Who is coming to our communities?

Welcoming New Minnesotans

Who are New Minnesotans?

In 2019, there were 476,556 immigrants living in Minnesota. This represents 8.5% of the state's population.

Top 5 countries of origin for immigrants living in the Twin Cities metro area:

- Somalia (20.3% of immigrants)
- Mexico (16.5% of immigrants)
- Ethiopia (7.2% of immigrants)
- Ecuador (5.5% of immigrants)
- India (4.8% of immigrants)

Refugees

Minnesota has the most refugees per capita in the country—it is home to 2% of the country's population but 13% of the country's refugee population.

- In Saint Paul in 2019, 44.1% of the foreign-born population (26,700 individuals) were likely refugees.
- In Minneapolis in 2019, 31.9% of the foreign-born population (20,200 individuals) were likely refugees.

Who is anticipated to arrive?

Refugees and Immigrants from the following areas are expected to arrive in the US:

- Afghanistan
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Iraq
- Burma
- Ukraine

New Climate, Language, Schools, Systems, Customs

Building a New Life

Why is welcoming important?

"Those rural communities that support inclusive development and tap into the potential of all their residents will have a competitive advantage in the economy of the future."

Noel Andrés Poyo

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community and Economic Development at the Treasury Department

"Without substantial migration, Minnesota's population will grow slowly."

Ryan Allen

Professor, University of Minnesota

Research suggests that "immigrants have significantly higher rates of entrepreneurship."

Welcoming America

Community is Welcoming	Likely to live here in 5 years
Strongly Agree	86%
Agree	77%
Disagree	68%
Strongly Disagree	44%

What resources are available to support welcoming efforts?

Resident Recruitment and Welcoming Strategy

Understand

How will you learn about the experience of becoming a newcomer in your community?

Market

How will you get the message that your community has opportunities out there?

Recruit

How will you help potential residents choose your community?

Welcome

How will your community welcome newcomers?

Manage Leaving

How will your community connect with people that leave?

Belonging

How will your community cultivate a sense of belonging for residents?

Engage

How will your community engage newcomers?

Welcome

How will your community welcome newcomers?

Welcoming Options

1

Welcome Materials

Create a welcome packet, welcome bag, or welcome guide. Have a plan to distribute.

2

Welcome Wagon

Get the welcome wagon together and visit newcomers. Make sure to coordinate your efforts with other groups.

3

Welcome Events

Hold regular welcome events for newcomers. Help newcomers build connections across the community.

4

Sustained Welcoming Initiatives

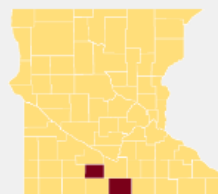Work over the long-term to make sure your community is a welcoming place. Be courageous.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Welcoming Communities Assessment

For the Minnesota communities of:

Blue Earth • Madelia

November/December 2021

Social sectors in your community

University of Minnesota Extension developed the Welcoming Communities Assessment to better understand the challenges and successes of both organizational and community-led efforts to be inclusive of all residents. To learn how welcoming or inclusive a community is, we ask questions about seven overlapping social sectors:

1. School system
2. Health care system
3. Law enforcement
4. Local government
5. Non-profit (includes social services organizations, service clubs, and local foundations)
6. Religious organizations
7. Business community/chamber

As these sectors experience and adapt to change differently, we want to understand how each sector addresses inclusion.

From our experiences...

If you aren't actively including, you're probably accidentally excluding.

DESIGNING AND CONDUCTING

Community sectors
School system
Health care system
Law enforcement
Local government
Business community
Non-profit organizations
Religious organizations

Dimensions of inclusion
Awareness of the importance of inclusion
Engagement of diverse groups in community activities
Resources to address inclusion
Leadership energy to promote inclusion
Sharing power in planning and decision-making
Policies and practices that promote inclusion

Part 1 – Awareness

Discussion: Please tell me about the ways that the business community has shown awareness of the importance of inclusion. Looking forward, what more can the business community do to increase its awareness of inclusion?

Please rate each statement about the extent to which the business community is aware of the issue of inclusion. Write any additional comments you have about these questions below.

	Don't Know	Not at all	To a Slight Extent	To a Moderate Extent	To a Great Extent
The business community is aware of the need for inclusion efforts.	0	1	2	3	4
The business community provides opportunities for training and learning about new cultures.	0	1	2	3	4
There are opportunities in the business community for long-term and new residents to come together and learn from each other.	0	1	2	3	4

ANALYZING AND REPORTING

University of Minnesota Extension
COMMUNITY VITALITY

Welcoming Communities Assessment:
New Ulm, Minnesota

Willkommen
NEW ULM

In partnership with: R9 REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota FOUNDATION

GREATER MANKATO DIVERSITY COUNCIL

EXAMPLE OF OVERALL FINDINGS

	Dimensions of inclusion					
Sector	Awareness	Engagement	Resources	Leadership energy	Sharing power	Policies and practices
School system	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.7
Health care system	2.8	2.7	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.5
Law enforcement	2.8	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.5
Nonprofit organizations	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.2	2.5	1.9
Religious organizations	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.2
Business or Chamber	2.1	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1
Local government	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.3

*Means based on a scale of 1=not at all to 4=to a great extent

Legend:	Moderate to high level of inclusion (3.0 or higher)	Moderate level of inclusion (2.5 to 2.9)	Low to moderate level of inclusion (2.0 to 2.4)	Low level of inclusion (1.9 or lower)

Journal of Extension article: Assessing Community Readiness to Engage in Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

ENGAGING - WELCOMING COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Important

To promote awareness, people need to experience what it is like being excluded. Parent buletins should be offered in Spanish as well as English.

Thank you!

Contact information:
Scott Chazdon - schazdon@umn.edu
Jennifer Hawkins - hawki044@umn.edu
Neil Linscheid - lins0041@umn.edu
Jane Graupman - JGraupman@iimn.org