



## WELCOMING CENTER FOR NEW PENNSYLVANIANS

Connecting immigrants, employers, and communities

### ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians was founded in 2003 to address the barriers that immigrants face in finding employment in their new country. Our mission is to accelerate immigrant integration through education, training, employment, and entrepreneurship. **To date, we have helped more than 15,000 people from 140 countries around the world.**

Immigrants comprise roughly 13% of the population in the City of Philadelphia, and approximately 1 in 10 residents in the nearby suburbs. Each year we serve approximately 1,500 individuals. All our services are designed to help immigrants find jobs and make a better life for themselves and their families. More than 80% of our clients at the Welcoming Center are racial or ethnic minorities and the vast majority of our jobseekers do not speak English as their first language. About one-third of our clients come to us with a high school diploma or less and need help finding entry-level work.

### WELCOMING CENTER SERVICES

**Employment Services:** Our employment specialists work closely with regional employers to identify work-authorized candidates for their hiring needs.



**Adult Education and Job Training:** We offer vocational English and soft skills training for people with limited English proficiency; civics education for those preparing for US citizenship; and, GED classes.

**International Professionals Program:** We help foreign-born professionals reestablish their careers.

**Small Business Support:** Our small business team provides technical assistance to help American-born and immigrant entrepreneurs start or expand their businesses.



**Information, Referral, and Legal Services:** We are a clearinghouse for information, responding to more than 1,000 immigration-related inquiries a year and hosting a monthly free legal clinic.