



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
**LABOR & ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY**

**GLOBAL
MICHIGAN**

Aligning Partnerships to Make Michigan Welcoming and Inclusive

November 15, 2023



Finding Luck

Raffle Tickets and Prizes

Starting with Community

Regional Community Collaborative (RCC) Purpose & Intent

The RCC Program was developed as a response to resettlement work and community needs.

- ❑ to improve the quality of community engagement and address structural barriers to rapid and thriving integration of populations resettled in Michigan;
- ❑ to be a center of information and culturally empathetic support that captures integration and empowerment of refugees and other newcomer populations; and
- ❑ to provide support for local resettlement efforts serving these populations, leading to increased efficiency and impact.





Maha Gabayre, Coordinator

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Director

FY 2023 Highlights

- Cultural Briefing Series
- Networking Events: Health & Wellness, Education, Employment
- Partnered with Resettlement Agency to offer an event for World Refugee Awareness Week & a Civic Engagement Event
- Partnered with local school district to help identify student and parent needs

FY 2024 Projects

- Expanded project with 211
- Neighborhood engagement pilot
- Statewide: Youth Summit, Newcomer Rental Subsidy Program, data base



Established 2015

501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

EIN: 82-1295491

Kalamazoo Refugee Resource Collaborative



Our Vision:

Kalamazoo as a community rich in resources where all people are empowered to be self-determining and be able to thrive in American Society.

Our Mission:

The Mission of the Kalamazoo Refugee Resource Collaborative (KRRC) is to create partnerships that transform the experience of refugees, migrants, and immigrants from lives of uncertainty to a life of freedom, equity, and security. We work towards a vision where Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties are communities of possibility where people can self-actualize to their fullest potential.

Project Échelle



KRRC's Project Échelle aims to improve the English skills of refugee and migrant students in a culturally sensitive way to enhance their chances of graduating with a high school diploma.

Project Echelle is grant funded by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and supports existing and new educational efforts:

- Tutoring for refugee families in coordination with Bethany Christian Services (Plainwell Schools)
- Offering summer ESL programs for high schoolers
- Redesign and restructuring of program from summer to annual format
- New partnerships:
 - Western Michigan University
 - Community in Schools
 - Kalamazoo Public Schools



Future Programming FY24



- Development of KRRC Advocacy Council comprising leadership from newcomer communities
- Establishing a KRRC Mental Health Committee
- Develop a Strategic Priority Plan based on a needs assessment
- Expand Partnerships, and Outreach & Advocacy efforts
- More robust Social Media presence
- Expansion of Project Échelle to evening programming
- Translation and interpretation services
- Creation of a mentorship program
- Expansion of volunteer participation
- Create greater awareness of personal development opportunities



Operations



- Development of Advocacy Council representing the diverse newcomer populations
- Transportation for essential needs and access to services
- Expansion of Project Échelle
- Expand on resources and partnerships
- Mentorship for Employment and PD opportunities
- Support OGM with the Newcomer Rental Subsidy program



Community Engagement

- Coordinate & support community events focused on newcomers
- Support the Michigan Youth Conference 2024
- Provide Cultural Orientation Programming for newcomers
- Expand KRRC geographically and by sector
- Increase outreach efforts in Calhoun County
- Improve coordination & communication with other community nonprofits
- Invite greater participation of volunteers in refugee education



Advocacy & Visibility

- Expand memberships with local and national coalitions and councils for refugees & New Americans
- Increase engagement with local governments around issues being faced by refugees
- Create awareness of newcomers' positive impact and contributions to region
- Host Cultural Events to facilitate connection between newcomers and service providers, as well as to communities

A scenic view of the New York City skyline, featuring prominent skyscrapers like the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building, viewed from across a body of water. The sky is clear blue, and the water is a calm blue. In the foreground, there are green trees and a metal railing. A semi-transparent dark teal text box is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image.

Southeast Michigan Refugee Collaborative FY24 Strategic Plan

2023 RECAP



Operations

- New Workgroups
- Resource Guides
- Communication and Resource Sharing

Community Engagement

- Webinars and Community Events

Advocacy

- Funding for New Americans



PRIORITY 1: OPERATIONS

Ensure collaboration between members is maximized and programs prioritize addressing the largest challenges to integration and inclusion.

Objective 1.1: Develop infrastructure and tools to foster collaboration and grow partnerships.

Objective 1.2: Expand access for refugees and immigrants to affordable and appropriate housing.



PRIORITY 1: OPERATIONS

Objective 1: Infrastructure and Tools for Collaboration and Partnership

Strategy 1: Deepen Membership

Strategy 2: Develop a Resource Guide

Strategy 3: Additional Tools for Collaboration

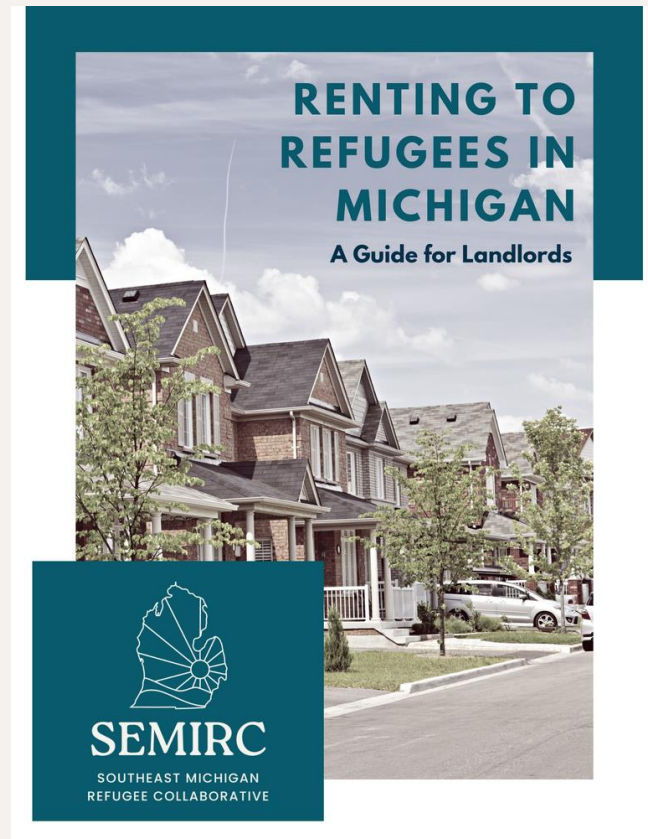
PRIORITY 1: OPERATIONS

Objective 2: Housing

Strategy 1: Engage Housing Development and Support Ecosystem

Strategy 2: Engage Refugee-Friendly Landlords

Strategy 3: Support Newcomer Rental Subsidy Program



PRIORITY 2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Strengthen connections between the Collaborative and members of refugee and immigrant communities.

Objective 2.1: Engage refugee and immigrant communities to center lived experiences in SEMIRC decision making processes, expand access to resources and information, and amplify refugee and immigrant voices.

Objective 2.2: Provide cultural orientation programming for refugees and immigrants navigating new communities and systems and the entities serving them to provide more culturally appropriate care.

PRIORITY 2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Objective 1: Engage Refugee and Immigrant Communities

Strategy 1: Ambassador Program

Strategy 2: Feedback Opportunities

Strategy 3: Michigan Immigrant Youth Conference

Strategy 4: Community Navigator Program(s)

Strategy 5: Ethnic Commissions and MIARC

PRIORITY 2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Objective 2: Cultural Orientation

Strategy 1: Cultural Orientation for Refugees and Immigrants

Strategy 2: Cultural Orientation for Service Providers



PRIORITY 3: ADVOCACY

Educate non-traditional partners, local governments, and other stakeholders about SEMIRC and the experiences of refugees and immigrants and activate them as advocacy partners, broadening pro-refugee and immigrant voices.

Objective 3.1: Engage non-traditional partners to broaden the coalition of sectors advocating for and implementing refugee- and immigrant-friendly policies and identify opportunities for creative approaches to expanding newcomer inclusion.

Objective 3.2: Engage local governments to connect newcomers with underutilized resources and deepen local municipal support for refugee and immigrant inclusion.

PRIORITY 3: ADVOCACY

Objective 1: Non-Traditional Partners

Strategy 1: Engage Employers

Strategy 2: Engage chambers of commerce, business associations, universities and colleges, foundations, and others

Strategy 3: Summit

PRIORITY 3: ADVOCACY

Objective 2: Local Governments

Strategy 1: Outreach and Education

Strategy 2: Identify Meaningful Opportunities for Partnership





Strategic Priorities

2024



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Leadership Development and Access to Opportunities
- Community Events



OPERATIONS

- Increase Access and Awareness of Credential Evaluation and Re-credentialing Process
- Host Quarterly Grant Writing Workshops

Grant Writing Collaboration

How can I prepare for collaboration?

- I. Understand your organization's mission, resources, and what you can bring.
- II. Commit to formal strategic planning of long-term initiatives.
- III. Determine "best fit" with potential partners.
- IV. Take part in informal planning of how the group will move forward with potential projects.
- V. Obtain buy in from key stakeholders and/or organizational leaders.

Picture in picture

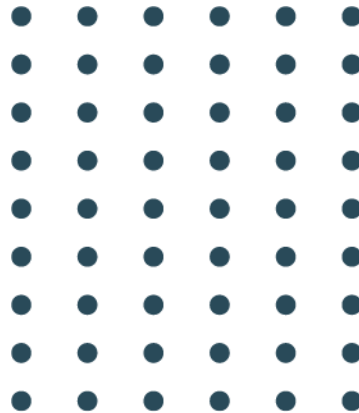


Pause (k)



ADVOCACY

- Increase Transportation Accessibility
- Increase Funding to New American Organizations and Welcome Plan Collaborative Budget





Thank You

Coming Soon...

Breakout Sessions

1) Ingham County; 2) Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties; 3) Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, and Washtenaw Counties; and 4) Kent County

A photograph taken from inside a vehicle, looking out through the open rear hatch. A man with grey hair, wearing a yellow jacket, is seated on the right, looking out at the sunset. A dark-colored dog is on the left, also looking out. The scene outside shows a green field and a line of trees under a bright, hazy sky. The interior of the vehicle is dark, with some overhead lights visible.

Break

Collaborating Regionally

Breakout Sessions

1) Ingham County; 2) Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties; 3) Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, and Washtenaw Counties; and 4) Kent County

Group Discussion

- When does it make sense to engage as partners? As competitors?
- Which state partnership opportunities lend themselves to local collaborations and coalitions?
- What do large, established organizations offer in a partnership? What do newer, smaller, or community-based groups offer in a partnership?
- How might we build-in a way to routinely discuss partnership opportunities?

Discussion Highlights

A photograph of two young Black women sitting at an outdoor table. The woman on the left is wearing a mustard yellow long-sleeved shirt and has her arm around the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and has her arm around the woman on the left. They are both smiling at the camera. In the foreground, there is a glass of orange juice, a plate, and some food. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a white building and greenery.

Lunch

Communicating Intentionally

Breakout Sessions

1) Ingham County; 2) Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties; 3) Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, and Washtenaw Counties; and 4) Kent County

Group Discussion

- How do you currently share information with OGM and other state partners? How would you like to do that moving forward?
- How do you currently receive information from OGM and other state partners? How would you like to get information in the future?
- What is the best way to get your community's feedback on the needs, challenges, and opportunities related to welcoming refugees and immigrants? What might be effective ways to do this routinely? What might be effective ways to do this ad hoc?

Discussion Highlights

A photograph of a yoga class. In the foreground, a man with a shaved head, a small beard, a nose ring, and a hoop earring is shown in profile, eyes closed, in a yoga pose. He is wearing a light pink t-shirt. Behind him, two women are also in a similar pose, looking upwards. The woman immediately behind him has long dark hair and is wearing a pink shirt. The woman further back has dark hair and is wearing a grey tank top. They are all on yoga mats in a bright, minimalist room with white walls. The word "Break" is overlaid in white text on the left side of the image.

Break

Moving in Sync

Group Discussion

- What would you like to see happen as a follow-up to this convening?
- What insight, idea, or action are you exploring as a result of your conversations today and yesterday?
- Who would you like to recognize or thank as part of your community and/or this convening?
- What else would you like OGM to know?



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Closing Remarks