

READY TO WORK PROGRAM

Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges

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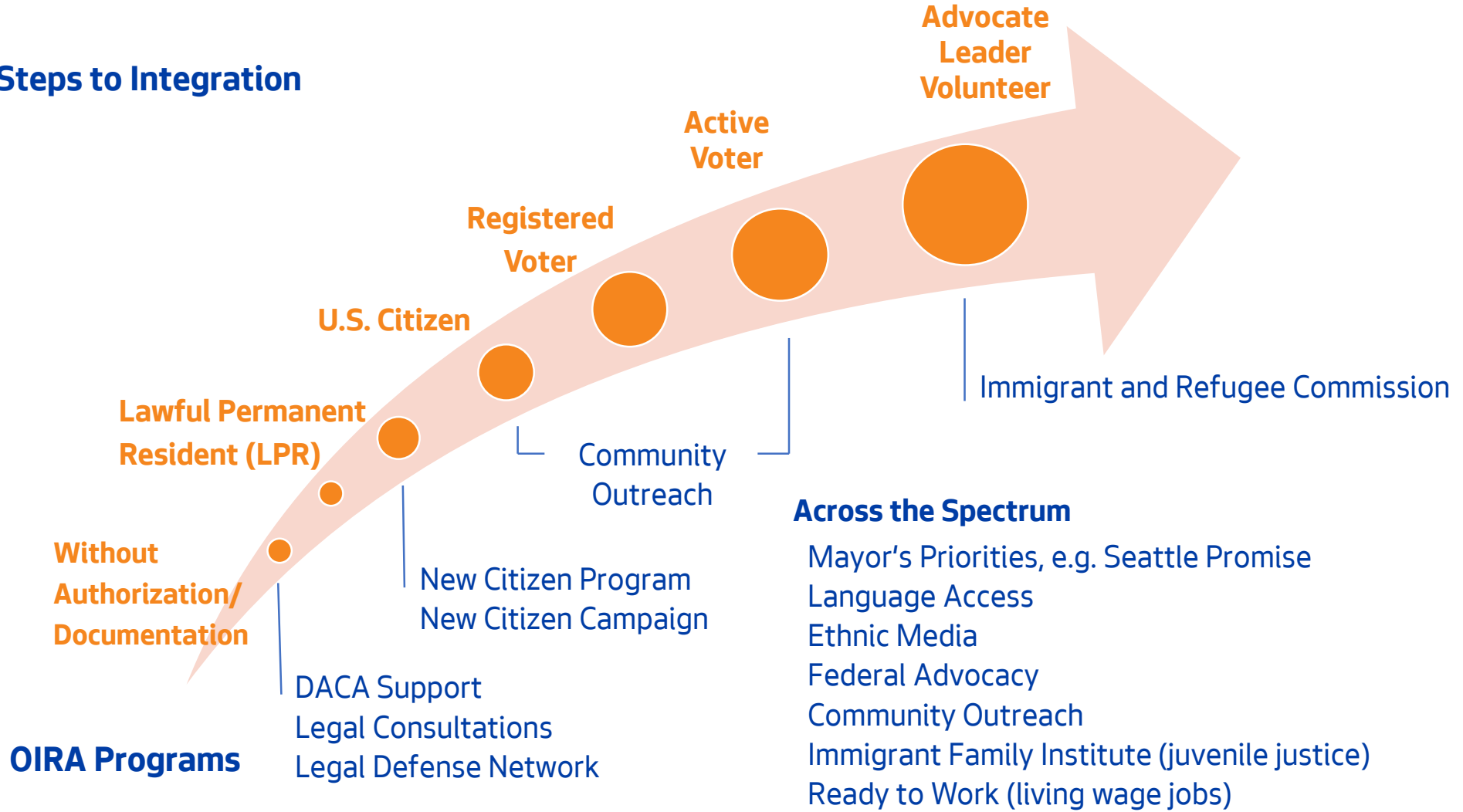
Office of Immigrant
and Refugee Affairs



City of Seattle

Immigrant Integration Spectrum

Steps to Integration



OIRA Programs

Across the Spectrum



Beginning English Language Learners:

- Encounter significant barriers to achieving economic stability in Seattle and King County
- Face a very long road with many obstacles in their pursuit of living wage jobs, remain consigned to low wage jobs
- Are underserved by our current workforce and education systems compared to those with higher levels of educational attainment

Key Barriers to Mobility and Economic Stability

- Access to ESL classes while working with long hours & commutes
- Time it takes to become English proficient
- Financial costs of continuing education
- Navigating educational systems and certification processes, building professional networks, and identifying entry points with employers
- Lack of incumbent worker/employer supported adult education/ESL Programs/training programs

Ready to Work: Timeline

- Community advocates for beginning English language learners (2013-2014)
- SJI research study and OIRA Focus Groups Findings (2014)
- Community Advisory and Design Committee (2014-2015)
- RTW launches in South Seattle with CDBG \$ (Summer 2015)
- Racial & Social Justice Initiative principles and goals (2016)
- Research Triangle Institute evaluation (2016)
- “Breaking Barriers-Building Bridges” report to Council (2017)
- City Council expands program to North Seattle (Lake City) with GF \$ (2017)
- City Council expands program to West Seattle (Highpoint) with GF \$ (2018)
- OIRA efforts to support replication in region & WA State (2019)

Ready to Work: Primary Goals

- Learning gains in English language skills and digital literacy
- Job-readiness, career development & employment in a quality job
- Advancement to next level courses and/or programs and beyond
- Long Term: Progress to Self Sufficiency and Economic Stability

Integrating Learning and Employment Services

- Four concurrent neighborhood based classes in South, North & West Seattle
- ESL Levels 1-3 instruction aligned to college readiness standards
- Twelve hours of work-oriented ESL per week
- Career development and job placement services
- Case management and support services
- Digital Literacy
- Evolving curriculum and adult education best practices
- Field trips and guest speakers



RTW Partners and Their Roles

Organization	Role
City of Seattle OIRA	Funder, Program Design, Monitoring Outcomes and Impact
HomeSight	Fiscal Agent for CDBG Funds
Asian Counseling & Referral service	Program Coordination, Case Mgt. Job Placement, Tracking & Reporting
Literacy Source	Instruction, Curriculum, Tracking Learning Gains
Neighborhood House	Program Coordination, Case Mgt. Job Placement, Tracking & Reporting
Somali Community Services	Instructional Assistance
Seattle Colleges	Students “Transfer” to Higher Level on-Campus ESL Classes

