



Global Cleveland was founded 10 years ago by the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and the region's corporate and philanthropic leadership to address a key issue to our community's ongoing growth and revitalization: welcoming international newcomers. This effort, led by our Mayor, his cabinet, Cleveland City Council, and so many others has focused on ensuring we welcome, attract, retain, and support international newcomers for our shared economic prosperity.

We focus on advocacy for international newcomers, full and supportive civic engagement and workforce development. We say, "to immigrate is an entrepreneurial act". We know that this world-travelled, globally experienced citizenry, from stores and restaurants, small factories and medical innovations and the service industry all contribute to the rich racial, ethnic, and social diversity of our neighborhoods and communities.

Over the last year we pivoted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This challenge has created incredible opportunities to help our newcomers in new ways and bring more attention to the role of language access in public health.

From the beginning of the pandemic, we created a language bank featuring over 20 languages, with more than 60 translators to address language access gaps. We have translated material for the City of Cleveland's Department of Aging, Mayor's Office, Health Department and Economic Development Department. Translations covered how to stay safe, COVID protocols, PPP and SBA loan opportunities, vaccine sites, vaccine information, and more. Dovetailing with this translation, we have worked with the City Health Department, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and the Ohio Department of Health with FEMA to get newcomers vaccinated. Our translation and outreach work has help us get over 4000-and counting- individuals registered for a COVID-19 vaccine.

We excel at connecting the international and ESL communities to area services. We have been part of the city, county, state, and philanthropic committees and taskforces about COVID-19 as representatives of the international community. We are the only non-geographically bound "hub" for the hub-and-spoke model through The Cleveland Foundation's COVID response. The vast network we created for our Census work, in combination with our translator network, has helped us build a robust mechanism through which we disseminate public health information to the ESL and ethnic communities.

As part of our education efforts to make Cleveland a more welcoming community, we have met with more than 30 elected officials from local and state government who, to a person, have been receptive and open to further integration programs and policies. To this end we are helping the region and the City to prepare for national immigration policy changes that will result in more refugees and immigrants moving to Cleveland.

This year we have launched other programs, in addition to our vaccine work and continued translation work. Our Ambassador and Diplomat Series was started with a conversation between us and the Colombian Ambassador's office as part of a virtual roadshow. We were able to connect several companies with the economic development arm of the Colombian government and will continue to include Colombian partners in our economic development work in Northeast Ohio. To date we have hosted four diplomatic missions as part



of this series and continue to support follow up with our chambers of commerce and economic development directors.

Our inaugural cohort of our Global Rising program will graduate in May of 2021. This program has highlighted both the incredible talent of our international newcomers, but also the professional advancement challenges to these same people. By pairing them with civic leaders we are ensuring the next generation of Cleveland's greatness.

Only through the leadership of the Mayor's Office, Sister Cities work has expanded this year to include monthly mini summits focused on particular themes, such as education and economic development. This is a way of continuing and building upon our 1000+ participant Sister Cities Conference in 2020 co-produced with the Cleveland Public Library.

We have continued many other programs such as our Global Employer summit, that connects talent to employment in an effort to support our economy, as well as our Welcoming Week in September, which last year featured not only Representative Jose "Chuy" Garcia as part of Hispanic Heritage Month, but also a pivotal conversation on African American/African immigrant power and consensus building. This year we are planning an African American/Asian American joint conversation about combating hate.

Like many cities across America, we have had to face and reflect upon social and racial justice. Global Cleveland continues to be an ally to marginalized and disempowered groups, as well as bringing the immigrant experience to the fore, as many of these groups suffer from discrimination. We engage with social justice organizations across the country, such as the East-West Foundation, NAACP, and others to advocate for responsible and inclusive policies.

We continue to seek out and develop new relationships to broaden and deepen our work in the community. For example, we helped provide over 500 period products to young refugee women in partnership with the Alpha Omega Foundation-a renowned black sorority-to support menstrual justice in African refugee communities. We partnered with PCs for People to get laptops and hotspots to refugee families who needed to home-school their children, and we have begun a conversation with the Regional Transit Authority about a language access project and ridership. Additionally, we have begun meeting with every CDC in the city to address immigrant and ESL population needs in their neighborhood, which has led to incredibly fruitful discussions and plans to support existing communities and attract others.

Cleveland is seen as a place of opportunity by many. It is a place where a person can work, buy a home, start a business and follow their version of the American dream, but it takes addressing all systems to include the immigrant resident to truly help our newest community members thrive.

We are here to support the City of Cleveland, and all of her leaders and departments and citizens and neighborhoods in any way we can as we strive to live up to our motto every single day: To strengthen the City by welcoming the world.