



The *E Pluribus Unum Prizes* national awards program provides four \$50,000 awards annually to exceptional initiatives that promote immigrant integration. The awards are intended to recognize exceptional immigrant integration initiatives that help immigrants and their children adapt, thrive, and contribute to the United States or that bring immigrants and the native born together to build stronger, more cohesive communities. The J.M. Kaplan Fund is generously providing support for these awards to focus attention on successful integration initiatives and to inspire and provide program models to others around the United States who might also undertake such efforts. The awards program is coordinated by the Migration Policy Institute's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy – a hub for groups and individuals around the United States who seek to build their knowledge and skills in the area of immigrant integration. Award winners will be honored at a reception in Washington, DC each May.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Individuals, nonprofit and community organizations, businesses, religious groups, and government entities, agencies, or officials operating in the United States. Whatever your field, type of organization, or profession, if you are involved in an exceptional integration initiative, we encourage you to apply for recognition!

The goal of the *E Pluribus Unum Prizes* is to recognize existing immigrant integration initiatives that meet the selection criteria set out below. The awards are not intended to support the launch of new initiatives.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be judged on the following criteria: Significance, Impact, and Influence.

SIGNIFICANCE: How significant is the issue, population group, program, or practice that your initiative addresses?

Questions to Consider:

- What is the concern that your initiative seeks to address or the need it seeks to meet? What made you or your organization decide that this was an important enough issue to get involved in?
- How is your initiative critical to strengthening relationships between native-born and foreign-born Americans, and/or helping immigrants and their children to succeed in the United States?
- Given other efforts in your community, state, and/or field to address immigrant integration and success, what makes your contribution especially valuable? How does your initiative compare or fit with other work in the area of immigrant integration and its various subfields?

IMPACT: How effective has your initiative been in achieving significant immigrant integration outcomes?

Questions to Consider:

- What did you set out to accomplish? To what degree did you accomplish it? How do you know?
- What specific and measurable results can you provide to show individual, family, or broader community outcomes that resulted from your efforts?
- To what extent has the initiative resulted in changes in the policies and practices of organizations or institutions in your community? In relationships among members of your community? In other factors that affect immigrant integration?

INFLUENCE: To what extent is the initiative likely to influence the efforts of others?

Questions to Consider:

- Has your initiative influenced others in your own community or field or in other communities or fields? How?
- What is your assessment of whether your initiative could be replicated? What would it take and what kinds of organizations or communities would be best suited to do so?
- What core elements of your approach are particularly innovative and/or effective? Why would people want to adopt these rather than other approaches?
- How long has your initiative been in operation? Do you foresee that your initiative will still be in operation two years from now? Five years from now? What do you think are the obstacles to sustaining your initiative and how do you plan to handle them?

The *E Pluribus Unum Prizes* are a project of MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION?

We define immigrant integration as the two-way process by which immigrants and their children come to feel and be Americans and by which American identity and culture expand to reflect each new generation of immigrants. For purposes of this awards program, we are most interested in programs that help immigrants and their children adapt, thrive, and contribute to the United States or that bring immigrants and the native born together to build stronger, more cohesive communities.

Too often the debate over the need to reform US immigration laws leaves little room for issues of immigrant integration. Yet, despite this lack of attention, in thousands of communities across the United States creative and effective efforts to promote immigrant integration are proliferating and succeeding. Immigrant integration is being achieved, whether in adult English and job training classes at a local community college or business; in schools, health centers, or youth development programs; in neighborhood councils where immigrant- and native-born residents work together to address common problems; or in any of the many efforts that seek to promote the economic, social, and civic integration of immigrants with mainstream society.

MPI's U.S. IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION NETWORK

Sharing Promising Practices and Policies

MPI's U.S. Immigrant Integration Network is a social networking site that allows those who assist immigrants and their children in joining the mainstream of US society to share effective policies and practices. It also allows leaders and practitioners in the emerging field and sub-fields of immigrant integration to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing them in their work and share ideas and strategies for greater success.

The Network will allow you to:

- learn more about immigrant integration efforts underway in different parts of the United States;
- find resources on issues, policies, and practices in a wide range of integration sub-fields;
- form discussion groups and share information with others on topics of common interest; and
- showcase your work and share your experiences and challenges.

Periodic updates about the Prizes will be posted to the Network and members will be able to post general questions about the selection criteria and application process in the site's discussion forum. We invite all prospective applicants and those interested in immigrant integration to become members of this online community. To request an invitation to join MPI's U.S. Immigrant Integration Network send a message to marciga@migrationpolicy.org.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be received by MPI's NCIP by 5 pm EST on December 10, 2009.

The application and any supplementary material should be submitted online at <http://www.integrationawards.org/>.

All applicants must submit the following:

- 1) **Cover Page:** Organization contact information and contact person information.
- 2) **Overview:** Provide a summary of the initiative describing what it does, what it has achieved, how much it costs to run, and why it is exemplary. Summary must be no longer than 500 words.
- 3) **Narrative:** The narrative must address each of the selection criteria (significance, impact, and influence), responding where appropriate to the questions under each criterion. Discussion of each of the three selection criteria should be a maximum of 850 words.
- 4) **References:** Provide contact information for three (3) persons willing to serve as references. References should know the applicant's work well and cannot be employed by the applicant. Briefly describe the relationship of each to the program and how they are familiar with it. Maximum: 75 words per reference.
- 5) **Supporting Materials:** Applicants have the option of submitting one (1) additional item that helps describe their work and its impact. Items that require extensive review time are strongly discouraged. If the item cannot be submitted online with the application, it should be clearly labeled with the applicant's name and a contact number and/or email address and mailed to The *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes, National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, Migration Policy Institute, 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC, 20036. All supporting items must be received by 5 pm EST on 12/10/09. Supporting materials will not be returned.

Additional information about the awards program, previous winners, and the online application can be found at <http://www.integrationawards.org/>.

Questions about the *E Pluribus Unum* Prizes can be sent to awardsinfo@migrationpolicy.org.

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