**AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL &
WELCOMING AMERICA
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Will applications be accepted from communities that are already members of Welcoming America's Welcoming Network?

A: Yes, Welcoming Network Members are encouraged to apply.

Q: Are Welcoming Network Members prioritized for this opportunity?

A: This is a competitive process, and communities inside and outside of the Welcoming America network 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, nonprofits must apply with a government or private sector entity. Non-profits can be the lead applicant, but there must be partnership from another stakeholder as well.

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 municipal 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 October 11th 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. Selected communities will be notified by November 1st and will be announced publicly in mid to late-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 all three tiers (e.g., Research, Technical Assistance, and a matching grant)?

A: Communities may apply for support in one, two (Research and Technical Assistance), or all three areas of support (Research, Technical Assistance, and a Matching Grant). Note that in order to apply for a matching grant, communities must also participate in direct technical assistance.

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 the "Research Questions" section below 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 or community foundations.

Q: How do we know if our city/county 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 2023 for all tiers of this award?

A: The strategic planning period itself is expected to conclude by December 2023, at this time we expect communities to have a completed and publicly launched strategic 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 demographics 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.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Q: Can communities that have already partnered with the Council 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 three 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 the Council be conducting new surveys or interviews with stakeholders?

A: Like most reports issued by the Council, 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: The Council can advise communities on identifying sources of data and research questions for future analysis. 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 the Council'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 within 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 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: The Council'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, the Council staff will also work with local partners to identify local anecdotes and stories to include in the report, which may involve interviews conducted remotely. The Council also hopes to 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 the Council'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 Initiative or plan, can technical assistance be utilized to implement accepted recommendations with other partners, private companies to create unique programming?

A: Communities that already have Welcoming Initiatives or strategic plans in place may apply for technical assistance but must clearly state why the technical assistance is needed and how the new activities the technical assistance will support 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. Does Welcoming America or the Council 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 the Council may be able to provide recommendations.

Q: Does the primary contact person(s) 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(s) be affiliated with the lead organization. If this is not the case, the application should specify how the contact person(s) will work with the lead organization to execute the project.

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.

MATCHING GRANT QUESTIONS

Q: Can we apply solely for the matching grant?

A: Matching grants offer support during the strategic planning process, and are therefore awarded only to communities that will also participate in direct technical assistance.

Q: What are ways we can use matching grant funds?

A: Ways these funds could be used include, but are not limited to, hosting an initial convening of stakeholders; hiring a consultant to advise or facilitate the planning process; supplementing staff time of a point-person for managing or facilitating the strategic planning process; hosting immigrant and refugee roundtables; and developing a community outreach and messaging campaign.

Q: How do we demonstrate commitment from a local funder?

A: The identified local funder who is committed to supporting the planning process must submit a letter of commitment by the application due date, Tuesday October 11th at 5pm local time. In the application, please also provide a line item budget explaining how the grant funds will be used over the course of the 12-month grant period. Matching grants must amount to $5,000–$12,500 and must be cash donations (in kind donations are ineligible).

Q: What are expectations should our community receive a matching grant?

A: In addition to participating in the direct technical assistance program, communities will be required to submit all required financial documentation (this can include, but is not limited to, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a completed and signed W-9) by Wednesday, November 30th at 5pm ET. Communities should consider holiday seasons and prepare accordingly to have all materials submitted no later than this date.