



Immigration Task Force Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 9am-10am

ATTENDEES

First	Last	Affiliation
Bill	Bateson	Commissioner
Kaleb	Brown	United Way of Hancock County
Laura	Casati	Hope House
Sarah	Clevidence	Findlay Hancock Public Library
Mary	Cruz Lucio	volunteer currently working with immigrants
Belinda	Ernst	Mission Possible
Joanne	Fyfe	Ohio State University Extension
Hachemy	Gabriel	Empowering Integration Solutions
Sterling	Helms	BVHS
Charity	Hensley	City Mission
Bill	Kose	BVHS
Rob	Martin	COF
James	Mathias	Findlay Police Department
Christina	Muryn	City of Findlay
Wendy	McCormik	Habitat for Humanity
Tracy	McMath	Findlay First Presbyterian Church
Cheryl	Miller	Hancock Public Health
Dionne	Neubauer	Chamber of Commerce
Natalie	Phoenix	Director of Emergency Services, BVH
Stephanie	Renn	Director of Student Services, FCS
Ron	Rooker	Executive Director, CHOPIN Hall
Jena	Roth	Hancock County WIC
Crystal	Weitz	HHWP Community Action Commission
Jennifer	Little	OSU Extension
Holly	McGhee	Chopin Hall
Amy	Fox	First Presbyterian Church
Cassie	Turner	The Community Foundation
David	Zuber	YWCA CCR+R



Jaclynn	Hohman	City of Findlay
Nancy	Hiser	College First Church
Justin	Hendren	Findlay Police Department, Captain
Dustin	Fuller	Habitat for Humanity FOC
Evila	Saldana	The Associated Charities
Rebecca	Padron	Hope House
Kurt	Bishop	Bishop-Kandel Rentals; Mission Possible
Anita	Bishop	BVHS
Shawn	Carpenter	Probate and Juvenile Court
Aly	Casto	ADAMHS
Jennifer	Davis	Hancock Public Health
Rene	Gabriel	Mission Possible

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Muryn welcomed the group. She reminded the group that the majority of individuals we are seeing are documented and that we are not paying for them or bringing them here. People are looking for better lives. Let's make sure we take care of people while protecting our systems and continue to make sure that they continue to work for the community. We need to be advocating for change at the federal level. We need to make sure that people understand the social services. She encouraged the group to take time to learn the process so that they can better help people in the immigration process. She reviewed a few slides that outline the complexity of the federal immigration process.

Zach Thomas presented the draft strategic plan (Attachment A) and explained that it was compiled based on the conversations that have been occurring in the community. It is still in draft mode because we wanted to present it to the group first for input and feedback. This has been presented at the No Wrong Door event. This work should be used as a way to navigate clear communication to the community. Mayor Muryn shared a story of orphanages in Haiti and the current status of affairs in the country including the lack of government and overall gang control.

Sarah Clevidence said wording on the second goal of the workforce section should be looked at. The representative from Chopin Hall asked for clarification on who First Diversity Staffing is. Mayor Muryn explained the functions of their organizations. Shawn Carpenter shared suggestion that there were no items in the strategic plan related to the youth. This should be addressed. Dr. Kose explained some of the challenges that the health care system has been experiencing. He highlighted the need for immigrant voices to be part of this conversation. There is a need for healthcare checkpoints, they are having conversations with Lima who has someone in their system who has devised a system that could be adopted. He believes that one of the asks would be to consider a community clinic for all individuals.



Mayor Muryn agrees that immigrants need to more involved in the conversation, we need to build relationships and trust. Commissioner Bateson asked if First Diversity has the resources to help with translation. Mayor Muryn said that they provide some initial assistance but limited capacity on assisting with translation services. She will follow back up to see if they may be able to provide financial support the for ESL classes. . We need people to review the plan and the next stages are reaching out to people who can really help get this off the ground. The group identified language as the greatest and most urgent need to address with translation resources. We are looking into ways that we could possibly get a community wide contract and what that could look like. If agencies can start to quantify what their need it that is helpful when considering what the true need is. Commissioner Bateson said that JFS has seen increase in translation expenses and the County will be supplementing for those costs.

Mayor Muryn said that there are certain items on the plan that a lead has not been identified and we will start having conversations with people who are interested in taking that on. Hachemy said that the translation services can work but people are better because the cultural differences can be missed in definitions. There are always people willing to learn if there is a place for them to do so and for them to sign up.

Zach said that the Delegation is focused on looking into ways to incorporate the voices that are needed into the work of the plan. It needs to be written in the plan that that is a priority.

Mayor Muryn thanked the group for the time and said that she would be in touch with the next meeting date as well as updates on the strategic plan.



Attachment A

GUIDING PHILOSOPHY OF THE IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

- Treat humans as humans.
- Look for efficiencies in our existing system.
- Engage the local community of volunteers.
- Advocate for immigration reform at the federal level.
- Embrace the positive contributions that immigrant populations offer to the community.
- The work of the Immigration Task Force is to provide a short-term process to assist in the enhancement of the existing social-service network to meet the needs of the growing immigrant populations. It is to be explicitly known that the work of the Immigration Task Force does not advocate for the redistribution of any social services from local community members. In fact, the work of the Immigration Task Force has highlighted areas of disparity among our local community members and supports efforts to sustain, improve, and increase the delivery of social services to all residents of Findlay-Hancock County.

CHALLENGE STATEMENT

Findlay-Hancock County is experiencing an increase in the number of residents who have immigrated from other countries. This increase in immigrant populations has created a significant strain on social services agencies. It is imperative that Findlay-Hancock County respond to this challenge through a collective response because not doing so will result in social services becoming overwhelmed and unable to effectively provide support to community members.

THEORY OF CHANGE

If Findlay-Hancock County develops and implements a coordinated strategy to effectively and efficiently address challenges resulting from increasing immigrant populations, then the community will be able to provide an appropriately scaled response through a streamlined social services network that offers support to and promotes the health, wellness, and safety of all residents.

ROOT CAUSE

- Approximately 5.0% (588,840) of Ohio’s residents are foreign-born.¹
- 18.0% (106,151) of the immigrant population in Ohio is undocumented.¹
- 6.2% (371,038) percent of Ohio’s labor force is comprised of immigrants.¹
- 1.10% (4,081) of the employed immigrant population in Ohio is undocumented.¹
- Approximately 63,741 refugees live in Ohio.¹
- Approximately 93.40% (59,534) of refugees are employed in Ohio.¹

LOCAL CONDITION

- Based on current estimates, Findlay-Hancock County currently has an immigrant population of 300-500 individuals that are living and/or working in the community.²
- Based on discussions with social services agency leaders and the Center for Civic Engagement Coalition Chairs, the following areas of concern were identified: Language; Culture, Housing; Transportation; and Food Security.² Each of these areas have unique and shared challenges which must be addressed in order to effectively maintain a robust and reliable social services network for all residents of Findlay-Hancock County.
- There is a critical need to develop a comprehensive data collection process to provide relevant and accurate data related to immigration populations in Findlay-Hancock County.

OUTCOMES

- **Short Term – *Change in Awareness & Knowledge (1-2 years)***
 - Residents of Findlay-Hancock County are aware of the true scope of challenges resulting from the increase in immigrant populations.
 - Immigrant populations of Findlay-Hancock County are aware of social services available and where else to access appropriate supports in times of need.

- **Mid-Term – Change in Behavior (2-5 years)**
 - Residents of Findlay-Hancock County can appropriately and effectively respond to social services needs of immigrant populations.
 - Residents of Findlay-Hancock County can appropriately respond to the cultural differences of immigrant populations.
 - Immigrant populations of Findlay-Hancock County can appropriately access social services.
 - Immigrant populations of Findlay-Hancock County can appropriately engage in the community.
- **Long-Term – Change in Status (5+ years)**
 - Findlay-Hancock County can support, maintain, and increase the social services network for all residents.

STRATEGIES

Highlighted action items have been identified as priority by the Center for Civic Engagement Coalition Chairs, based on action items recommended by the Immigration Task Force (February 5, 2024)³.

ACTION ITEM	LEAD ORGANIZATION	OUTCOME TYPE	TIMELINE	CURRENT PROGRESS/NOTES
GENERAL				
Complete a thorough cross walk of all social services offered in the community with references to services offered to immigrant populations	Immigration Task Force; CCE Coalition Chairs	Short-Term		
Determine healthcare barriers among immigrant populations; develop appropriately scaled response to reduce barriers	Health Coalition; Blanchard Valley Health System; Hancock Public Health	Short-Term		Currently, immediate health care needs (e.g. BVHS ED) are met. Concerns regarding preventative and perinatal care, and payment of such services are being addressed by health system.

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Develop/implement a Community Liaison position at Hancock Public Health	Health Coalition; Hancock Public Health	Long-Term		This position would employ a member of the immigrant population.
Create a comprehensive data collection process to measure the impact of immigrant communities and allow for a continued appropriately scaled response		Long-Term		
Ensure the voices of immigrant communities are included in all aspects of community planning	Immigration Task Force; The Delegation	Long-Term		To ensure we are successfully understanding culture, meeting needs of immigrant communities, and developing positive relationships, immigrant voices must be included in all discussions
Support schools in meeting needs of immigrant children and families (including addressing preparation for workforce, secondary education, childcare, transcripts, etc.)	Immigration Task Force	Long-Term		
WORKFORCE				
Increase cooperation of First Diversity staffing agency to address unintended consequences		Short-Term		Opportunity: Office of the Mayor to meet with First Diversity to discuss unintended consequences of

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of recruiting immigrant population workforce				recruiting immigrant population workforce.
Increase cooperation of all employers to participate in efforts to address unforeseen challenges of hiring immigrant populations	Workforce Coalition; Raise the Bar	Short-Term		Opportunity: Department of Development convene state-wide meeting to discuss unintended consequences; best practices of managing increasing immigrant population workforce. Opportunity: Convene meeting with local manufacturers/employers to discuss unintended consequences.
Determine appropriate ways to assist immigrant populations with barriers to gainful employment	Workforce Coalition;	Mid-Term		
LANGUAGE				
Create language cards with common phrases (distribute broadly throughout community; social service agencies)		Short-Term		
Create a summary document of translation services and resources (apps, organizations, phone services, etc.)	Immigration Task Force	Short-Term		IDENTIFIED AT AS TOP PRIORITY BY IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE (4.17.24)
Create an informal translators list (individuals	Immigration Task Force	Short-Term		

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qualified to help in situations that do not require certified translators)				
Create a formal list of certified translators	Immigration Task Force	Short-Term		
CULTURE				
Focus on community-based education regarding immigration process; understanding cultural differences	The Delegation; Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Black Heritage Library & Multicultural Center	Short-Term		Outlines of programs developed late 2023, revise and review outlines, plan for community education events/opportunities Q2-Q4 of 2024. It is imperative for the Immigration Task Force to ensure a unified message on progress IDENTIFIED AS A TOP PRIORITY BY IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE (4.17.24)
Promote events and activities that celebrate cultures	The Delegation; Findlay-Hancock County Convention and Visitors' Bureau	Short-Term		
Provide support to Cultural Connections, Borderless Connection Committee, Black Heritage Library &	The Delegation	Long-Term		

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Multicultural Center, Arts & Heritage Council				
Reinforce the importance of separating national immigration reform challenges from the needs of immigrants in community	Immigration Task Force	Long-Term		Opportunity: Findlay-Hancock County work with federal legislators (Latta, Brown, Vance)
HOUSING				
Educate immigrant population on housing culture and regulations	Housing Coalition; Affordable Housing Alliance	Short-Term		
Translate leases to increase accessibility and understanding for immigrant populations	Housing Coalition; Affordable Housing Alliance	Short-Term		
Encourage landlords to work with employers to get background check information	Housing Coalition; Affordable Housing Alliance	Mid-Term		
TRANSPORTATION				
Study/develop potential plan for fixed-routes for better access to employment, medical appointments, etc.	Transportation Coalition; Community Action Commission	Long-Term		
Study/develop opportunities to provide transportation to 2 nd /3 rd shift employees	Transportation Coalition; Community Action Commission	Long-Term		This work is currently in development.
FOOD SECURITY				

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Create translated community resource information pamphlets for immigrant populations	Food Security Coalition	Short-Term		
Offer a resource fair (similar to No Wrong Door/Helping Hands) with translation services available on site	Food Security Coalition	Mid-Term		

¹American Immigration Council, *New Americans in Ohio*, 2023

²Letter to Findlay City County from Mayor Christina Muryn, February 6, 2024

³Immigration Task Force Meeting Minutes, February 5, 2024

New Americans in Ohio



Ohio is home to a sizable immigrant community. About 5.0 percent of the state’s residents are foreign-born, and 2.3 percent of its U.S.-born residents live with at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants make up 6.2 percent of Ohio's labor force and support the local economy in many ways. They account for 8.5 percent of entrepreneurs, 11.7 percent of STEM workers, and 6.6 percent of nurses in the state. As neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers, immigrants are an integral part of Ohio’s diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit all.

OVERVIEW¹

Immigrant residents ²	588,840
Immigrant share of population	5.00%
Immigrant taxes paid	\$6.5B
Immigrant spending power	\$17.4B

DEMOGRAPHICS

In the United States, immigrants are more likely to be working-age than their U.S.-born counterparts. This means they are more likely to be active in the labor force, allowing them to contribute to the economy not only as consumers but also as taxpayers, helping fund social services and programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Share of immigrant women	49.30%
Share of immigrant men	50.70%
Number of immigrant children	48,948
Share of total population who are U.S.-born residents living with at least one immigrant parent	2.30%
Number of U.S.-born residents living with at least one immigrant parent	252,100
Share of Foreign-Born that are proficient in English	83.30%

Age Group	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
0-15	6.80%	20.10%
16-64	76.80%	61.90%
65+	16.40%	17.90%

New Americans in **Ohio**

Top Countries of Origin for Immigrants

India	11.00%
Mexico	6.60%
China	5.00%
Philippines	3.10%
Somalia	3.00%

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

It is hard to overstate the importance of entrepreneurship since new businesses are the main driver of job growth in the United States. Immigrants play a particularly important role in this—founding businesses at far higher rates than the U.S. population overall. Today, millions of American workers are employed at immigrant-founded and immigrant-owned companies.

Immigrant entrepreneurs	38,399
Share of entrepreneurs who are immigrants	8.50%
Total business income of immigrant entrepreneurs	\$1.4B

TAXES & SPENDING POWER

Immigrant households contribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, state, and local taxes and hold a tremendous amount of spending power. This gives them significant economic clout, helping support local communities as consumers and taxpayers. Like all residents of the United States, regardless of where they were born, immigrants make use of public services like education, healthcare, and public safety. Even with these costs, however, immigrants' economic contributions far outweigh the cost of additional public services they incur.

Immigrant household income	\$23.9B
Total taxes paid	\$6.5B
Federal taxes paid ³	\$4.3B
State & local taxes paid ⁴	\$2.3B
Total spending power	\$17.4B

New Americans in **Ohio**

WORKFORCE

The growth in the immigrant population has helped to strengthen America's labor force. As baby boomers retire, younger immigrants are filling crucial gaps in the labor market. Nationally, immigrants are more likely to hold an advanced degree than the U.S.-born. They are also more likely to have less than a high school education. As such, they are able to fill critical shortages at both ends of the skill spectrum, from high-tech positions to agriculture, hospitality, and service jobs.

Number of immigrant workers in the labor force	371,038
Share of workers in the labor force who are immigrants	6.20%

Education Level	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
Less than high school	16.60%	7.70%
High school & some college	40.80%	62.50%
Bachelor's degree	20.30%	18.70%
Graduate degree	22.30%	11.10%

Top Industries with Highest Share of Immigrant Workers

Nail salons and other personal care services	22.90%
Taxi and limousine service	22.50%
Warehousing and storage	21.40%
Electronic component and product manufacturing, n.e.c.	17.40%
Electronic shopping and mail-order houses	17.30%

Top Occupations with Highest Share of Immigrant Workers

Manicurists and pedicurists	50.60%
Physical scientists, all other	32.80%
Packers and packagers, hand	32.10%
Physicians	30.10%
Taxi drivers	26.10%

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Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are some of the most in-demand jobs in the U.S. economy. These jobs are also expected to experience some of the highest growth rates in the next decade, second only to healthcare jobs. While immigrants already play a huge part in maintaining the United States' role as a leading innovator, immigrants will also be instrumental in helping high-tech industries meet their full potential as their needs for high-skilled STEM workers rapidly increases in the future.

Share of STEM workers who are immigrants ⁵	11.70%
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Healthcare

As millions of baby boomers become elderly, the U.S. healthcare system is facing unprecedented demand, adding jobs faster than any other segment of the economy. Many healthcare businesses and providers are struggling to find enough workers, and in some rural areas shortages are particularly acute. Immigrants have already been filling some of our most glaring healthcare needs. They are twice as likely as the U.S.-born to work as home health aides, and twice as likely to work as physicians and surgeons.

Nurses who are foreign-born	6.60%
Health aides who are foreign-born	8.20%

HOUSING

Immigrant families have long played an important role in helping to build housing wealth in the United States. In recent decades, the more than 40 million immigrants in the U.S. collectively increased U.S. housing wealth by trillions of dollars. Much of this was possible because immigrants moved into neighborhoods once in decline, thus helping to revitalize communities and make neighborhoods more attractive to U.S.-born residents.

Immigrant homeowners	143,342
Share of recent homebuyers who were foreign-born	6.20%
Housing wealth held by immigrant households	\$38.9B
Amount paid by immigrant-led households in rent	\$1.2B

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS⁶

International students in the United States contribute tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy every year and support a significant number of U.S. jobs through their tuition payments and day-to-day spending. Research has also found that increases in the number of international students at American universities boost innovation and patent creation.

Students at U.S. colleges and universities who are international students	31,146
Economic contribution of international students	\$1.0B
Jobs supported by international students	9,835

New Americans in **Ohio**

NATURALIZATION & VOTING POWER

As more immigrants naturalize and become eligible to vote, they continue to gain political power. The number of immigrant voters is only projected to rise in the next decade, and in some states foreign-born voters are already capable of deciding elections.

Share of immigrants who are naturalized U.S. citizens	54.40%
Number of immigrants who are naturalized U.S. citizens	320,134
Number of immigrants who are eligible for naturalization	93,050
Number of immigrants eligible to vote	308,788

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

The presence of a significant number of undocumented immigrants in the United States, most of whom have lived in the country for more than five years, poses many legal and political challenges. But while politicians continue to debate what to do about illegal immigration, millions of undocumented immigrants are working across the country, contributing billions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

Number of undocumented immigrants ⁷	106,151
Share of undocumented immigrants who are working age	81.80%
Undocumented entrepreneurs	-
Undocumented household income	\$2.8B
Total taxes paid ⁸	\$360.8M
Federal taxes paid	\$220.7M
State & local taxes paid	\$140.1M
Total spending power	\$2.4B
Share of immigrant population who are undocumented immigrants	18.00%
Share of workforce that is undocumented	1.10%
Share of population that is undocumented	0.90%
Number of U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member	57,798
Share of U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member	0.50%

New Americans in **Ohio**

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS (CONTINUED)

Number of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented family member	36,735
Share of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented family member	1.40%
Number of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented parent	29,102
Share of U.S. citizen children living with at least one undocumented parent	1.10%

REFUGEES⁹

Refugees living in the United States make tremendous contributions to our economy as earners, taxpayers, and consumers. Rather than a drain on communities, refugees, with their high employment rate and entrepreneurial spirit, actually sustain and strengthen their new hometowns.

Number of likely refugees	63,741
Employment rate of likely refugees	93.40%
Refugee household income	\$2.1B
Total taxes paid	\$518.9M
Federal taxes paid	\$306.6M
State & local taxes paid	\$212.3M
Total spending power	\$1.6B
Number of refugee entrepreneurs	-
Total business income of refugee entrepreneurs	-

THE DACA-ELIGIBLE POPULATION

DACA-eligible people contribute billions of dollars to the U.S. economy. Removing the protections afforded to DACA recipients would likely upset local economies, communities, and schools, hurting employers and businesses that depend on these young immigrants as workers and customers.

Number of active DACA recipients ¹⁰	3,550
Number of people with DACA granted ¹¹	4,674

New Americans in Ohio

To learn more about Map the Impact, visit maptheimpact.org.

The American Immigration Council works to empower immigrants from arrival to belonging. To learn more about the Council's work, visit americanimmigrationcouncil.org.

ENDNOTES

1. Unless otherwise specified, data comes from the American Immigration Council analysis of microdata from the 1-year sample of the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS), downloaded from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), <https://www.ipums.org/>.
2. Except where otherwise noted, an immigrant refers to anyone born outside the country to non-U.S. citizen parents who is resident in the United States. This includes naturalized citizens, green card holders, individuals holding temporary (nonimmigrant) status, refugees, asylees, and undocumented immigrants, among others.
3. Congressional Budget Office. 2022. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2019." <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58353>.
4. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP). 2018. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States (6th edition)." <https://itep.org/whopays/>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau. 2018. "STEM, STEM-related, and Non-STEM Occupation Code List 2018." <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/guidance/industry-occupation/2018-census-stem-related-and-non-stem-occupation-code-list.xlsx>
6. We use the state-level data of international students in the 2021-22 academic year from the "International Student Economic Value Tool" developed by NAFSA, <https://www.nafsa.org/policy-and-advocacy/policy-resources/nafsa-international-student-economic-value-tool-v2>.
7. We use data from the ACS to arrive at an estimate of the undocumented immigrant population by applying the methodological approach outlined by Harvard University economist George Borjas in his 2016 NBER working paper, "The Labor Supply of Undocumented Immigrants", <https://ideas.repec.org/p/nbr/nberwo/22102.html>.
8. When estimating the tax contributions of undocumented immigrants, we take into consideration the fact that about 50 percent of undocumented immigrants pay taxes using false Social Security or Individual Tax Identification numbers and follow the methodology detailed by ITEP in "Undocumented Immigrants' State & Local Tax Contributions" to discount the total amount by half, <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2017/>.
9. To identify cases in microdata from the 2021 ACS that are likely to be refugees, we use an imputation method based on each foreign-born respondent's country of birth and their year of arrival, similar to the work of Kallick and Mathema in "Refugee Integration in the United States," <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/refugee-integration-in-the-united-states/>, and Capps et al in "The Integration Outcomes of U.S. Refugees: Successes and Challenges", <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/integration-outcomes-us-refugees-successes-and-challenges>.
10. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). "Count of Active DACA Recipients by Month of Current DACA Expiration as of March 31, 2023." https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Active_DACA_Recipients_March_FY23_qtr2.pdf.
11. USCIS. "Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – Requests by Intake and Case Status, by Fiscal Year, Aug. 15, 2012 – March 31, 2023." https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performancedata_fy2023_qtr2.pdf.



OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR
CHRISTINA M. MURYN

Rob Martin, BSN, MBA
Service-Safety Director

February 6th, 2024

RE: Immigrant Task Force

Dear Honorable Council,

As you are aware over the past year the City of Findlay has seen an increase in immigrants coming to our community. My understanding is that these individuals are coming here for a variety of reasons, some have had ties or knew of our region because of past agricultural work, some are here with a staffing agency or work visas, some have found our community as they looked for a safe community with good jobs, and others are here because they were able to find housing and are working in surrounding communities (Upper Sandusky, Bowling Green, Carey, etc.)

I know this is a topic that is being brought up frequently and I wanted to provide a couple of points of clarification as well as an update on how we, as a community, are trying to wrap our arms around this new challenge.

First, I want to clarify that the City of Findlay is in no way bringing these immigrants here. They are not being bussed here by Biden, the City is not paying for them, and we are not a "Sanctuary City". As I have shared in the past, if the City interacts with an individual who cannot provide proper paperwork, and we cannot confirm its existence with proper authorities, we notify ICE. If we believe the individual is a threat to the public, we would detain them until ICE arrives. Fortunately, to my knowledge, we have not had any such situation. My goal is that the City of Findlay is a welcoming place without inviting large populations that may cause challenges to our community.

Second, there are multiple types of immigrants currently in our community. Some are here on work Visas, some are at a state in the immigration process in which they can work, and there is a population that is in the immigration process and is not able to work (this is, in my opinion, a large flaw in the immigration system, unless the immigrant is here on certain types of visas they are unable to work for the first year they are here.). Yes, there are, some individuals that are here illegally, and if law enforcement interacts with them we notify the proper authorities. As a municipality, there are limited steps beyond that that we can take. I believe it is worth noting here that the majority of our immigrant population is here legally. I also believe that significant federal reform on border security and immigration is needed and that we can both advocate for those improvements while treating individuals in our community with dignity and respect.

Third, there are at best guess between 300-500 individuals that are in our community, either living, working, or both. This may fluctuate and may grow over the next few years but this is not a goal of mine as has been inaccurately stated.

This brings me to the Immigration Task Force. As I shared a few weeks ago, the City of Findlay recognizes the challenges of seeing a larger immigrant population and though it is not one we created it is one that we must address. Yesterday, I hosted the first "official" meeting of the Immigration Task Force. This is a group of approximately 60 individuals or agencies who interact with the immigrant population regularly. Below is an outline of what I shared and what we discussed at the meeting. These reports will be provided to you on a regular basis moving forward.

Community Priorities:

- The City of Findlay wants to continue to be a safe community, that provides opportunities for a better life, and treats everyone with dignity and respect.
- Recognize that the majority of challenges faced by our immigrant population are the same challenges faced by many others in our community and that by improving these systems we are helping our community as a whole.
- Ensure managed use of resources to meet the needs of local residents while also supporting the increased demand from the immigrant population to ensure there is not a ripple effect of issues due to homelessness, inadequate healthcare, or food insecurity.

Prior to hosting yesterday's meeting, Jaclynn and I met with our established Coalition Leaders to understand what each of their coalitions was seeing. Out of these conversations, we identified the following primary areas for discussion at our Immigration Task Force, Language, Culture, Housing, Transportation, and Food Security. Below are a few initial notes on each topic.

Language:

- Continue to provide ESL classes. Expand locations through volunteers to help increase capacity.
- Nonprofits can utilize Canva for free to translate documents. Identify a few resources that can review the translations for accuracy.
- Identify local translators who can get certified rather than utilizing pricey tele-translation services.

Culture:

- Educate the population that nonprofit services are not for everyday use but for use when in need.
- Educate on laws around domestic relations.
- Educate on health screening
- Educate on the necessity of consistently using one legal identification
- Determine most appropriate ways that immigrants and community members can support each other in understanding and engagement

Housing:

- Lack of available housing at affordable price points.
- Concerns by landlords due to no credit history, lack of access to a background check
- Educate on restrictions with the number of individuals or families living in a single-family residence

Transportation:

- Coordinate with the State and DMV to get the drivers' manuals translated into other languages.
- Investigate fixed routes from denser population points to employment areas.

Food Security:

- Educate the population that nonprofit services are not for everyday use but for use when in need.
- Identify if there are specific foods that are desired more due to cultural differences
- Identify distributions and communication to ensure food is getting where it is needed.

We have asked each agency to identify what is working in their process, what issues they are seeing, solutions that could be offered, and what long-term success looks like. The administration is serving as the convener and facilitator of these conversations to ensure that the collective action items move forward. Out of the initial discussion, below are some action items that were presented by the groups.

Language:

- Create cards for people to have in their offices or to carry that include various common phrases.
- Create a resource summary document on the different language applications and translation services.
- Create an informal translators list (individuals qualified to help in situations that do not require certified translators).
- Create a formal translators list (certified translators).

Culture:

- Focus on community-based education regarding the immigration process and understanding of cultural differences.
- Provide support to Cultural Connections, Borderless Connections, the Black Heritage Library & Multicultural Center, and the Arts & Heritage Council.
- Promote events and activities that celebrate cultures.
- Reinforce the importance of separating the national immigration reform challenges from what the needs of our local community are.

Housing:

- Encourage landlords to work with employers to get background check information.
- Educate the immigrants on housing culture and regulations.
- Translate leases so that immigrants are aware of what they are signing.

Transportation:

- Explore the possibility of fixed-routes for better access to work, medical appointments, etc.
- Explore ways to begin providing transportation for 2nd and 3rd shift employees.

Food Security:

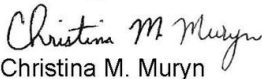
- Plan a resource fair similar to the “No Wrong Door” event with translators present so that individuals are able to learn about the community and resources available to them in one place.
- Create a translated pamphlet of community information that can be provided by employers to individuals.

I understand that this is a topic with varying opinions and many levels of complexity but I believe if we ground ourselves in the following we will be able to address the challenges in a manner in which we can all be proud.

- 1) Treat humans as humans.
- 2) Look for efficiencies in our existing system
- 3) Engage the local community of volunteers
- 4) Advocate for immigration reform at the federal level

Thank you for your understanding and support as we address this challenge.

Sincerely,


Christina M. Muryn
Mayor



Immigration Coalition Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 5, 10am-11:30am

ATTENDEES

First	Last	Affiliation
Wendy	Avina	Legal Aid of Western Ohio
Jamie	Baker	HATS
Karim	Baroudi	Hancock Public Health
Bill	Bateson	Hancock Co. Commissioner
Carla	Benjamin	Welcome to a New Life
Kurt	Bishop	Bishop-Kandel Rentals; Mission Possible
Anita	Bishop	Blanchard Valley Health System
Kaleb	Brown	United Way of Hancock County
Shawn	Carpenter	Probate and Juvenile Court
Laura	Casati	Hope House
Aly	Casto	ADAMHS
Sarah	Clevidence	Findlay Hancock Public Library
Jennifer	Davis	Hancock Public Health
Joanne	Fyfe	Ohio State University Extension
Rene	Gabriel	Mission Possible
Hachemy	Gabriel	Empowering Integration Solutions
Michael	Heldman	Hancock County Sheriff
Charity	Hensley	City Mission
Jaclynn	Hohman	City of Findlay
Missy	LaRocco	Legal Aid of Western Ohio
Kathy	Launder	City of Findlay
Sue	Lehman	Hope House
Mackenzie	Leonard	Hancock County ESC/VB + Arcadia Schools
Rob	Martin	COF
James	Mathias	Findlay Police Department
Cheryl	Miller	Hancock Public Health



Christina	Muryn	City of Findlay
Dionne	Neubauer	Chamber of Commerce
Hannah	Plumley	Hancock Public Health
Alyssa	Roach	HHWP CAC Head Staff
Jena	Roth	Hancock County WIC
Precia	Stuby	ADAMHS
Jennifer	Swartzlander	Hancock ADAMHS
Zach	Thomas	ADAMHS/CCE
Tricia	Valasek	Raise the Bar
Rick	Van Mooy	Hancock ESC
Rhonda	Waldman	Findlay City Schools
Danielle	Whitta	Hancock JFS

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Muryn welcomed the group and explained her intentions for the group. She said the City of Findlay wants to continue to be a safe community that provides opportunities for a better life and treats everyone with dignity and respect. She recognizes that the majority of challenges faced by our immigrant population are the faced by many others in our community and that by improving these systems we are helping our community as a whole. The group is meant to ensure managed use of resources to meet the needs of local residents while also supporting the increased demand from the immigrant population to ensure there is not a ripple effect of issues due to homelessness, inadequate healthcare, or food insecurity.

Our community does not have unlimited resources to take care of everything that is needed for all immigrants that are in our community. Immigration laws are made at the Federal level and unfortunately, we cannot control that at the local level. Part of the process is that for the first year immigrants are not permitted to work. They are here to make a better life for themselves. How do we support them in working for that while they are here. What are the actual objectives and things we can do to help immigrants in our community.

Muryn said that before this meeting she and Jaclynn met with the Center for Civic Engagement leaders to brainstorm how to work through issues related to immigrants. The following topics were brought forth as top issues: transportation, culture, housing, food security, language.

Education is a priority because they don't understand how we live differently here (domestic relations, number of individuals living in one space).

Muryn discussed identifying what language services that different organizations and schools are using to translate. Suggested that it could be worth it to see if there could be a group rate to cut down costs.

Muryn asked the group to identify how many individuals they are working with on a regular basis.



Anita Bishop mentioned that she is happy to send information on their translation services to the group. Muryn said that other communities have used post cards with common phrases at their businesses and it has been helpful. Precia Stuby suggested that there needs to be education on the immigration process so that people have a better understanding.

Muryn re-iterated that the City of Findlay is not sponsoring immigrations and is not bringing them to Findlay. She said that many are here on work visas, many are going through the immigration process, and some are at the point in the process where they are unable to work. If law enforcement interacts with individuals who are found to be illegal, ICE is called. If they are a threat to the public they will be detained. At this point there has not been that issue.

Muryn said the immigration process is very complicated and there are many different ways to become a citizen. She discussed creating a general information page for immigrants to fill out with a flow chart of questions to ask when they interact with agencies. If we have a better understanding of where they are in the process we will be able to help more efficiently. For instance, if someone needs to be back in Florida for a hearing does it make sense that they are here working. Is it sustainable to put down roots here if they have to be elsewhere for hearings.

Mayor Muryn asked the group to break out into discussion groups. She asked them to discuss the question prompts: what work is currently being done, what is working, identify issues in the process that you are seeing, are you able to identify solutions that the coalition could assist with, what does long term success look like.

Muryn re-convened the group and asked someone from each subgroup to share what they discussed.

The Food Security group presented. He said that there are different resources available and having a community event like no wrong door would be helpful to get immigrants the information they need in a one-stop-shop. Language and transportation barriers make it challenging to get to resources.

The Culture subgroup presented. He mentioned that the community meal at First Presbyterian for immigrants was a good success. Findlay PD had a training on culture differences. What is working is that the community is responding together. We need to work on better understanding the process of immigration in the U.S. Long term success looks like solid education on the immigration process. The business community needs to help out as well to help connect issues. We should have all cultures represented at a community event. They are hearing that immigrants are paying ~\$2,000 a month to live in hotels, how do we help them find permanent housing that is not that expensive.

The housing subgroup presented. They are working with landlords and employers to get background checks on immigrants applying for rentals. They want to make sure that immigrants know what they are signing when they sign a lease. There are health concerns from many people living in close quarters. The population deals mostly in cash. There has been good collaboration amongst agencies. The case load is increasing. They suggested having a workshop for people who have multiple needs that agencies would be present together to address the issues.

The language subgroup presented. They discussed success with written language resources. They talked about different tools that can be used to translate. We are lacking native oral translation services. Not



everyone has the literacy to read the written translations. The task force could help in finding native speakers. Could we incentivize learning different languages. Are there grants at the federal level to help pay for translation services. Would like to discuss combining translation service resources across organizations.

The transportation subgroup presented. People are using HATs more for medical appointments than workforce. Churches have been providing transportation for medical services. There is a gap for second and third shift transportation for workforce. What can we do to get fixed route transportation every day. Transportation is a spoke of the wheel to get people to food, housing, etc. People are beginning to find long term housing throughout the City so it is not concentrated as much at the hotels.

Muryn said that action items will be formed out of these conversations. She will meet with the coalition leaders to identify issues. Churches and community members want to engage. We need to identify where the gaps are that government, non-profits, and churches serve best in their ways. These challenges can turn into opportunities. Please email Jaclynn with resources that have been translated. Reminded the group of the Hancock Helps website. With any other questions please email Jaclynn.

Meeting adjourned.