

# WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2015



Migrants and Cities:  
New Partnerships  
to Manage Mobility

## CITIES WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS: LOCAL STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN IMMIGRANTS

Dr. Marie Price

George Washington University

**27 Octobre 2015**  
**Palais des Nations**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

# Cities Welcoming Immigrants

It can be argued that the most forward-thinking U.S. cities are viewing immigrant retention and inclusion as a path to creating successful and sustainable places.

The U.S. has over **41 million** foreign-born residents, representing **13%** of the total population.





# Why do localities, especially cities, seek immigrants?

- Reverse Demographic Decline
- Increase competitiveness – more skilled workers (H1B and F Visas)
- Stimulate entrepreneurship – the diversity advantage argument
- Reduce Poverty and Support Housing Markets
- Respond to the Failure of the Federal Government to implement immigration reform
- Address needs of public safety and access to services (local identification cards)

**Integration of diverse groups is not easy, and cities need to purposefully develop inclusive strategies and policies if they are to function well.**



# Multi-Scaler Hierarchy of Relationships

Cities are nested in a hierarchy of relationships that extend down to immigrant-led businesses and neighborhood initiatives, and extend up to state and federal laws that influence what actions can be taken regarding immigrants.

## **Key Federal Legislation includes:**

Birthright citizenship

Privileging Family Reunification and Employment-based Sponsorship

Mandatory Access to public education through the age of 18 regardless of immigration status. No Child Left Behind and LEP children/adults

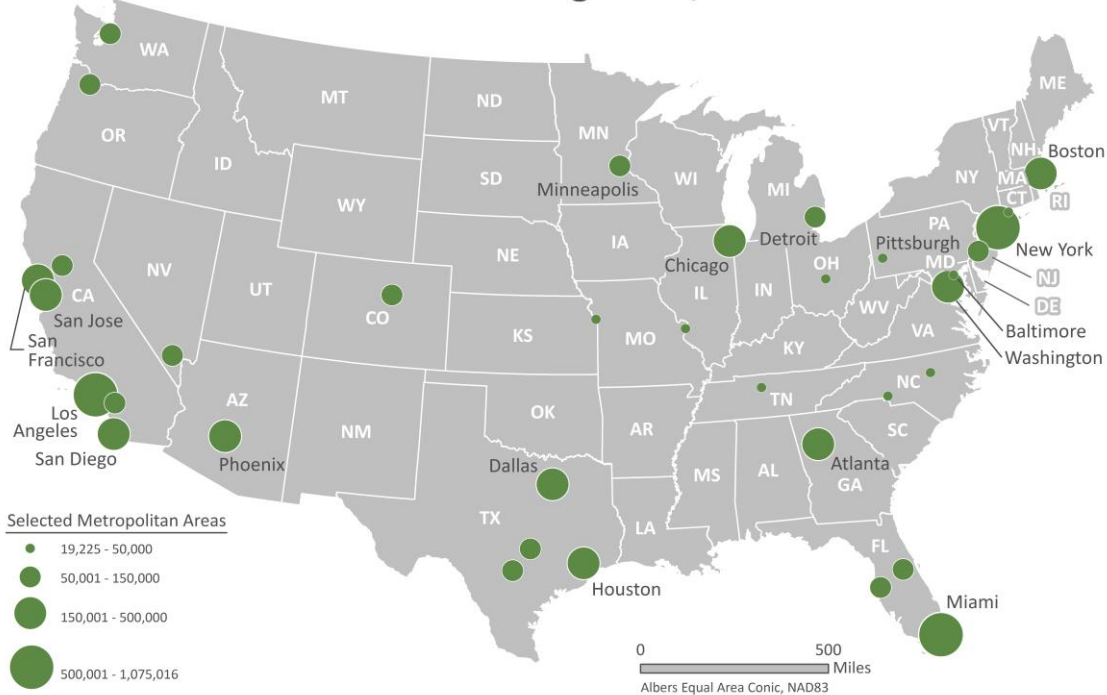
Anti-discrimination and Civil Rights legislation since the 1960s.

Yet the U.S is without an explicit national immigrant integration policy, which is distinct from other major immigrant destinations in the world.



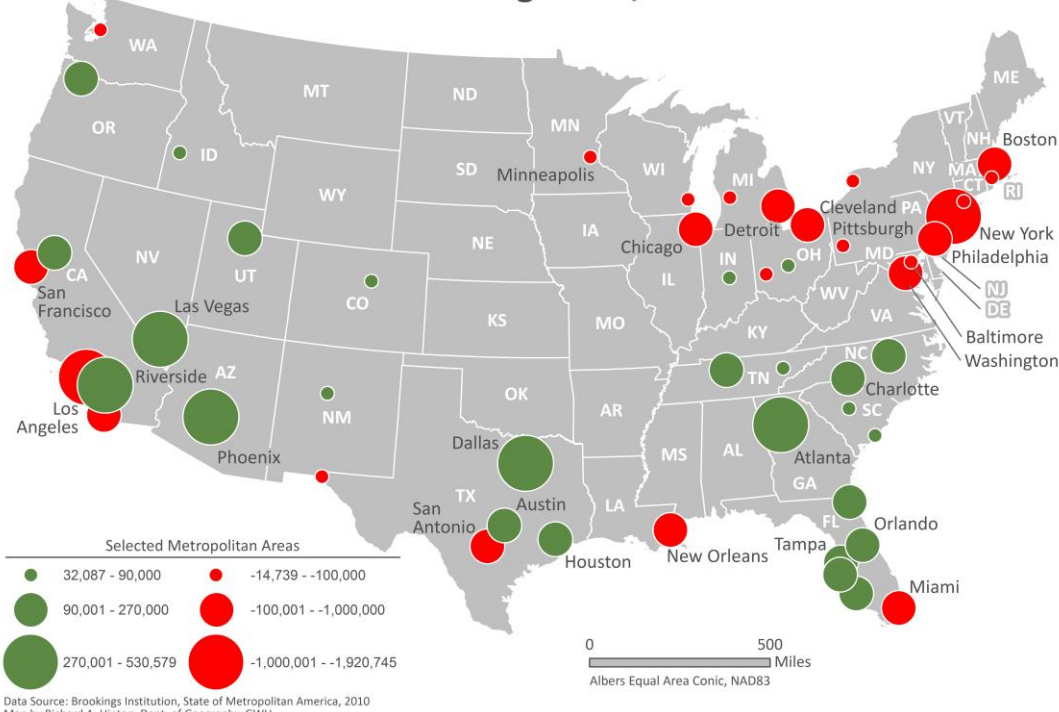
# International Migration vs. Domestic Migration, 2000-2009

## Net International Migration, 2000-2009



Data Source: Brookings Institution, State of Metropolitan America, 2010  
Map by Richard A. Hinton, Dept. of Geography, GWU

## Net Domestic Migration, 2000-2009



Data Source: Brookings Institution, State of Metropolitan America, 2010  
Map by Richard A. Hinton, Dept. of Geography, GWU



# Continuous Gateways: New York City, Chicago and San Francisco

- Cities that have been continuous immigrant destinations such as New York City and Chicago, typically have the most developed formal out reach centers. Moreover, leaders of these cities view immigrant integration as critical to the overall health of these places. They have led many national initiatives such as Cities for Citizenship and New Partnership for America.

## **Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) in NYC**

## **Office of New Americans in Chicago**

## **Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA)**

These one-stop agencies have multi lingual websites that provide the necessary information that immigrants need to settle in an area and even establish businesses.

San Francisco made a Photo ID available in 2009. Mayor de Blasio signed a Municipal ID bill to help immigrants access services and open bank accounts in 2014. San Francisco was a leader in the sanctuary policy, which began in 1985 in response to the rise in Central American Refugees.

Chicago Federal Reserve created an Islam friendly lending program to assist Muslims in home buying without violating religious prohibitions against paying or receiving interest.

Metropolitan Area	Immigrant Population 2009	Percent Immigrant 2009	Immigrant Population 2013	Percent Immigrant 2013	Skill Type
New York	5,271,238	27.6	5,564,296	28.2	Balanced
Chicago	1,645,920	17.2	1,669,830	17.6	Balanced
San Francisco	1,273,780	29.5	1,310,790	29.8	High



# Former Gateways: Baltimore, Detroit, and Pittsburgh

- Leaders in these destinations have developed programs with the intent to attract and retain immigrants. Their motivations are to stem population loss and to stimulate economic activity, especially immigrant led businesses. Newcomers are also seen as agents to revitalize the housing market in these post-industrial cities. They have attracted more high skill workers. What is noted is a significant change in tone, in which immigrants are viewed as positive drivers of change
- **Global Detroit** Initiative (2010) – “an affirmative immigrant-welcoming and global-connection building effort” **Welcome Mat Detroit** – a website with immigrant services.
- Global Talent Retention Initiative – focused on retaining international students trains in Michigan. Coordinating with Michigan Office of New Americans to recruit refugees, international students and foreign investors.

**Baltimore** mayor signed a sanctuary-type ordinance in 2012. Mayor set goal to attract 10,000 immigrant families over the decade.

**Welcome Pittsburgh**, aims for 20,000 new residents in the city. *Civic Leadership Academy* that recruits immigrant business owners and community leaders. Allegheny County created an *Immigrant and International Advisory Council* in 2007.





# Former Gateways

Metropolitan Area	Immigrant Population 2009	Percent Immigrant 2009	Immigrant Population 2013	Percent Immigrant 2013	Skill Level
Detroit	393,499	8.9	379,498	8.8	High
Baltimore	222,678	8.3	252,752	9.2	High
Pittsburgh	70,918	3.0	88,999	3.8	High



# (Re)Emerging Gateways: Atlanta, Washington DC, and Minneapolis-St. Paul

These metropolitan areas experienced rapid growth in the foreign-born since 1980. With a sudden influx of immigrants, supporting institutions needed to be created. With the exception of refugee resettlement, most of these localities did not have explicit strategies to attract or settle new arrivals.

The sudden demographic change in these areas also provoked backlash, especially regarding concern over the unauthorized. Counties or states in these areas all participated in 287(g) agreements.

These metro areas lack a centralized institution for immigrant welcoming, although there are diverse country and civil society organizations.

**Washington:** Case de Maryland and the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) outreach to small businesses. Office of African Affairs in DC. Suburban counties have substantial outreach programs in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

**Atlanta** – Mayor Kasim Reed formed the Welcoming Atlanta Working Group in 2014 to reduce barriers to civic participation.

**Minneapolis-St. Paul** – African development Center created in 2003. Minnesota Business Immigration Coalition.



# (Re)Emerging Gateways

Metropolitan Area	Immigrant Population 2009	Percent Immigrant 2009	Immigrant Population 2013	Percent Immigrant 2013	Skill Level
Washington	1,103,271	20.1	1,245,847	21.6	High
Atlanta	713,333	13.0	720,964	13.4	Balanced
Minneapolis	296,932	9.1	323,423	9.5	High



# Strategies for Inclusion and Retention

- **Outreach:** city leaders and city institutions need to make an effort to communicate with immigrant groups through the use of multiple languages, multi-media programs that include web sites, and coordination with community-based organizations.
- **Data:** know your immigrant populations, where they reside, how they are organized, and develop benchmarks for measuring their levels of social and economic integration.
- **Leadership:** local leaders need to make immigrant inclusion a priority, with mayors often setting the tone if a city will be welcoming or not. The corollary is also true, if local leaders actively deflect immigrant groups from particular areas, they tend not to settle there or to leave.
- **Participation:** development of immigrant advisory boards, exposure to local governance, contacts with immigrant organizations, and the promotion of naturalization all enhance civic participation of immigrants.