



# JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

---

## Communication Department

### **CREATING A STRONGER OHIO: OFFICE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW AMERICANS**

#### **Helping legal immigrants successfully integrate into Ohio, link to training and jobs**

Ohio was the United States' first frontier, and many cities across the state have been significantly shaped by the hard work and ingenuity of diverse immigrants who settled here. Today, new immigrants are finding a home in Ohio and making contributions to the same cities that were enriched by earlier generations of immigrants. Migration to Ohio will also mean a *growing* population that will build more consumer demand and can help provide job creators the workforce they need.

**Helping New Americans Find Opportunities in the Buckeye State:** By executive order, Gov. John Kasich has created the Office of Opportunities for New Americans and the New Americans Advisory Committee. These entities will help new and current immigrants do their part for our great state and become better integrated into the fabric of their communities. The Office of Opportunities for New Americans will reside within the Development Services Agency and will focus on making sure these new Ohioans are job ready by coordinating existing efforts at the state level, communicating with immigrant support groups and by identifying and tearing down barriers that prevent or impede their integration into society and economic success.

The 12-member advisory group will provide guidance to the Office of Opportunities for New Americans and will be comprised of representatives of immigrant communities, business leaders and non-profit immigration advocates. They will be joined in their discussions by officials from the Ohio departments of Education, Higher Education, Job and Family Services, Commerce, Development Services Agency and Office of Workforce Transformation.

**Helping Job Creators Find a Stable, Ready Workforce to Meet the Demands of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Business and Industry:** The Office of Opportunities for New Americans will help to ensure legal immigrants who decide to make Ohio their home find the resources they need to become assets to our state. Furthermore, the efforts by the office and the advisory committee can potentially spur the growth of Ohio's population with more legal immigrants deciding to put down roots in Ohio and doing their part to contribute to the Buckeye state's success. Similar efforts have shown to be successful such as Global Cleveland and other state-level initiatives. A website, [www.NewAmericans.Ohio.Gov](http://www.NewAmericans.Ohio.Gov), has been created to help immigrants better navigate the various state programs that support education and training, employment and entrepreneurship or starting a business.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Helping legal immigrants successfully settle in Ohio will strengthen the fabric of our state and lay a stronger foundation for the ongoing success that comes from innovations that can flow from new ideas and new people.

