

Immigrant-Friendly Cities

Lessons from around the world



Welcoming Cities Matter

- Evidence newcomers are falling behind Canadian counterparts in employment and income, and other determinants of health
- *FCM (2011) Starting on Solid Ground*





Welcoming Cities Matter

- Newcomers require a range of specific supports and services to settle and fully participate in their communities

Agrawal, et al. (2007). Immigrants Needs and Public Service. Plan Canada.

Bernhard, Hyman, Tate (2008). Meeting the Needs of Immigrants. PNSG





Welcoming Cities Matter

- Economic development
 - Immigrant entrepreneurs – key engines of growth and economic revitalization.
 - Center for an Urban Future (2007) *A World of Opportunity*, NCFNP (2004) *Immigration and Urban Revitalization*





Welcoming Cities Matter

- Lower crime rates
 - Immigration settlement connected to reduction in crime rates in neighbourhoods.
 - New York Times (2006) *Do Immigrants Make Us Safer?*
- Higher property values
 - Immigration settlement connected to increase property values (and property taxes).
 - Alexis de Tocqueville Institution (2000) *There Goes the Neighborhood ---UP: A look at property values and immigration in Washington, DC.*



Academics advise coherent policy

“Cities are developing founding principles that stress the economic and social rights of immigrants and opt for diversity... These complementary measures are necessary for economic integration initiatives to be successful at the local level.”

Roland Roth

Magdeburg-Stendal University





Cities are making commitments

The world's most immigrant-friendly city --- *Chicago*

To become a nationally recognized immigrant friendly city --- *Dayton*

A welcoming community where immigration is supported and encouraged

--- *Halifax*





Cities are making commitments

- Office for Intercultural Work, *Munich*
- Pact for Integration, *Stuttgart*
- Immigration Bureau, *Bilbao*
- Diversity Charter, *Copenhagen*
- Immigration Action Plan, *Halifax*



Office of intercultural Work, Munich

Many cities are adopting specific strategies, standards and targets to become immigrant friendly

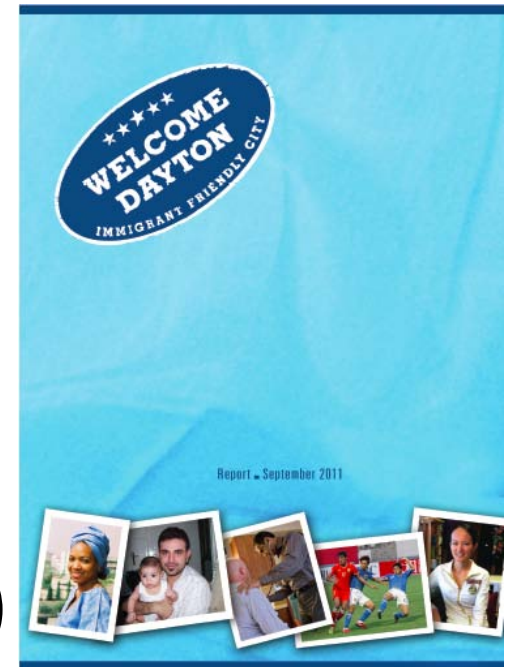
- *Dayton*
- *Copenhagen*
- *New York*
- *Surrey*
- *Boston*
- *Philadelphia*
- *Halifax*
- *Wuppertal*
- *Stuttgart*
- *Chicago*
- *Houston*
- *Littleton*
- *Baltimore*
- *Oslo*
- *Oakland*
- *Washington*
- *Bilbao*
- *Seattle*
- *Tilburg*
- *Bremen*
- *Boulder*
- *Vienna*
- *Auckland*
- *Turin*
- *San Francisco*



Service Access

Cities adopt strategies to improve access to services for immigrants

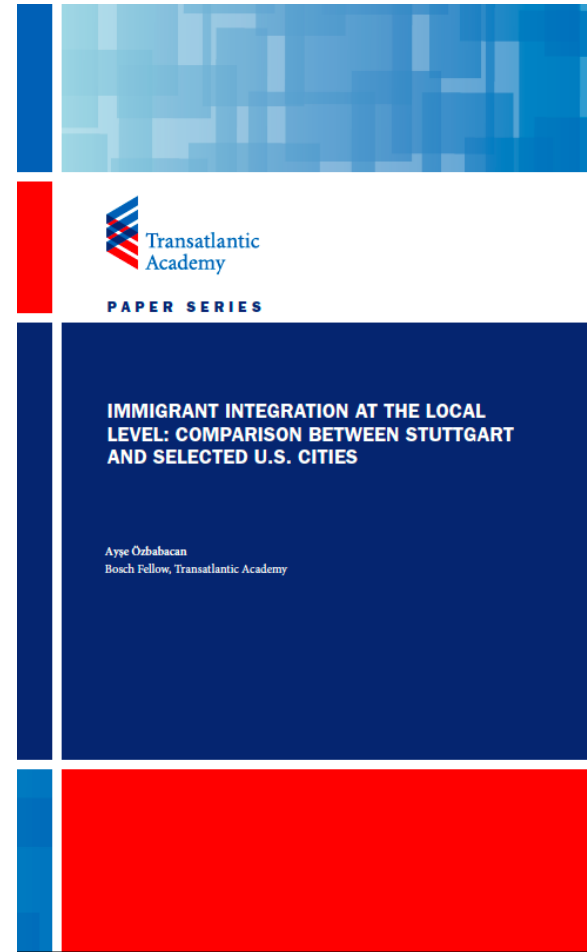
- Programs to help immigrants learn about and navigate of city services (Dayton)
- Welcome stations offer info, resources and services (Chicago)
- Performance tracking on immigrant access to services (Chicago)





Service Access cont'd

- Training for employees and volunteers (Chicago, Dayton, Tilburg)
- Online portals with guides to immigrant services (Chicago, Dayton, Detroit)
- Service provider networks (Dayton)
- Language access has augmented services access requirements





Language Access

- Language access directives (Oakland, San Francisco, D.C. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Seattle, Chicago)
- Live interpretation for any department with over 30 staff (Oakland, San Francisco, D.C.)
- Language access plans required of all major departments. (D.C., San Francisco, New York)





Language Access cont'd

- Interpretation at public meeting if requested (Seattle, Oakland, San Francisco)
- Bulk purchase telephone interpretation for cross department access (Philadelphia)
- Itinerant professional and volunteer-based interpreter services (Dayton, Boston)
- Established Office or Director responsible for implementing effective language access (San Francisco, D.C.)



Civic Engagement

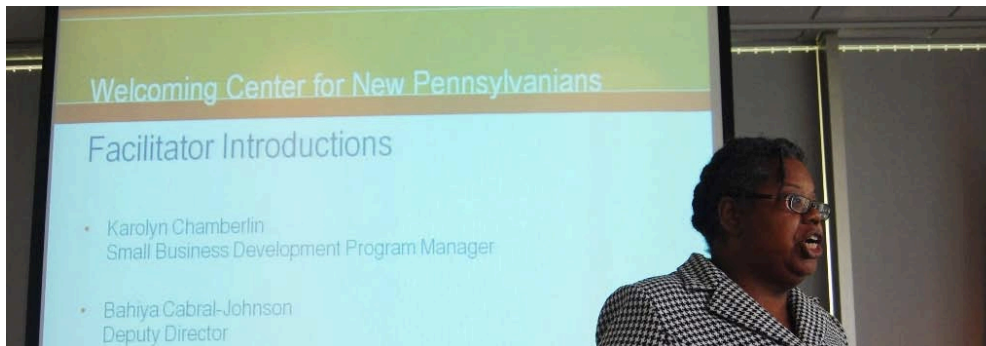
- Civic engagement classes (Chicago, Dayton)
- Link migrants to civic opportunities (Chicago)
- Systematic outreach with immigrant groups (Boulder, Philadelphia, Boston)
- Mobile City services visit immigrant-owned businesses (Chicago)





Civic Engagement cont'd

- Community outreach with immigrants to address issues (Boston, Philadelphia)
- Enhance capacity of non-profit immigrant service providers (Detroit)
- A workgroup of more than 125 stakeholders contributed to Welcome Dayton plan





Civic Engagement cont'd



- City television series that helps adults practice English and navigate public services such as schools
- Over 500 conversation circles use episodes to discuss concerns of immigrants
- Estimate that 4000 New Yorkers have improved their English skills as a result



Urban planning shapes settlement

- Support urban spaces that are welcoming, inclusive and encourage settlement
- “Municipal governments typically regulate the use of urban space. They play a critical gatekeeping role in what can be built and happen.” Myer Siemiatycki
- Policy and Practice Index of Multicultural Planning *Mohammed Qadeer*



Urban planning shapes settlement

- Focused planning for strategic immigrant neighbourhoods (Dayton)
- Preserve zoning areas for small and mid-sized light industry and commercial supply firms – typically owned by immigrants and minority residents (Boston)



Arts, Culture and Recreation

- Remove barriers to participating in arts programs (Dayton)
- Staff dedicated to multicultural programs in libraries (Auckland, New York)
- Make parks welcoming and accessible for immigrants (New York)
- Recreation Programs designed to attract immigrants (Brisbane)



Economic Development

- Small business incubator with shared kitchen to help immigrant entrepreneurs launch business (Chicago)
- Community-wide campaign promoting immigrant entrepreneurship (Dayton)
- Migrant Entrepreneurs in Munich program
- Program to support migrant entrepreneurs in their 1st language (Vienna)



Employment

- OMEGA mentoring Programme links immigrants to similarly skilled business people. (Auckland)
- At Europe's largest open-air market, unlicensed merchants legal status. (Turin)
- Promote immigrant tourists (Chicago)



Mayors establish structures

- Houston: Mayor's Office of International Communities
- NYC: Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Philadelphia: Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs
- Boston: Mayor's Office of New Bostonians



Executive Order 3-2013:
Whereas Philadelphia is a city founded and built by immigrants ...





FCM 's View

1. Settlement services on a long term, expanded track
2. Clear targets for successful settlement
3. Municipalities and settlement partners
4. Municipal services that better serve immigrants

FCM FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES / FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS

STARTING ON SOLID GROUND:
THE MUNICIPAL ROLE IN
IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT



www.fcm.ca



Our Own Vision?

- Comprehensive, multi-departmental plans for all service areas: Economic Development, Planning, Recreation, Grants ...
- Commitments to accessible services in ALL major departments: MLS, TPH, TESS, Children's Services
- Active outreach and engagement
- Targets and standards
- Municipal Leadership



Upcoming Events

- Exploring Municipal Models
June 7th, 10:00 AM,
Meeting Room B
Second Floor, City Hall
- Implementation Plan for Newcomer Strategy
June 26th, 9:30 AM
Committee Room 1
Second Floor, City Hall