NEW HAMPSHIRE’S ECONOMIC FUTURE RELIES ON CREATING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

As has always been the case, the well-being of New Hampshire depends on engaging residents in the social, educational, civic and economic dimensions of community life. Now more than ever, the need to recruit and retain a skilled and vibrant workforce is imperative to the success of communities throughout our state. Demographic changes and significant shifts in the economic landscape create challenges that must be addressed if we are to have a productive workforce and thriving communities in the future. It’s no secret that our population of older adults leaving the workforce is growing. This trend is creating critical workforce needs. And, over the past decade, fewer workers have moved into New Hampshire from other U.S. states.

The good news is that New Hampshire benefits from diverse foreign-born workers that reflect both breadth in place of origin and range of experiences, skills and professions. Our immigrant workers have been a reliable solution to critical workforce needs. In fact, New Hampshire ranks among the top ten states in the U.S. for the percent of foreign-born workers who have a bachelor’s degree or better. Immigrant entrepreneurs are clearly helping to expand New Hampshire’s economy. Immigrant- owned companies generate more than $250 million of the state’s annual business income.

Foreign-born workers are filling critical workforce gaps in both highly skilled and entry-level positions in New Hampshire’s economy. Communities that are welcoming and inclusive will ensure these workers stay and contribute to social, educational, civic and economic dimensions of community life. Through the NH Immigrant Integration Initiative, long-time residents and immigrants in four towns are working together to create Welcoming Communities through activities that (1) connect immigrants to economic opportunity; (2) increase civic engagement; (3) build immigrant community leadership; and (4) fight anti-immigrant bias.

With your help, we can create stronger communities and a stronger future for all.

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Connect with a Welcoming Community in your region!

- **Welcoming New Hampshire (state-wide):** Eva Castillo ([ecastillo@miracoalition.org](mailto:ecastillo@miracoalition.org))
- **Welcoming Concord:** Jim Snodgrass at Second Start ([jsnodgrass@second-start.org](mailto:jsnodgrass@second-start.org))
- **Welcoming Manchester:** Lindsey Shaffer at Organization for Immigrant and Refugee Success ([lshaffer@refugeesuccess.org](mailto:lshaffer@refugeesuccess.org))
- **One Greater Nashua:** Liz Fitzgerald at the United Way of Greater Nashua ([lfitzgerald@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:lfitzgerald@unitedwaynashua.org))
- **Laconia:** Kate Bruchacova at Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health ([kbruchacova@lrpph.org](mailto:kbruchacova@lrpph.org))

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