

Consulting Opportunity

Opens 5/9/2022; Proposals due 5/27/2022

- Design and Launch of a Philadelphia Welcoming Network and Fund
- Research, Project Management, Design, Fund Development
- Led by Office of Immigrant Affairs, City of Philadelphia

Project Background

Like other jurisdictions, overall resettlement in Philadelphia was low from 2017-2020, resulting in a pause in resettlement work and the ramp down of 2 out of 4 local refugee resettlement agencies. When the crisis in Afghanistan started and families began arriving in the US (via Philadelphia International Airport and Dulles International Airport), we knew our local systems needed to prepare to receive Afghan refugees. The 4 local refugee resettlement agencies originally agreed to resettle five hundred Afghan evacuees, and this recently increased to seven hundred. We expect that Philadelphia may be asked to accept more evacuees down the line. The seven hundred Afghan refugees we expect to resettle is on top of the estimated 1000 refugees we already expected to resettle in federal fiscal year 2022, and the hundreds of asylum-seeking migrants we have begun to receive from the Southern U.S. border. Some of these growing immigrant communities include Haitians, Brazilians, Guatemalan and Venezuelan nationals. The totality of these immigration trends requires us, as a Welcoming City, to strengthen our local welcoming infrastructure so it can better respond to the emerging immigrant communities that are resettling into Philadelphia.

Philadelphia is a city of 1.6 million residents, and more than a quarter are immigrants or have a foreign-born parent¹. Since 1990, immigrants have been key to reversing Philadelphia's decades-long population loss² and in 2020, Census data showed that Philadelphia experienced the largest single increase in population in recent history³. This is largely attributed to the Asian and Latino populations that experienced a growth of 39% and 36% respectively over the last 10 years. Although not all Asian and Latino identified residents are immigrants, they are a part of the communities and exemplify the critical role immigrants have played in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia's experience with Operation Allies Welcome at PHL Airport highlighted the importance of city leadership's commitment to being a welcoming city. We made sure to offer culturally sensitive welcoming and language access. We also noticed the need to support the many children and families and knew that legal services and affordable housing would be priority needs for arriving Afghans. The cultural, civic, and economic vitality of our city is tied to the success of our immigrant communities. Philadelphia is ready to launch bolder and stronger policies, collaborations, and investments to strengthen our local systems so they can be most responsive to our growing immigrant communities.

Philadelphia was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Open Society Foundation to catalyze for state and local governments to play a key role in welcoming and integrating newcomers from Afghanistan. Philadelphia will be participating in a year long cohort with Welcoming America alongside 10 other funded city and state projects through March 2023.

¹ The Pew Charitable Trusts. *The State of Immigrants in Philadelphia, 2019*. April 2019.

² The Pew Charitable Trusts. *Philadelphia's Immigrants: Who they are and how they are changing the city*. June 2018.

³ Michelle Bond and John Duchenskie, "Philly's population has grown to more than 1.6 million, and the region is getting more diverse", *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 12, 2021.

Project Concept

Under the leadership of the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), Philadelphia proposes to launch a Welcoming Network that will serve as a cross section of public and private sector partners committed to the successful inclusion of immigrants, with a timely emphasis on Afghan and Haitian families. We envision this Welcoming Network to be a space where immigrant-serving organizations, immigrant leaders, business leaders, corporate partners, and local systems leaders from education, housing, public safety, judicial, healthcare and more, come together regularly to learn about emerging immigrant communities and form new partnerships that increase resources and improve policies that expand welcoming and inclusion.

The City of Philadelphia anticipates working with wide ranging public and private partners within this network structure and will coordinate closely with the Mayor's Fund for Philadelphia to execute as they are serving as the fiscal sponsors to this initiative.

The funds from Open Society Foundation would allow Philadelphia to hire a consultant that will support the establishment of the Philadelphia Welcoming Network and advance key projects from the network.

Key activities will include:

- Research and project management support to OIA in the early phases of designing and establishing the network building off the best practices established by other city initiatives such as Shared Safety and Opioid Response Unit. The Network structure will also benefit from best practices for immigrant inclusion coalitions in other cities such as Detroit, MI and Pittsburgh, PA.
- Plan and launch a Philadelphia Welcoming Fund. This requires deep engagement with local philanthropic partners with interest in immigrant inclusion and integration as well as equitable economic development in the city and region. The fund will emphasize addressing legal and housing needs.
- The Philadelphia Welcoming Fund will be informed by best practices learned from the City's work with the [PHL COVID-19 Fund](#), [Philly Counts](#), the [Kensington Resilience Fund](#), the [Violence Prevention grants](#) and the [Neighborhood Equitable Recovery Fund](#). These prior projects provided micro-grants to grow grassroots, community-based initiatives and utilized community decision-making models for grantmaking.

Deliverables:

- Philadelphia Welcoming Network structure including details on membership, participation, decision-making, accountability measures and sustaining and integrating into OIA's portfolio of work.
- Fund development plan for Philadelphia Welcoming Fund.
- Grant making plan for the Philadelphia Welcoming Fund including details for coordinating the community decision making components.
- Flyers, handouts, presentations and other visuals to communicate about this project internally and externally.

Timeline/Term of Engagement

- The consultant selected should be available to support this work from June 2022 to March 2023.

Any questions about this opportunity can be directed to Amy.Eusebio@phila.gov within the Office of Immigrant Affairs. All proposals are due by Friday, May 27th to Amy.Eusebio@phila.gov and should include anticipated tasks, costs, timeline and milestones. Please be concise in your proposal and keep to 4 pages maximum.

Anticipated Partners for the Philadelphia Welcoming Network and Fund:

- AOPxSOLA
- Bread and Roses Community Fund
- City of Philadelphia Health and Human Services agencies for housing, mental health, public health, and child welfare.
- Commerce Department
- Corporate Partners
- Families Belong Together
- Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and Ethnic Chambers of Commerce
- Haitian, Brazilian, Guatemalan, Venezuelan, Ukrainian and other relevant immigrant leaders
- Mayor's Fund for Philadelphia (fiscal sponsor)
- New Sanctuary Movement
- Pennsylvania Apartment Association
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Project Home
- Public Safety Departments: Police and Fire
- Refugee Resettlement Agencies: Bethany Christian Services, Catholic Social Services, HIAS Pennsylvania, and Nationalities Services Center
- Representatives from the 4 surrounding counties: Bucks, Delaware, Chester, and Montgomery
- School District of Philadelphia
- Vera Institute of Justice / PAIFUP Collaborative
- Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians