

Examples of Successful Welcoming Efforts

Local Government

Nashville's MyCity Academy empowers New Americans to understand and participate in Nashville's government. More than thirty countries have been represented so far among MyCity participants since its launch in 2012. This program was the first of its kind in the nation. Over the course of seven months, MyCity participants meet with leaders from Metro departments and tour Metro facilities, gaining a better understanding of how their government works, learning how to resolve issues and obtain information.

New Americans Corners/Citizenship Corners – This partnership between cities and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provides dedicated spaces in public libraries and community centers for citizenship materials and other immigration-related topics. In 2015 New York City established Corners in 217 library branches. The Department of Small Business Services partnered to help provide free business resources and information to immigrant entrepreneurs, who represent nearly half of NY City's small business owners. Other cities with similar "Corners" include Nashville, Chicago, Boston, and Fresno.

www.uscis.gov/citizenship/organizations/libraries/citizenship-corners

Newcomer and Receiving Community Dialogues for Policy Development

Boulder County, CO - The County developed policymaker dialogues that brought together school board members, city council members, county commissioners and city administrators to meet with both documented and undocumented immigrants to hear directly from the community. The county government now uses these dialogues and frames them as dialogues for inclusion and involvement, focusing on all populations in need, including those in poverty and the homeless. For more information, contact Leslie Irwin at lrwin@bouldercounty.org.

Building Meaningful Connections Through Emergency Preparedness

Cupertino, CA - In 2000 Cupertino City Manager David Knapp organized block parties and then identified a diverse group of block leaders who set about mapping their neighborhoods and gathering contact information. Block captains reach out to new families, share the email list and let them know about upcoming trainings or events in the neighborhood. (A "welcome wagon" function.) An unintended positive consequence has been that the city's costs of enforcing code violations have plummeted because neighbors are now much more likely to work out disagreements directly rather than involve city government. A block leader brochure, binder and other materials available at: www.cupertino.org/blockleader

The City Task Force on Foreign-Trained Professionals in Boston is one of the first in the country. It's exploring how city government can support residents who have received workforce training or higher education from outside of the United States.