NEW AMERICAN ECONOMY &
WELCOMING AMERICA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Will applications be accepted from organizations that are already members of Welcoming America’s Welcoming Network or New American Economy’s Global Talent Chamber Network? Will these applications be prioritized?

A: Organizations participating in one or both of these networks are encouraged to apply. This is a competitive process, and communities inside and outside of these networks are encouraged to participate.

Q: Should nonprofits apply separately for this opportunity or combine forces with local government entities for one application?

A: To be eligible for tailored research, nonprofits must apply with a government or private sector entity. Nonprofits can be the lead applicant, but there must be partnership from another stakeholder as well. For technical assistance, nonprofit applicants must demonstrate institutional commitment from local government and an entity representing the private sector.

Q: Will communities with a more recent immigration history be at a disadvantage?

A: No. Applications from a diverse range of communities are encouraged, and no one “type” of community (large vs. small; urban vs. rural; new to immigration vs. established) will be prioritized. However, every community must clearly articulate why they are applying for the support, what they would do with it, and how it would help work towards an established goal.

Q: How should applications with more than the allotted four pages be submitted (e.g., lengthy list of partner organizations, etc.)?

A: Additional information, such as a full list of partner organizations, may be attached in an appendix. Please keep attachments to a minimum.

Q: Can states and/or regions apply?

A: Statewide organizations may submit proposals but are strongly encouraged to partner with one or more local institutions (e.g., a local government or chamber of commerce) in their proposal and to include a local/regional focus in their approach.
Q: What is the approximate timeline after the September 30th application due date? When will the selected communities be announced?

A: During our review process, communities may be asked via email to provide additional details about their proposals. Winning communities will be notified by October 28th and will be announced publicly in mid-November. Communities not selected will be notified by the 1st week of November.

Q: Can applicants request just one tier of support, or must they apply for both tiers (e.g., Research and Technical Assistance)?

A: Communities may apply for support in one or both of the two areas of support.

Q: Will applications from communities with fewer than 100,000 residents be accepted?

A: Communities with fewer than 100,000 residents may apply for technical assistance; due to methodology limitations, quantitative research cannot be provided to communities with fewer than 100,000 residents. Please see “Research Questions” for a more detailed explanation of this topic.

Q: Can you give examples of "partners" from the private sector that are preferred?

A: Chambers of Commerce, private companies, local employers, economic development corporations, and private foundations.

Q: How do we know if our locality has already applied to the program this year?

A: If we receive particularly strong applications from multiple/duplicate applicants from the same community, they will be notified and encouraged to partner.

Q: Is a strategic plan expected by December 2021 for all tiers of this award?

A: Technical assistance recipients are required to complete and publicly launch a strategic welcoming plan by December 2021. Research-only recipients are not required to produce a strategic welcoming plan.

Q: Should actual individuals be listed as part of the planning team or just organizational affiliations?

A: Either is acceptable, although when listing individuals, please include their title and affiliation (e.g., Chief of Staff to Mayor X vs. Mayor’s Office).

Q: How extensive are the demographic data that you need in the application?

A: Communities should use whatever data are available to them to describe the current demographics of their area. If specific data are not available, please give a general overview of the immigrant community in your area.
Q: Do you want just one private partner identified or are more partners preferred?

A: In general, buy-in from additional partners shows evidence of greater support, so we encourage communities to include the full list of entities they plan to partner with. Communities may attach a list of all partners to their application as an appendix, if necessary.

Q: Does the primary contact person have to be employed by the lead organization, or could it be from a partner organization?

A: It is recommended, although not required, that the primary contact be affiliated with the lead organization. If this is not the case, the application should specify how the contact person will work with the lead organization to execute the project.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Q: Can communities that have already partnered with NAE or another organization to conduct a local research study apply for additional research support?

A: Research awards will be given based on the needs of local communities. If there are unanswered research questions that can be supported by the G4G research award, such requests will also be considered.

Q: Can states—particularly those with smaller populations—apply for research assistance?

A: Statewide organizations may apply for any of the two tiers of support, including statewide research, but they are strongly encouraged to partner with local organizations (e.g., local government, chamber of commerce) and to include a local or regional component as part of their plan.

Q: Will the research primarily be analysis of existing data sets or will NAE be conducting new surveys or interviews with stakeholders?

A: Like most reports issued by NAE, the G4G research studies will be primarily quantitative analysis of existing data (e.g., American Community Survey), although they may include local stories and anecdotes developed from phone interviews with stakeholders.

Q: Will the research team advise communities on how to keep their data updated once this effort has ended?

A: NAE can advise communities on identifying sources of data and research questions for future analysis. For organizations also receiving technical assistance to create a welcoming plan, we also recommend that local research experts (e.g., from universities or other research organizations) be invited to participate in the strategic planning process to build partnerships for future research and
to help inform NAE’s research process, to the extent possible.

Q: Is the 100,000-resident requirement for a city/county or metro area?

A: The 100,000-resident minimum for the research component can be applied to any geographic area. For example, if a city/county with fewer than 100,000 residents lies within a metro area with at least 100,000 residents, that city/county may request research support, but the analysis would be conducted at the metro level.

Q: May communities combine in order to reach the 100,000-resident threshold?

A: Yes, research can be provided to most contiguous areas that reach 100,000 total residents—e.g., two communities with fewer than 100,000 residents each that fall in the same 100,000+ metropolitan area could separately or jointly apply for a research analysis of that metro area.

Q: Can a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) that covers a bi- or tri-state region that is collaborating together on a strategic plan and meets the 100,000 residents meet the requirement?

A: Yes.

Q: How will the research be conducted? Will a team come to our community?

A: NAE’s research team will work directly with local partners to identify the specific research questions and priorities for the study, and will share updates regularly as the analysis is completed. In some cases, NAE staff will also work with local partners to identify local anecdotes and stories to include in the report, which may involve interviews conducted remotely. NAE will also partner with local organizations to co-brand, release and disseminate the study.

Q: Are there any research costs that the community applying will assume?

A: There are no direct costs to the local partners to conduct the research, which is being provided through this award. There may be costs to printing and disseminating the study beyond the initial electronic dissemination to partners and media that are not covered.

Q: In your work is there any distinction made between immigrants and refugees?

A: In terms of data, the bulk of NAE’s research looks at the entire foreign-born population and does not distinguish between immigrants and refugees for this purpose. In certain circumstances, we can offer data specific to the refugee population if requested, assuming there is a large enough sample size.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS

Q: For communities that already have a welcoming plan, can technical assistance be
utilized to update the plan?

A: Communities that already have a welcoming strategic plan in place and would like to update their plan may apply for technical assistance but must clearly state why the technical assistance is needed and how the process of updating the plan will build on the existing initiative or plan.

Q: As we prepare for this strategic planning process, we are looking for consultants to help guide us. Do Welcoming America or NAE have a preference for which consultants to use? Would a local consultant with local experience be preferred?

A: Communities planning to hire consultants may choose any whom they feel are qualified. In certain cases, Welcoming America and NAE may be able to provide recommendations.

Q: How explicitly in the application do we need to describe our intentions for technical assistance?

A: Communities should be clear about why technical assistance is needed and how it will help advance their strategic planning process, but it is not required that they outline specific technical assistance activities, as these will be established in conversation with the technical assistance providers.