Your Non-Traditional Neighborhood Stabilization Tool: Refugees and Immigrants

Presented by

Shelly Callahan
Executive Director, Compass Interpreters
A division of the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees
Utica is a City of Migration
The foreign-born residents of Utica constitute 14.78% of the city's total population.

Foreign Born Persons percent, 2006-2010

- New York State: 21.7%
- New York City: 36.8%
- Albany: 11.6%
- Utica: 14.8%
- Syracuse: 10.3%
- Rochester: 8.2%
- Buffalo: 7.0%
- Binghamton: 9.7%

A language other than English is spoken in 23.4% of households in Utica.

Language Other than English Spoken at Home 2006-2010

- New York State: 29.2%
- New York City: 48.3%
- Albany: 15.3%
- Utica: 23.4%
- Syracuse: 15.6%
- Rochester: 17.1%
- Buffalo: 13.7%
- Binghamton: 13.6%

Source: 2010 US Census
Source: quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states
The population of Utica increased from 1910 to 1930, then plateaued. Utica then experienced a sharp and continuous population decline from 100,410 in 1960 to 60,651 in 2000 due to de-industrialization.

The MVRCR resettled 13,571 Refugees between 1979 and 2010. Many of these Refugees have remained in Utica and have helped to stabilize the population and reverse a half century of continuous population decline.

The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees

✧ Incorporated in 1981
✧ Has resettled over 14,000 refugees to Utica.
✧ Assists refugees, immigrants and those with limited English language proficiency throughout the integration process.
✧ Provides services to assist in building community with many cultures.
✧ Critical for Universal Dissemination of Information

“...the impact of this institution cannot be overestimated... Above all it is the source of the metaphorical sign that says ‘Welcome to Utica.’”
- John Zogby,
Six Continents, One Hometown, April 2013

www.mvrcr.org
Housing

- Available
- Affordable and Suitable
- Urban Renewal Programs
- Home Ownership Centers/Programs
- Tied to employment and training programs

Preliminary Data from Review of 2013 Properties in Utica

- Prices increase the most when the seller is the Urban Renewal Agency

- Most Bosnians tend to buy one or two family homes – 226 out of 674 one family residences with 301 being two family residences

- 99 out of 674 Bosnian properties were bought from the City

- Use of realtors amongst the Bosnian community is high with moderate levels in the Vietnamese and Burmese communities
• Welcoming Traditions
• Systems of Municipalities
• Access to Entrepreneurial Programs
• Business Environment
• Access to Education (schools, training programs and Higher Ed.)

• Connection to Faith Communities

• Language Support

• Access for New Individuals – universal dissemination of information
Fire Safety – Emergency Responders

- Leadership, partnership, and innovation is key to creating a welcoming community. -
Key Take Away’s

Welcoming Partnerships Access
Contact Us

Trainings and Consulting
Compass Interpreters, a division of the Refugee Center

www.mvrcr.org
www.compassinterpreters.org

Shelly Callahan or Shana Pughe
info@compassinterpreters.org
(315) 749 7080