



## **Immigrant Integration Task Force Meeting**

March 27, 2014

Room 267

### **MINUTES**

Attendance:

**Task force Members:** Diego Anselmo, Wayne Cooper (for Monica Colin), Mariana DeLuca, Ellen Dubin, Steven Garfinkel, Daniel Hernandez, Stephan LaTorre, Thanh-Thu Luong, Marianne Lyall-Knusel, Victoria Manning, Amy Michelone, Tin Nguyen, Jennifer Roberts, Will Russel, Robert Shore, Kim Vazquez, Kristin Wade, Sam Wazan, Curt White, Lacey Williams, Emily Zimmern

**City Staff:** Jessica Goddard, Alexis Gordon, Krystal King

**Absent:** Audrea Caesar, John Chen, Anika Khan, Jennifer Pearsall

#### 1. Welcome

Ms. Gordon called the meeting to order at 3:14pm. Mr. Latorre (Chair) presented the February 27, 2014, meeting minutes to be voted on. Ms. Roberts moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Shore seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Latorre invited Task Force members not present at the first meeting to introduce themselves to the group.

#### 2. Where We Are Today

Mr. Latorre reviewed the timeline for the Task Force (See Appendix A for meeting PowerPoint presentation), as well as the Task Force's charges.

#### 3. Learning and Listening

Ms. Zimmern (Vice Chair) outlined the Task Force's first few months as a period to really take the time to listen and learn from the community. She introduced the Community Listening Sessions, in which Task Force members will have the opportunity to hear directly from immigrants and other community members. During these meetings, the community will be asked to answer three questions as they relate to a specific topic: 1) What is one

thing that is being done well in Charlotte to help immigrants with (topic)?; 2) What is one thing that could be improved upon in Charlotte to help immigrants with (topic)?; What is one critical need that is urgent and should be addressed in Charlotte to help immigrants with (topic)? It is important to have consistency among the questions, and these three questions aim to capture the needs and assets of the community.

The Task Force's goal is to host at least three Community Listening Sessions, with one each in the following areas: Central Avenue, N. Tryon Street, and South Boulevard. Ms. Zimmern asked the Task Force members for venue suggestions near these areas. The suggestions offered include:

#### Central Avenue

1. International House – has a big gym that can hold 300-400, or can have smaller groups
2. Independence Branch Library
3. Latin American Coalition of Charlotte – smaller location, perhaps up to 50 people
4. St. Andrews Episcopal

#### N. Tryon Street

1. Hal Marshall Services Center – this is a government center, so immigrants might be apprehensive
2. Our Lady of Guadalupe
3. Martin Luther King Middle School
4. University City Library
5. North Park CMC – would have to take place after business hours
6. CPCC Campus
7. Bethesda Health Center

#### South Boulevard

1. Smith Family Center (CMS)
2. Marion Diehl Recreational Center
3. Queens University
4. Forest Hills Church

Ms. Zimmern then asked the Task Force to review the list of topics provided on the PowerPoint presentation. She noted that these topics are very vague and asked for more concrete and specific topics that the Task Force would like feedback on from the community.

#### Suggested Topics:

- Financial Inclusion:
  - Ms. Gordon explained that what Councilman Howard meant by “financial inclusion” when discussing the need for the creation of the Task Force was the importance of ensuring that immigrants become “banked” and that they can get bank loans for businesses.
- Employment Issues:

- Understanding benefits; employers recognizing foreign high school/university credentials; applying for jobs online
- Small Business Issues:
  - Permitting; licensing; ordinances that prevent entrepreneurship; lunch trucks; streamlining City/County requirements
- Education Issues:
  - Partnership with the county; access to ESL classes
- Transportation Issues:
  - Access; how to navigate
- Public Safety Issues:
  - Pedestrian safety measures in high pedestrian corridors; policing and trust of police; code enforcement (also fits under financial inclusion); access to public housing
- Medical Care Issues:
  - Access; interpretation services; Medicaid; having a “medical home;” subsidies

One member asked if there should be any focus on the receiving community and helping to make them more welcoming, or if immigrants should be asked if they think Charlotte is welcoming. Due to a potential difference between immigrants’ perception versus reality, it might be better to ask this in the survey instead of at the Community Listening Sessions. For example, the question “Do you feel welcome? Why or why not?” could be included in the survey.

Ms. Zimmern asked Ms. Gordon to compile a list of more concrete topic ideas and send it to the Task Force. Ms. Gordon reminded the Task Force that because of open meeting laws, they cannot dialogue via email. So, when she emails them, they should respond solely to her and not the whole group with their comments and additional suggestions. She asked the members to email her their suggestions by April 10<sup>th</sup>, which she will compile and send out to the entire Task Force on April 11<sup>th</sup>. She asked that they return their final comments directly to her by April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Gordon directed the Task Force’s attention to two documents outlining the guidelines and format for hosting Community Listening Sessions (see Appendices B and C, respectively). She also noted that these documents would be posted on the website so that other organizations that are interested in hosting a Community Listening Session will have access to them.

A few major points to note about the Community Listening Sessions:

- The purpose of these meetings is to find out the needs of immigrant communities.
- Only organizations that have a 501(c) designation and are listed with the Charlotte International Cabinet (CIC) will be allowed to host a Community Listening Session.
- The meetings should be held between April and June.
- Either two Task Force members or one Task Force member and one Office of International Relations staff person must attend each meeting.

- Each meeting should include no more than seven discussion topics, and preferably only three to five.
- Attendees will break into groups to discuss the topics, with one volunteer in each group taking detailed notes of the discussion.
- All minutes or worksheets from these meetings are to be returned to the Office of International Relations.
- All Community Listening Sessions must be open to the public, adhere to open meeting laws, and publicized at least one week in advance.
- Community Listening Sessions can be conducted in a language other than English, but the minutes must be translated into English before being turned in to the office.

The Task Force will try to have interpreters at the three Community Listening Sessions it will be hosting. The Office of International Relations will send out information about how organizations can become listed with the CIC, as this is required in order to host a Community Listening Session. Ms. Gordon urged organizations to suggest to their own members that if they are unable to attend the Community Listening Session it is holding, they should attend another organization's Community Listening Session.

Questions/Comments:

Ms. Zimmern asked if Task Force members felt like a good number of organizations will step up to host a session. She noted that the organizations need to have the ability to get people to attend. Members responded that it is important to go to places where people already are; for example, at a church after Sunday services. It would also be a good idea to utilize the press in immigrant communities, such as the Latino newspapers and radio stations. A mechanism for the community to sign up or RSVP to attend the Community Listening Sessions is also needed.

Ms. DeLuca asked if the surveys will be translated. Ms. Gordon replied that they will be translated into several languages, but the details still need to be worked out. In designing the surveys, they will take into account the data on the languages spoken within CMS schools as opposed to students' place of birth.

Ms. Zimmern asked what the questions on the survey are. Ms. Gordon said that this is still a work in progress and will be sent out to the Task Force in the coming weeks. The Task Force will then need to provide their feedback on the questions.

## 5. Charlotte's International Chambers

There are 11 organizations in Charlotte that focus on international business. Most of these organizations promote and support economic exchange and trade. Ms. Gordon sent each organization a list of ten questions to learn more about what they do as an organization, who they serve, and what services they provide. Of the 11 organizations, seven responded. Three declined to participate – the French American Chamber of Commerce of NC, British American Business Council of NC, and Swiss American Chamber of Commerce. The Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce did not respond. Ms. Gordon reviewed some of

the responses, and asked the Task Force to review the provided document that included each organization's answers for the ten questions (see Appendix D).

Ms. Gordon invited Astrid Chirinos, Executive Director of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte (LACCC), to speak briefly about her organization. Ms. Chirinos gave a short history of the LACCC, which began seventeen years ago when the Latino population in Charlotte was around 10,000. Today, there are over 120,000 Latinos in Charlotte. The LACCC began as an initiative of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, but as the Latino community grew, they realized they needed to create their own independent organization. The LACCC supports the acceleration of both Latino and non-Latino businesses.

Ms. Gordon then invited Patrice Ognodo, Executive Director of the African National Chamber of Commerce (ANCOC), to speak about the organization. Mr. Ognodo explained that the ANCOC serves as a bridge between Africa and the U.S. There are many businesses in the region interested in doing business in Africa, and the ANCOC provides these businesses with the information and education on how to do so.

Lastly, Ms. Gordon invited Lourdes Zapata, Director of Government Affairs/Public Policy, to speak about the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents over 3,400 companies and individual members, and is excited to have the opportunity to work with Charlotte's ethnic chambers and include immigrants in the community.

## 6. Immigrant Contributions to Local Economies

Mr. Latorre introduced the speaker, Paul McDaniel, who is the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fellow with the Immigration Policy Center at the American Immigration Council. Mr. McDaniel was asked to speak about the economic contributions of immigrants and immigrant entrepreneurs from a national perspective (see Mr. McDaniel's presentation in Appendix E).

On a national level, immigrants are drivers of entrepreneurship throughout the U.S. In 2012, although only 13% of the total U.S. population was foreign-born, 27% of the businesses were founded by immigrants. In 2010 in North Carolina, 7.1% of the population was foreign-born while 8.6% of business owners were foreign-born. Furthermore, immigrants start businesses in the U.S. at a higher rate – nearly two times – than the native-born. Immigrants create businesses in some of the fastest growing sectors of the economy, including leisure and hospitality, construction, and health services, among others.

There is a similar trend on the local/state level, showing that increased immigration has a positive impact on cities' economies. Research shows that, in the 25 largest metropolitan areas, immigration and economic growth go hand in hand. As a result, a growing number of cities are launching immigrant welcoming and integration initiatives as a part of their broader economic development plans. Immigrant entrepreneurship can also positively affect neighborhood revitalization. The creation of jobs revives commerce and enables investment in neighborhoods.

Detroit, Michigan; St. Louis, Missouri; and Louisville, Kentucky, all have immigrant integration initiatives. North Carolina has a statewide initiative called Building Integrated Communities, which was started by the Latino Migration Project at UNC Chapel Hill. It works with local governments to generate locally-driven strategies to strengthen immigrant civic engagement, enhance communication, promote economic development, and improve relationships. More information about this initiative can be found at [migration.unc.edu/programs/bic](http://migration.unc.edu/programs/bic).

Questions:

- Mr. Latorre: Why are immigrants more likely to start businesses? Will the percentage of immigrants starting businesses continue to rise?  
Mr. McDaniel: 1) The philosophical answer would be that the act of migration has an entrepreneurial aspect to it. There is risk involved when you uproot yourself and leave everything behind. These people are risk-takers, which is what you need to be an entrepreneur. 2) It is often difficult for immigrants to get jobs, so they start their own businesses.
- Mr. Wazan: How long do these businesses last, on average?  
Mr. McDaniel: They have about the same success and failure rates as any other businesses.
- Mr. Garfinkel: The integration efforts of these other cities are very young. Are there any statistics yet on how these cities have grown since they implemented these initiatives?  
Mr. McDaniel: A lot of researchers are interested in finding out what the long-term impacts are. Many of these initiatives have not been in place long enough to tell. Due to the numerous ways to study this, researchers are working on figuring out how to study this.

## 7. Reflection on Economic Impact of Immigrants

Ms. Gordon asked the Task Force to take a few minutes to provide feedback on Mr. McDaniel's presentation and today's meeting on the two sheets provided. The members then divided into groups of six to discuss their thoughts on the presentation and share the one topic that generated the most interest.

## 8. Feedback and Closing

The first group reported that they would find it helpful to have more concrete data on what is and is not working in other cities – i.e., best practices – in terms of immigrant integration. The second group agreed, adding that they would be interested in information about best practices on attracting and encouraging entrepreneurship and the skills necessary to do so, in addition to providing services. The third group discussed how licensing is a big issue that the police department has been seeing. People cannot get employed without identification cards. It would be helpful to find out which states have been proactive on improving ID access and other public safety issues and learn more about their initiatives.

Mr. Latorre closed the meeting at 5:15.

**Appendix A:**  
**March 27, 2014, Immigrant Integration Task Force Meeting PowerPoint Presentation**



**CHARLOTTE™**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

# Immigrant Integration Task Force

March 27, 2014

- Spring - Release of a Community Survey
- Summer – Sub-committee meetings based on City Council expectations and what we have learned from peer cities and leading organizations, the Community Survey and the Community Listening Sessions
- Fall - Sub-committees report to Task Force and prioritize recommendations for City Council
- Winter – Gather community feedback on the recommendations
- Return final recommendations to City Council in one year

- Learning and Listening Phase
  - “Promising Practices” from peer cities and leading organizations
  - Community Listening Sessions in April, May and June

- Task Force-Hosted
- Community-Hosted
- Common Format
- Common Requirements

## 3 Questions for the Community

- What is one thing that is being done well in Charlotte to help immigrants with \_\_\_\_\_?
- What is one thing that could be improved upon in Charlotte to help immigrants with \_\_\_\_\_?
- What is one critical need that is urgent and should be addressed in Charlotte to help immigrants with \_\_\_\_\_?

## 3 Locations for Listening Sessions

- Central Ave.
- North Tryon St.
- South Blvd.

Venue suggestions?

## Topics in the charge from Council to cover

- Financial Inclusion
- Education
- Civic Integration
- Public Safety
- Collaboration
- Celebrate Diversity

Any additional topics?

## Community-Hosted Sessions

- Guidelines
- Ideas on who to ask to host Sessions

- 11 organizations that focus on international business in Charlotte
- Various missions, mostly to promote/encourage economic exchange and trade
- Number of members varies from 40 to over 3,000
  - Most memberships are for businesses as opposed to individuals; some do allow individual members, such as entrepreneurs

- Services provided vary from business advice and training to trade and investment development
- Most have worked with some form of government in the area, but not all of them



# Immigrant Contributions to Local Economies

Paul McDaniel, Ph.D.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation Fellow

Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Council

Break into groups of six

- 3 minutes to individually answer the 2 questions on the sheet titled “Reflections on Today’s Presentation”
- 10 minutes to discuss your answers among your group
- Share what topic generated the most interest in each group

- Please leave your feedback for this session on the table

## **Appendix B: Guidelines for Hosting a Community Listening Session**

All organizations that are listed as 501(c) nonprofits and listed with the Charlotte International Cabinet are eligible to host a Community Listening Session. The minutes and notes from Community Listening Sessions will be shared with the Task Force and added to the official records.

- The Office of International Relations must be notified about the organization's desire to host a Session so that this information can be shared with the Task Force
- The Session must be held in either April or May
- The Session must follow the same format as the Task Force meetings
- At least two Task Force members must attend the Session
- The Session must be open to the general public and announced publically at least one week in advance
  - The Office of International Relations will add the details of your session to the Task Force webpage
  - The Charlotte International Cabinet will announce it in their Friday events bulletin
- The organization must agree to share a link to or otherwise distribute the Task Force Community Survey when it is released
- The organization should encourage its members to attend alternate Community Listening Sessions if they cannot attend their own by sharing links to the website for those interested in attending other meetings
- The Session may be conducted in the organization members' native language, but the minutes must be translated to English by the organization before being submitted to the Task Force

You can find out if your organization is listed with the Charlotte International Cabinet or how to become listed by visiting:

<http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/cic/resources/Pages/InternationalOrganizations.aspx>

## Appendix C: Proposed Format for Community Listening Sessions

1. Task Force members introduce the charges of the Task Force to the residents attending the session
2. The directions for how the discussions will be facilitated will be shared with the attendees
3. A list of 3 to 7 topics will be presented to the attendees for discussion
4. Attendees will be given a page with the following 3 questions on it:
  - a. What is one thing that is being done well in Charlotte to help immigrants with \_\_\_\_\_?
    - i. Topic 1
    - ii. Topic 2
    - iii. ...
  - b. What is one thing that could be improved upon in Charlotte to help immigrants with \_\_\_\_\_?
    - i. Topic 1
    - ii. Topic 2
    - iii. ...
  - c. What is one critical need that is urgent and should be addressed in Charlotte to help immigrants with \_\_\_\_\_?
    - i. Topic 1
    - ii. Topic 2
    - iii. ...
5. Attendees will be asked to take 10-15 minutes to answer the questions as they pertain to the topics presented.
6. Attendees will break into groups of no more than ten people to discuss the topics for 20-30 minutes. Each group will have at least one Task Force member or volunteer present to record the conversation.
7. In the last five minutes each group will agree on **one** answer to each question per topic. These answers will be written down on a separate worksheet.
8. The Task Force member or volunteer scribe will share the answers with the entire audience.
9. A Task Force member will thank the audience for attending, ask them to leave any worksheets on the tables to be collected and added to the final record, invite them to attend the next Task Force meeting, and ask them to visit the website for updates or to take the survey when it is available.
10. A Task Force member (or the leader of the organization hosting the session) must collect the worksheets and any other minutes and make sure they are returned to the Office of International Relations before the close of business on May 30, 2014.

## **Appendix D: Questions to the International Chambers and Other International Business Organizations in Charlotte**

### **Charlotte Chamber of Commerce**

1. What is your mission?

The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce creates competitive advantage by growing the economy, advocating pro-business public policies, and delivering innovative programs and services.

2. How many members do you have?

More than 3,400 companies.

3. Briefly describe the makeup of your membership (a mix of individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, foreign-owned firms, etc)?

We are a mix of small, medium and large sized companies of all business types. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses, classified as less than 50 employees.

4. What services do you provide to your members? To the community at large?

We offer programs and services that includes networking events, roundtable discussions and initiatives aimed at economic growth. Some events are open to non-members. We represent our members at all levels of government to advocate on the behalf of the business community for pro-business public policies.

5. Do you work or partner with any local government agencies (Department of Health, Code Enforcement, etc)? If so, which ones and in what ways?

We collaborate with the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County on issues related to the cost and ease of doing business in Charlotte. We also work with departments at the state level on related issues. We work with companies to expand or relocate to Charlotte.

6. Have you ever had any issues arise from dealing with the local government? If so, what were they and were they resolved?

N/A

7. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that is being done well by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

Recognizing the wave of growth in the immigrant and international population by having discussions and initiatives such as the Immigrant Integration Task Force.

8. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that could be improved upon by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

Creating heightened awareness among communities about programs offered by the City of Charlotte and its partners. For example, continue to promote the Immigrant

Integration Task Force efforts among various communities at all socioeconomic levels.

9. What is one critical need relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that should be addressed by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Efforts aimed at helping the international/immigrant population start a business. Developing programs that encourage and foster the creation of businesses in this population.
10. Would your organization be interested in hosting a "Listening Session" as part of the Task Force's 100 Days of Listening?  
We are interested and will try to find the best avenue for hosting.

### **African National Chamber of Commerce (ANCOC)**

1. What is your mission?  
The National Africa Chamber of Commerce (ANCOC) has mission to establish a venue for global business awareness between the USA business community and Africa continent.
2. How many members do you have?  
We have 125 registered business
3. Briefly describe the makeup of your membership (a mix of individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, foreign-owned firms, etc)?  
We are working are working with Africa National Chamber based in South Africa with 44 countries members. We are networking with USA business owners who are willing to do business in Africa to create a Continental structure that will facilitate the coming together of neighboring countries for the purpose of social and cultural pride; which include economical and spiritual growth. We are initiating a global development from North Carolina(USA) in addition to all other organizations that have exemption status by IRS code.
4. What services do you provide to your members? To the community at large?  
Education, Conference, Consultation, Travel, Strategic planning and network. business and Economic development.
5. Do you work or partner with any local government agencies (Department of Health, Code Enforcement, etc)? If so, which ones and in what ways?  
We are networking with some House representative offices and DOT.
6. Have you ever had any issues arise from dealing with the local government? If so, what were they and were they resolved?  
N/A

7. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that is being done well by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Medical Clinic, some Landscape, Education.
8. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that could be improved upon by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Diversify sectors by investing in new comers education to facilitate the navigation of the systems in place.
9. What is one critical need relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that should be addressed by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Build a bridge between USA businesses and the continent of Africa and reach out to community leaders to create social - cultural and economic network.
10. Would your organization be interested in hosting a "Listening Session" as part of the Task Force's 100 Days of Listening?  
YES ! we like to host " listening Session"

### **German American Chamber of Commerce**

1. What is your mission?  
To promote and support bilateral trade between Germany and the U.S.
2. How many members do you have?  
Approx. 700
3. Briefly describe the makeup of your membership (a mix of individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, foreign-owned firms, etc)?  
The majority of our members are German owned companies (many manufacturing).  
But we also have international companies/service provider who do business with Germany
4. What services do you provide to your members? To the community at large?  
Different Consulting Services (e.g. career service, market entry, etc)  
Vocational Training and Education  
Site Selection
5. Do you work or partner with any local government agencies (Department of Health, Code Enforcement, etc)? If so, which ones and in what ways?  
/
6. Have you ever had any issues arise from dealing with the local government? If so, what were they and were they resolved?  
/

7. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that is being done well by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

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8. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that could be improved upon by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

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9. What is one critical need relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that should be addressed by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

/

10. Would your organization be interested in hosting a "Listening Session" as part of the Task Force's 100 Days of Listening?

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### **Charlotte World Trade Association**

1. What is your mission?

"Growth through Trade" - Education, awareness, and recognition of "trade" related issues.

2. How many members do you have?

77

3. Briefly describe the makeup of your membership (a mix of individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, foreign-owned firms, etc)?

Manufacturing based and supported by their related "service" supply chain providers.

4. What services do you provide to your members? To the community at large?

Advocates for import/export related topics via 10 monthly events to include 1 seminar based upon international "commerce" detailed topics.

5. Do you work or partner with any local government agencies (Department of Health, Code Enforcement, etc)? If so, which ones and in what ways?

Yes, U.S. Department of Commerce, NC Department of Commerce and the NCDEC

6. Have you ever had any issues arise from dealing with the local government? If so, what were they and were they resolved?

N/A

7. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that is being done well by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

Unaware of your efforts

8. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that could be improved upon by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Improve communication/awareness of your mission and services
9. What is one critical need relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that should be addressed by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Enforce the immigration laws
10. Would your organization be interested in hosting a "Listening Session" as part of the Task Force's 100 Days of Listening?  
Need more information

### **Carolinas Asian American Chamber of Commerce**

1. What is your mission?
  - "Bridging the East & West"
  - Commerce-As a resource to local Asian businesses and to attract Asian investment to the Charlotte region
  - Culture- Share the richness of the Asian culture with the community
  - Community Service - Focus on education excellence, volunteerism and development of younger generation of community leaders
2. How many members do you have?  
40-50
3. Briefly describe the makeup of your membership  
A mix of individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, foreign-owned firms
4. What services do you provide to your members? To the community at large?
  - A on-demand business resource group to serve the local Asian businesses and NGO, e.g., referral, consulting, mediation, etc.
  - An incubator to help members to nurture their ideas and a platform to help them launch and realize their aspirations
  - Volunteer opportunities
  - Business/social networking meetings
  - Community engagements- Festival, Dragon Boat club, Health Fair, tutoring/mentoring
5. Do you work or partner with any local government agencies (Department of Health, Code Enforcement, etc)? If so, which ones and in what ways?
  - Park and Recreation Department- Festival
  - CMS- Tutoring/mentoring
  - DSS- Refugees, domestic issues

- FBI- Citizen advisory committee
- SBC- City
- CMPD- Recruitment

6. Have you ever had any issues arise from dealing with the local government? If so, what were they and were they resolved?

Not that I am aware of

7. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that is being done well by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

Knowledgeable and helpful individuals once you know where to find them, e.g., Economic Development Dept

8. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that could be improved upon by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

Increase awareness of type of resource available for assistance, especially regarding the low skill and low income segment of the immigrant community

9. What is one critical need relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that should be addressed by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?

English language proficiency and employable skill training and job placement

10. Would your organization be interested in hosting a "Listening Session" as part of the Task Force's 100 Days of Listening?

Yes, after we have an internal review and discussion best way to approach this

## **Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce**

1. What is your mission?

"To promote and encourage economic, cultural and educational exchanges between US and China, and serve as an advocate of the Chinese business community in Carolinas."

The CCCC is dedicated to provide a forum for American and Chinese governmental, commercial, and educational/cultural organizations to gain better understanding and build mutual trust, thus fostering vigorous partnership and facilitate trade and investment opportunities between the two great nations.

2. How many members do you have?

Over 100

3. Briefly describe the makeup of your membership (a mix of individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, foreign-owned firms, etc)?

individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, foreign-owned firms

4. What services do you provide to your members? To the community at large?  
Information clearinghouse, business advisory, training and seminars, trade& investment missions
5. Do you work or partner with any local government agencies (Department of Health, Code Enforcement, etc)? If so, which ones and in what ways?  
Participated and worked with several organizations, government agencies such as international house and international cabinet at Charlotte area, department of commerce, agriculture, energy of North and South Carolina. We had met with FBI agent as well.
6. Have you ever had any issues arise from dealing with the local government? If so, what were they and were they resolved?  
We are fine so far.
7. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that is being done well by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Work with specific ethnic group for related business activities.
8. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that could be improved upon by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Work with specific ethnic group for related business activities.
9. What is one critical need relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that should be addressed by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Direct flight (to China or Asian cities) is critical.
10. Would your organization be interested in hosting a "Listening Session" as part of the Task Force's 100 Days of Listening?  
Yes.

### **Latina American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte**

1. What is your mission?  
Foster economic growth, development and success of Latino business community in the Charlotte region
2. How many members do you have?  
500+
3. Briefly describe the makeup of your membership (a mix of individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, foreign-owned firms, etc)?  
Mix of entrepreneurs, corporations, professionals, non-profits; not really any foreign firms; half Latino, half non-Latino

4. What services do you provide to your members? To the community at large?  
Members – networking, access, mentoring, retooling, leadership development, acculturation, business-building skills, train the trainer classes, youth entrepreneurial programs; Community at large – serve as the bridge between Latino business/professional community and non-Latino business/professional community to encourage and support them to do business with each other
5. Do you work or partner with any local government agencies (Department of Health, Code Enforcement, etc)? If so, which ones and in what ways?  
City of Charlotte – ED, CBR, City Manager’s Office, Astrid is on the Centralina ED Commission; Ways – certification for small businesses, access to opportunities and contracts, Crowns of Enterprise awards, serve on City’s Business Advisory Committee
6. Have you ever had any issues arise from dealing with the local government? If so, what were they and were they resolved?  
No issues per se, but members have spoken of the difficulty of navigating government services
7. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that is being done well by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Continuous efforts to address and improve their support of the international business community
8. What is one thing relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that could be improved upon by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
While the City’s efforts have been continuous, they have not been consistent or sustainable; no one takes charge or ownership of efforts and initiatives and outcomes; no success measures; always in the formation stages, no performing stages; also there is a lack of infrastructure to support international trade
9. What is one critical need relating to economics and the international/immigrant population that should be addressed by the City of Charlotte and/or its partners?  
Understand the real economic impact of international businesses that are here; provide infrastructure to really understand where businesses are and what their economic impact is (taxes, etc.); lack of trust
10. Would your organization be interested in hosting a “Listening Session” as part of the Task Force’s 100 Days of Listening?  
Yes

**Appendix E:**  
**Presentation on Immigrant Entrepreneurs and Economic Development by Paul McDaniel**

# Immigrant Entrepreneurs and Economic Development

Paul N. McDaniel, Ph.D.

*Research Fellow*

Immigration Policy Center

American Immigration Council

Washington, D.C.

Charlotte Immigrant Integration Task Force – 27 March 2014

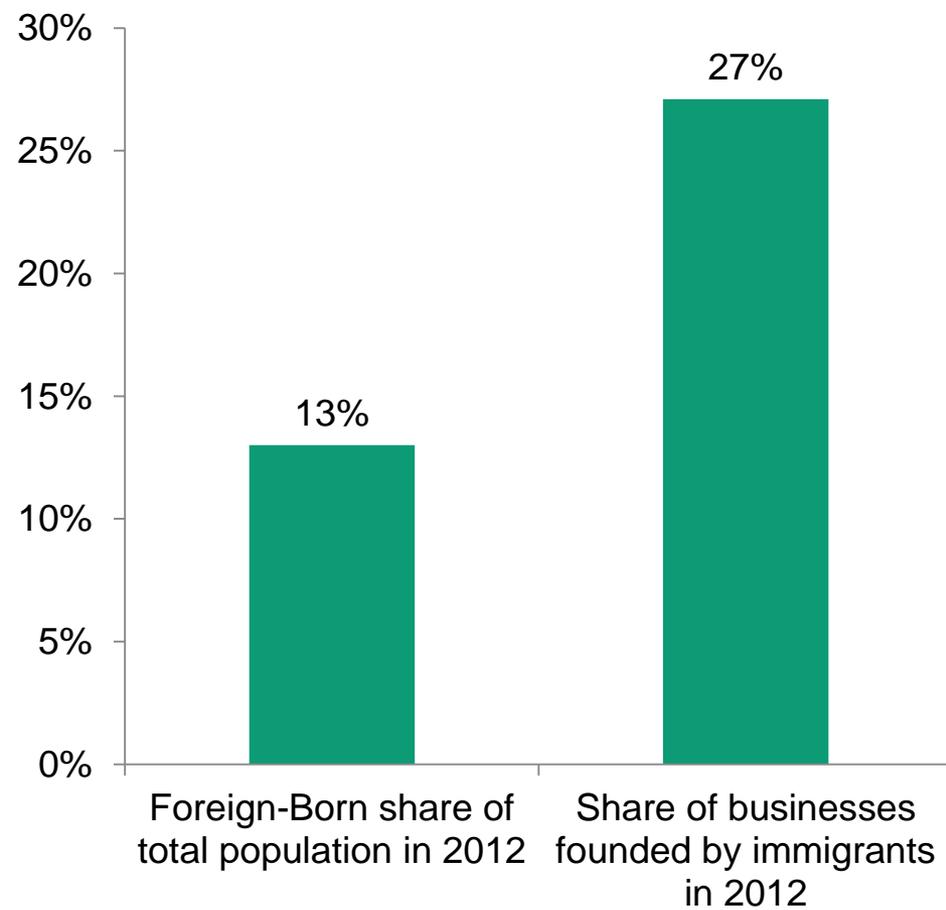
# Introduction

- Immigrant entrepreneurs and the national economy
- Immigrant entrepreneurs and state and local economies
- Examples of Promising Practices: Immigrant Integration as a Component of Economic Development

# Immigrant Entrepreneurs and the National Economy

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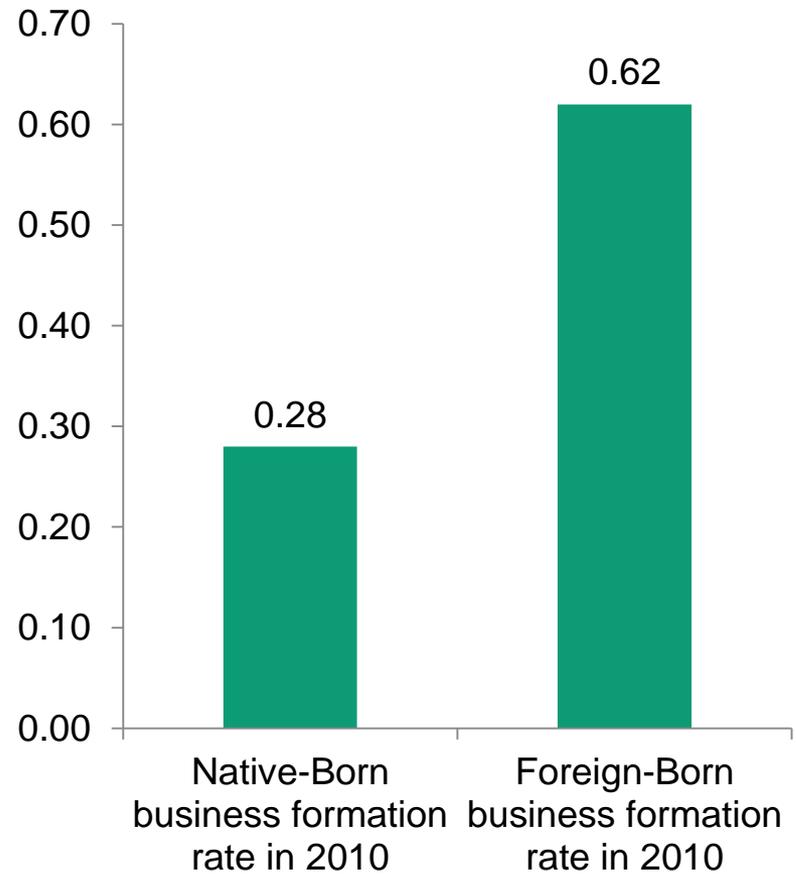
# Immigrants are drivers of entrepreneurship throughout the U.S.



- 40 % of U.S. Fortune 500 companies in 2010 were founded by immigrants or children of immigrants.
- 3.6 million people are employed by Fortune 500 companies started by immigrants.
- \$1.7 trillion in revenues is attributable to Fortune 500 companies founded by immigrants.
- Many recognizable “American” brands were founded by immigrants.
- Beyond large corporations, immigrants play an important role in small business formation in places throughout the U.S.

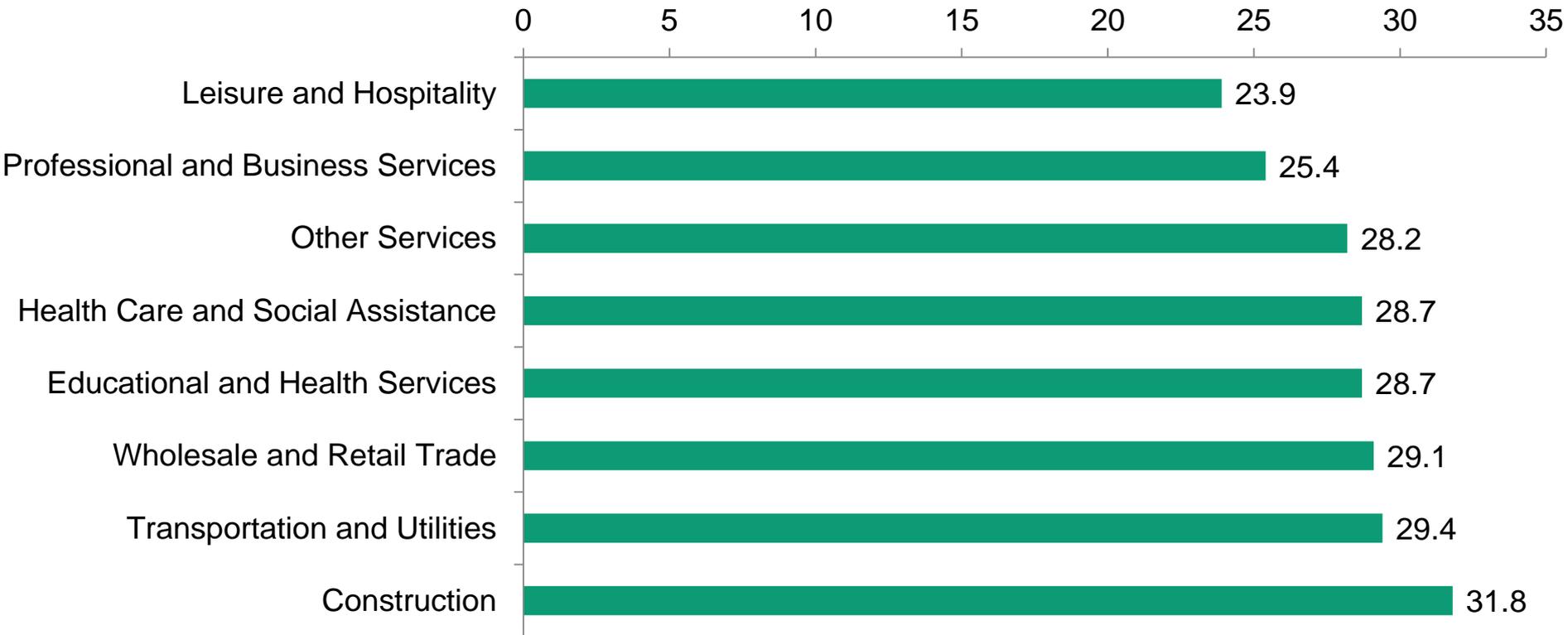
# Immigrants start businesses at a higher rate than the native-born

- Immigrants are nearly twice as likely as the native-born to start business each month in 2012.
- The business formation rate per month among immigrants in 2010 is 0.62 percent (or 620 out of 100,000), compared to 0.28 percent for non-immigrants (or 280 out of 100,000).
- From 1996 to 2012, the share of entrepreneurs who are immigrants grew from 13.7 percent to 27.1 percent.



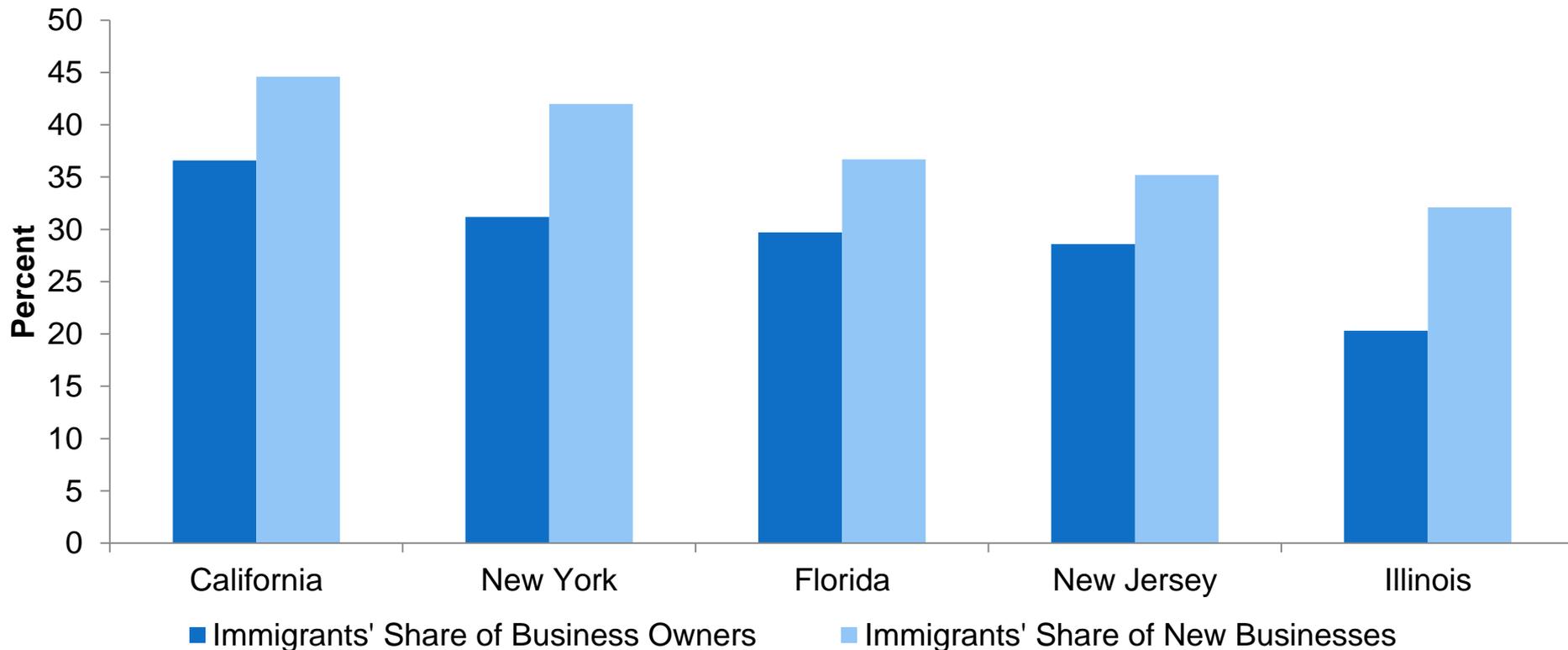
# Immigrants contribute to businesses in some of the fastest growing sectors of the economy

**Percent of Businesses Created by Immigrants in Fast Growing Sectors of the Economy, 2011**



# Immigrants are helping drive business growth in many states

**Immigrants' Share (Percent) of All Business Owners and of New Businesses, 2011**



# Immigrant Entrepreneurs and State and Local Economies

**Entrepreneurship:** Beyond traditional gateways, immigrant entrepreneurs help strengthen and revitalize local places. Immigrant business owners represent a sizeable share of all business owners in many metropolitan areas, places that are drivers of regional economies and the economy of the nation as a whole.



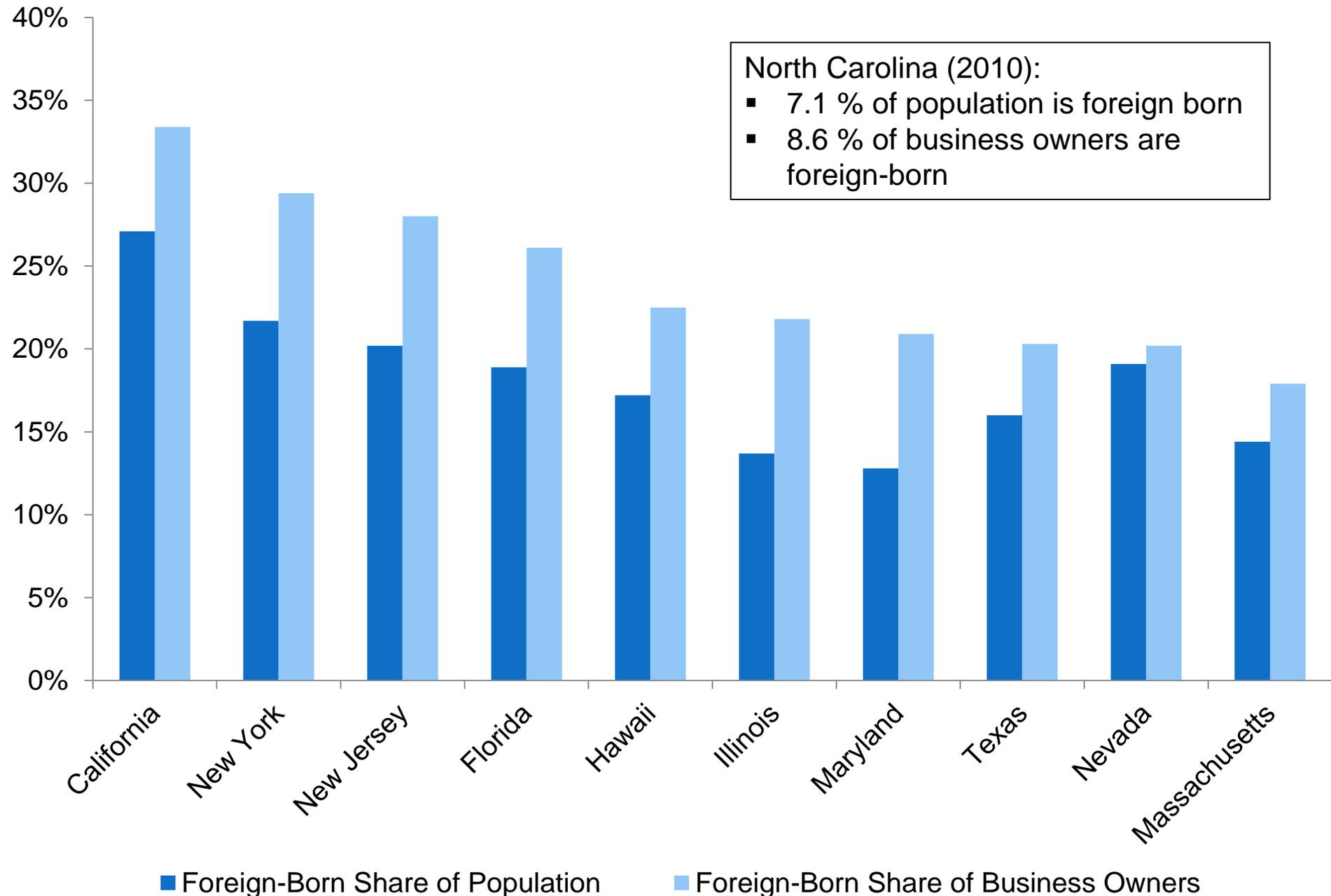
# Immigrant Economic Impact in Cities

- Immigrants' impact on population growth has a corresponding positive impact on a region's wages, housing prices, rents, and cultural diversity (Card 2007).
- Immigration has a positive influence on metro areas by reversing population losses, expanding the workforce, boosting home values, and reducing vacancy and foreclosure problems (Wilson and Singer 2011).
- Research about the economic role of immigrants in the country's 25 largest metro areas finds that immigration and economic growth of metro areas go hand in hand (FPI 2009).
- Rising rates of immigrant entrepreneurship over the last decade have led to greater job creation in metro areas (Strauss 2013).
- Findings such as these offer a guidepost to the growing number of cities across the country that are launching immigrant welcoming and integration initiatives as a part of broader economic development.

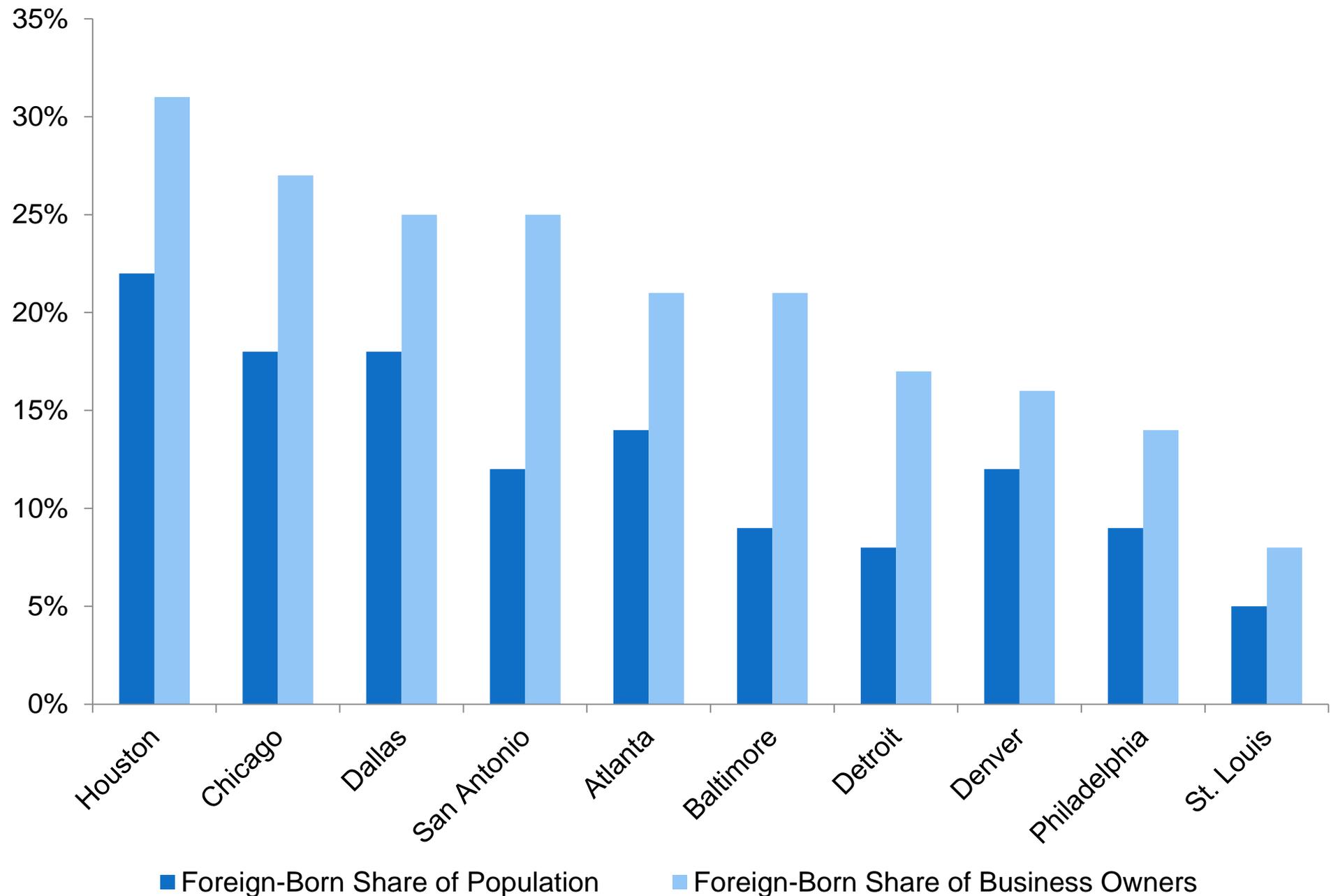


Source: Partnership for a New American Economy

# Immigrant Business Ownership in Selected States in 2010



# Immigrant Business Ownership in Selected Metro Areas in 2010



■ Foreign-Born Share of Population

■ Foreign-Born Share of Business Owners

# Immigrants are more likely to start businesses and create jobs in their cities and states

- In Michigan, immigrants were more than three times as likely to start a business as the native-born population between 1996 and 2007, and immigrants in Michigan are six times more likely to start a high-tech firm than the native-born (Tobocman 2010).
- In Baltimore, foreign-born residents own nearly 21 percent of small businesses, despite representing just 9 percent of the population (FPI 2012).
- In the St. Louis, Missouri, region, immigrants are 60 percent more likely to be entrepreneurs than U.S.-born residents (Strauss 2012).
- In Nashville, as of 2011, 135 foreign-owned companies created more than 34,000 jobs (Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce).
- In Harris County, Texas, which includes Houston and the surrounding suburbs, between 1970 and 2010, immigrants helped create or preserve 45,000 manufacturing jobs (Vigdor 2013).

# Immigrant entrepreneurship can positively impact neighborhood revitalization

- Immigrant entrepreneurs (Hohn 2012):
  - Create jobs to revive commerce and investment in their neighborhoods.
  - Expand their enterprises beyond traditional neighborhood businesses.
  - Develop new businesses in additional locations and mentor other ethnic entrepreneurs.
  
- More places are welcoming immigrants for economic development.
  - “A budding place-based awareness of the important contributions that new and existing immigrants make to neighborhood revitalization is seen in the increasing number of cities pursuing a nexus of immigrant welcoming, integration, and economic development initiatives” (McDaniel 2014).

## Examples of Promising Practices: Immigrant Integration as a Component of Economic Development

**Immigrant Integration:** a “dynamic, two-way process in which newcomers and the receiving society work together to build secure, vibrant, and cohesive communities” (GCIR 2012).



# Detroit, Michigan: Global Detroit

- Global Detroit's strategy acknowledges:
  - Immigrants are essential to urban population growth stability.
  - Immigrants provide neighborhood revitalization benefits and can play a crucial role in rejuvenating neighborhood commercial retail districts.
- Recognizes that “welcoming cities” understand immigrant populations help to
  - Stabilize residential neighborhoods.
  - Revitalize commercial retail corridors, bringing a diversity of culture, food, language, goods, and services, all of which help decrease blight, decay, and abandonment.
  - Increase job creation, employment, and property values.
  - Improve neighborhood quality of life.
  - Foster a greater vibrancy and richness for the urban experience throughout a city.
- Initiatives include international student retention, Welcoming Michigan campaign, an urban neighborhood microenterprise training and lending program, Global Detroit Welcome Mat network of immigration services, and reporting on entrepreneurship, and ProsperUS Detroit—a microenterprise and community-building initiative.
- <http://www.globaldetroit.com/>



# St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis Mosaic Project

- An initiative to promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation. Goal: ensure that St. Louis is the fastest growing U.S. metropolitan area for immigration by 2020.
- Principles include the recognition that “significantly growing our population of foreign-born residents is an economic imperative” and “special initiatives are needed to welcome and to integrate newcomer immigrants.”
- Business outreach such as engaging business leaders to develop hiring solutions for skilled foreign talent.
- Professional Connector Program opens opportunities for foreign-born professionals to network with well-connected professionals in the region.
- Broad regional messaging about the positive impacts of entrepreneurship and population growth for St. Louis as well as assets St. Louis has to offer to newcomers.
- Mosaic Ambassadors conduct education about how new citizens spur economic growth and why immigration and innovation are economically important for the region.
- <http://www.stlmosaicproject.org/>



# Louisville, Kentucky: Refugees and Immigrants Succeeding in Entrepreneurship (RISE)

- RISE is a collaborative effort among Metro government, nonprofits, and private business partners.
- RISE seeks to empower the “community’s newcomers to engage in successful enterprise development” through outreach, education, finance, and guidance.
- Local leaders note that Louisville “has an untapped pool of talent for city-wide economic development in the form of immigrants and refugees...This population has the potential of becoming drivers of economic growth” in Louisville.
- <http://riselouisville.com/>



# North Carolina: Building Integrated Communities

- Building Integrated Communities (BIC) is an initiative of the Latino Migration Project at UNC Chapel Hill.
- A statewide initiative, BIC works with local governments (examples: High Point, Greensboro) to engage with newcomers to improve public safety, promote economic development, enhance communication, and improve relationships.
- Generate locally-driven strategies to strengthen immigrant civic engagement, linguistic achievement, and economic/educational advancement.
- <http://migration.unc.edu/programs/bic/>



# Conclusion

- **All Sources:** Foreign-born entrepreneurs come through all immigration pathways (family- or employment-based immigration, refugees/asylees, etc.).
- **Many Places:** From big cities to small towns, traditional immigrant gateways to new immigrant destinations, immigrants contribute to local economies throughout the U.S., helping to revitalize and strengthen communities.
- *“Many urban areas have welcomed immigrants, including places with well-established foreign-born populations, and those that started receiving and integrating immigrants more recently. Metropolitan areas are on the front lines of the economic integration of immigrants. Increasingly, some cities such as former U.S. gateways Detroit, Pittsburgh and Cleveland are endeavoring to attract and retain immigrants to stem population loss and to stimulate economic activity. Some areas are also investing in immigrants that are already here, as a strategy to help local businesses and economies, as well as immigrants, their families and the communities in which they live. Cities that are the most forward-looking, that have the most pragmatic view on immigrants, are the ones that are reaching out and creating environments that immigrants can not only survive in but thrive in. They are putting out the welcome mat for immigrant newcomers” (Audrey Singer, Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, Cities of Migration, 2012).*

# For More Information

- Immigration Policy Center: [www.immigrationpolicy.org](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org)
- Cities of Migration – Good Ideas from Successful Cities: <http://citiesofmigration.ca/good-ideas-in-integration/municipal/>
- AS/COA Immigration: <http://www.as-coa.org/issue-category/immigration>
- National League of Cities – Immigrant Integration: <http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/city-solutions-and-applied-research/immigrant-integration>
- Immigrant Learning Center: [www.ilctr.org](http://www.ilctr.org)
- Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration: <http://csii.usc.edu/>
- National Immigrant Integration Conference: <http://www.integrationconference.org/>
- Welcoming America’s Welcoming Cities and Counties: <http://www.welcomingamerica.org/about-us/cities/>
- Chicago Office of New Americans: <http://www.cityofchicago.org/newamericans>
- NYC Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, Blueprints for Immigrant Integration: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/imm/bii/>
- Global Detroit: <http://www.globaldetroit.com/>
- St. Louis Mosaic: <http://www.stlmosaicproject.org/>
- Louisville RISE: <http://riselouisville.com/>
- Building Integrated Communities (UNC): <http://migration.unc.edu/programs/bic/>

# About the Immigration Policy Center

- The Immigration Policy Center (IPC), established in 2003, is the policy arm of the American Immigration Council, based in Washington, D.C. IPC's mission is to shape a rational conversation on immigration and immigrant integration. Through its research and analysis, IPC provides policymakers, the media, and the general public with accurate information about the role of immigrants and immigration policy on U.S. society. IPC reports and materials are widely disseminated and relied upon by press and policymakers. IPC staff regularly serves as experts to leaders on Capitol Hill, opinion-makers, and the media. IPC is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for office.
- Visit our website at [www.ImmigrationPolicy.org](http://www.ImmigrationPolicy.org)
- Visit our blog at [www.ImmigrationImpact.com](http://www.ImmigrationImpact.com)
- Paul McDaniel, [pmcdaniel@immcouncil.org](mailto:pmcdaniel@immcouncil.org)