



Legislation Text

File #: 16-0165, **Version:** 1

Resolution in Support of the Jewish Family Services' Application for the Gateways for Growth Challenge

Whereas, In 2015, the White House Task Force on New Americans launched the "Welcoming Communities Campaign to call on on local communities "to act on a set of principles to build inclusive, welcoming communities that allow all residents to thrive and advance integration efforts in three core areas: civic, economic, and linguistic integration";

Whereas, Other Michigan communities such as Sterling Heights, Detroit, and Clinton Township participate in the Welcoming Communities campaign;

Whereas, Participants in the Welcoming Communities Campaign receive support from peer organizations, training opportunities, technical assistance, and other supports to implement the goals of the campaign;

Whereas, 17.4% of Ann Arbor residents are foreign-born;

Whereas, Immigrants have long made important contributions to and are valued members of our community;

Whereas, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County serves as the only accredited refugee resettlement agency in Washtenaw County; and

Whereas, Jewish Family Services has the opportunity to apply for funds through the Gateways for Growth Challenge to support the coordination between nonprofit, government, business, and other sectors to "promote immigrant integration, from economic development strategies, to encouraging civic engagement and a positive public narrative around immigration";

Whereas, Application to the Gateways for Growth Challenge requests statements of support by local governments.

RESOLVED, That the City of Ann Arbor supports Jewish Family Services' application for the Gateways for Growth Challenge;

RESOLVED, That the City of Ann Arbor supports the goals of the Welcoming Communities Campaign to "build inclusive, welcoming communities that allow all residents to thrive and advance integration efforts in three core areas: civic, economic, and linguistic integration" and encourages Jewish Family Services to pursue participation in this program; and

RESOLVED, That the City of Ann Arbor encourages local residents, businesses, and community organizations to support the inclusion of immigrants and refugees in our community through offering job opportunities, employment coaching, and volunteering.

Sponsors: Councilmember Warpehoski