**OBJECTIVE:** Attract, retain and integrate immigrants as part of an economic growth strategy.

**OWNER:** Mid-America Regional Council — Community and Economic Development

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**Gateways KC**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

A local government toolkit has been created. The toolkit is available online at: [http://www.marc.org/Data-Economy/Workforce-Development/GradForce-KC/Gateways-for-Growth/Assets/GatewaysKC_ToolkitforLocalCommunities.aspx](http://www.marc.org/Data-Economy/Workforce-Development/GradForce-KC/Gateways-for-Growth/Assets/GatewaysKC_ToolkitforLocalCommunities.aspx)

The toolkit was sent to area city and county managers and assistant managers, and shared with the MARC board of directors.

The toolkit was shared at the manager’s roundtable in August, accompanied by a presentation from a KU researcher with a specialty in diversity. Following that meeting, Grandview, Kansas City, Missouri, and Unified Government/KCK expressed interest in pursuing the welcoming community designation.

The toolkit has also been shared with the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to be included, as appropriate, as part of their diversity and inclusion efforts.

**NEXT STEPS**

Identify a partner in order to establish a regional business council (shared service) to help with the following:

- Advice to employers around hiring international students for internships and increase understanding of work visas and sponsorship alternatives.
- A shared service for legal advice around visa options.
- Increase understanding of the importance of international talent from an economic development perspective.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

Some funds remain from a small grant as part of the Gateways for Growth initiative.

Seek extended technical assistance from New American Economy and Welcoming America.

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**Road map**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Three Update</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>MAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share the “Welcoming Communities” toolkit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify shared service approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report Results at Year Four Update</td>
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**Metrics**

- Ranked 26th, down from 24th, in percent of population (25+) that is foreign born with a bachelor’s degree.
- Ranked 28th, down from 26th, in percent of bachelor’s degrees earned in STEM fields.