

WELCOMING NETWORK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE WELCOMING NETWORK?

The Welcoming Network's membership program offers tools, resources, technical assistance, and a global network to help individuals, nonprofit and government partners transform communities into more welcoming places. Participating members connect with their peers to share good ideas and receive recognition for their efforts in local, national and global settings.



WHAT IS WELCOMING AMERICA?

A non-profit, non-partisan organization, Welcoming America is proud to support the many diverse communities and partners who are leading efforts to make their communities more vibrant places for all. Welcoming America provides the roadmap and support that communities need to become more inclusive toward immigrants and all residents.

WHERE DOES WELCOMING AMERICA WORK?

Through an array of programs and initiatives, including our Welcoming Network, Welcoming America helps local governments and nonprofit organizations build a welcoming infrastructure in more than 500 communities across the United States, and around the world.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NETWORK AND WHO CAN JOIN?

Governments, nonprofits, and individual professionals working in immigrant inclusion are eligible to join the Welcoming Network. Members commit to advancing and institutionalizing welcoming efforts in their community, and they receive benefits including training, resources, networking, and leveraged funding.

WHAT IS THE WELCOMING ECONOMIES GLOBAL NETWORK?

The Welcoming Economies Global Network, a project of Welcoming America in partnership with Global Detroit, is a regional network of more than twenty initiatives from across the Rust Belt working to tap into the economic development opportunities created by immigrants. The WE Network strengthens the work, maximizes the impact, and sustains the efforts of these inclusive economic development initiatives. Learn more about the WE Network by visiting www.weglobalnetwork.org.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL CAN I JOIN THE WELCOMING NETWORK?

Yes! Individuals working in the immigrant inclusion field can join the Welcoming Network. This is a feature of our network that was launched in 2019 in response to a growing number of requests for support from individuals seeking to engage with the movement but working in organizations unable or ineligible to participate in the Welcoming Network. To join as an individual, members must commit to the values and vision of a welcoming community. Through the Welcoming Network, individuals can access tools and support to help them in their day-to-day immigrant inclusion work, and also help them catalyze their local organizations to join the Welcoming Network and increase their impact in their community.

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HOW DO I JOIN THE WELCOMING ECONOMIES GLOBAL NETWORK?

The WE Network invites local governments and nonprofits that welcome, retain, and empower immigrant communities in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin to apply. Core member applications must demonstrate that organizations are leading in two or more areas of inclusive economic development work.

Organizations can join the WE Network at one level and the Welcoming Network at another. For example, at the premium dues rate, an organization can be a Welcoming Network premium member and a WE Network core member. WE Network membership is available at the general and core level only.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO JOIN THE NETWORK?

The Welcoming Network has four levels reflecting specific benefits, with dues ranging from \$150 at the individual member level to \$2500 at the premium member level. As an organization that operates with a diversity and equity lens, we have built in a sliding scale and a robust scholarship program to help ensure that communities are able to access membership regardless of their ability to pay membership dues. We know fiscal calendars and internal processes vary from member to member, and staff will work with members to find solutions to barriers organizations may face when joining or renewing their membership. Full details on dues and our scholarship program can be found at www.welcomingnetwork.org.

WHAT IS THE WELCOMING INSTITUTE?

Beyond membership, Welcoming America offers customized trainings and coaching packages to advance your work. See www.welcominginstitute.org and contact us at info@welcomingamerica.org to discuss your training and coaching needs.

WHAT IS CERTIFIED WELCOMING?

Welcoming America's Certified Welcoming program provides an avenue for measuring, promoting, guiding, and validating your community's welcoming efforts. Through the Certified Welcoming process communities go through a formal evaluation of current work to identify local strengths and set a roadmap for areas of growth. Program participants complete a self-evaluation, participate in a multi-day in-person site visit, and receive an extensive written assessment of current work including local highlights and next steps. Those that work to meet the Welcoming Standard also receive the designation of Certified Welcoming. Past participants have used the program to strengthen current programming, bring on new partners, validate work, and attract businesses and new residents. Members may apply their annual membership dues to the Certified Welcoming fee. Visit www.certifiedwelcoming.org for more information.

For a complete list of our most frequently asked questions, visit www.welcomingnetwork.org.

WHAT DOES MY ORGANIZATION COMMIT TO DOING AS A MEMBER OF THE NETWORK?

By joining the Welcoming Network your primary commitment is to actively build a more inclusive community through the work of your organization. This means engaging partners, implementing programs, and communicating values. As part of that larger commitment to the work, Welcoming America asks members to pay dues to support the network, host an annual Welcoming Week event, participate in learning opportunities such as conferences, webinars, and workshops, complete the annual State of Welcoming survey, and assign at least one main point of contact and dedicated staff person for welcoming work. If your organization is joining as a core or premium member, you will be asked to complete a self-assessment when you join. If your organization is a local government, you will also commit to passing a Welcoming Resolution. Learn more about commitments and benefits of joining our Welcoming Network by visiting www.welcomingnetwork.org.

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