

2016 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

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**Budget Action Title:** Add \$35,000 in GSF to OIRA for a feasibility study to explore how the City, in partnership with community colleges, may establish a ‘Welcome Back Center’

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Budget Proviso: No

Councilmembers: Burgess; Harrell; O'Brien; Okamoto

Staff Analyst: Aly Pennucci

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

**Summary of Dollar Effect**

See the following pages for detailed technical information

	2015 Increase (Decrease)	2016 Increase (Decrease)
<b>General Subfund</b>		
<b>General Subfund Revenues</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>General Subfund Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$35,000
<b>Net Balance Effect</b>	\$0	(\$35,000)
<b>Total Budget Balance Effect</b>	\$0	(\$35,000)

**Budget Action description:**

The green sheet would add \$35,000 to OIRA’s 2016 budget to contract with an outside organization for a feasibility study to explore how the City, in partnership with community colleges, may establish a ‘Welcome Back Center.’ OIRA would contract with a non-profit who would partner with community colleges to conduct the study. The non-profit organization should have expertise in working with immigrant communities in

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collaboration with other agencies to address immigrant integration and access to employment and education, such as OneAmerica.

The feasibility study should be submitted to the Mayor, OIRA and the City Council by September 2016 with the following elements:

- the number of immigrants and refugees in Seattle and surrounding communities that would benefit from such a program;
- whether such a program should be focused on particular industries or sectors;
- the best location of a program within Seattle;
- the cost of such a program;
- potential partnerships with non-profit organizations, businesses and public sector institutions; and
- the integration of this program with existing services provided by the Seattle Colleges and the City of Seattle.

**Background:**

‘Welcome Back’ programs have been developed in communities throughout the country. These programs provide assistance to immigrant and refugee professionals in assessing their skills, developing and navigating educational and credentialing pathways, developing social networks and accessing necessary supports like interview coaching, ESL instruction and transportation. There are currently ‘Welcome Back’ Centers in Washington State housed at Edmonds Community College and Highline College. Welcome Back Centers focus attention on the unique contributions that immigrants and refugees can bring to Seattle and Washington State, if they are allowed to enter their chosen professions and contribute more fully to our city and community.

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**Budget Action Transactions**

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#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Add appropriation for a 'Welcome Back' program feasibility study.				OIRA	Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs	X1N00	00100	2016		\$35,000