citizenship interview.”

- Alba Montiel, Citizenship class student

Questions?

Leya Speasmaker

lspeasmaker@cliniclegal.org

512-651-6138