

In 2007, the Migration Policy Institute established the National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy. The Center's goals are to focus attention on issues raised by immigrant integration and to build a more coherent and knowledge-driven field of researchers, community leaders, government officials, and other stakeholders who have the knowledge and skills to tackle them.

The Center will provide a number of key services. They include: policy-focused research; policy design; technical assistance, training and a leadership development program for local government officials and community leaders; program planning, design, and evaluation; and an electronic resource center on immigrant integration issues with a special focus on state and local policies and data.

MPI's primary reasons for creating the Center are to:

Shine a spotlight on these hugely important issues. Despite the fact that more than a million immigrants enter the United States each year, and more than one in five children in the United States is the child of an immigrant, immigrant integration is one of the most overlooked issues in US public policy today. MPI seeks to bring this neglected set of issues to the fore of national and local debates and promote constructive solutions that will advance the economic mobility and social inclusion of immigrants in the United States.

Set the record straight. MPI's Center will provide an unbiased look at the needs, costs, and contributions of immigrants and provide a balanced analysis of the integration policy options facing local communities and our nation.

Organize and strengthen a nascent field. Many officials in state and local government, as well as researchers and community leaders, have begun to tackle integration issues in areas such as PreK-12 education, workforce development, adult literacy, and health access. However, they often work in isolation, unaware of one another's efforts and

unable to leverage their expertise and energy into more systemic and powerful outcomes.

MPI's Center will serve as a hub that allows these stakeholders to connect with one another, inform and nurture their efforts, and facilitate the entry of new actors into integration and its various subfields.

Identify and promote effective policies and practices. Those working on integration issues at the local, state, and national levels need research and data that will guide them toward effective policies and practices. The need for such knowledge and expertise will only grow as migration to "new destination" states continues, as the question of legal status for the country's roughly 12 million unauthorized individuals is decided, and as concerns about the competitiveness of US workers and products in a globalized economy become more urgent.

The Center's work concentrates on policy domains that are central to immigrant integration. In its first two years, areas of focus will include: PreK-16 education; adult English language, literacy, and workforce skills; state and local government involvement in regulating immigration; access to health care; civic engagement; and entrepreneurship.

The Center's electronic resource center provides the most pertinent data on immigrants and their integration, information on key legislative and other policy developments, and the best recent scholarship on integration issues. MPI's Data Hub also contains state-of-the-art data tools that with one click provide a wealth of demographic and other information on immigrant populations in each state. These e-resources can be found on MPI's Web site at

www.migrationpolicy.org/integration.

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Language Portal: A Translation and Interpretation Digital Library

The *Language Portal* is a digital library of nearly 600 resources relating to the use of language access services in social services and public safety agencies. The *Portal* includes legal guidelines, service models, master contracts for service providers, hourly translation and interpretation rates for different languages, pay differentials for multilingual staff, and sample translated documents. The *Portal* was created to provide “one-stop shopping” for the many local government administrators, policymakers, and others who are looking for ways to provide high-quality and cost-effective translation and interpretation services.

www.migrationinformation.org/integration/language_portal



State Responses to Immigration: A Database of All State Legislation

The State Responses database is a unique, searchable online tool that catalogues all 1,059 immigration-related bills introduced in state legislatures in 2007, and allows users to search legislation by state, geographic region, subject area, bill status, and legislative typology. The database includes a synopsis of each bill and is accompanied by a report, *Regulating Immigration at the State Level: Highlights from the Database of 2007 State Immigration Legislation and the Methodology*.

The Database allows users to determine which types of bills have the highest passage rate; which types are most frequently introduced; and how much state activity has been designed to crack down on unauthorized immigration versus to assist immigrants' integration or protect them from exploitation.

www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/statelaws_home.cfm



Foreign-born Voters in Elections

MPI election profiles for all 50 states and the District of Columbia, examining voter registration by nativity, providing breakdowns for foreign-born citizens as a share of total state population, and detailing their turnout in the 2004 general election, and by ethnicity.

http://www.migrationpolicy.org/voter_factsheets.php



Data Hub: Immigration Facts and Figures at Your Fingertips

The MPI Data Hub gives you instant access to the latest information on US immigrant integration and international migration. Get reliable numbers on immigrants in the United States and Europe, and asylum seekers worldwide with the click of a button.

The MPI Data Hub showcases the most current demographic, social, and economic characteristics of US immigrants at the state level, as well as stock, flow, citizenship, asylum, and historical data for 17 countries. Use the interactive maps to see where foreign-born groups live in the United States and the countries of origin and destination of migrants globally.

www.migrationpolicy.org/datahub