



Michigan: Where Your Future Begins

Executive Office of Governor Rick Snyder
Michigan Office for New Americans



Michigan Office for New
Americans

Michigan Office for New Americans

Executive Office of Governor Rick Snyder

Governor Rick Snyder created the Michigan Office for New Americans in January of 2014.

- Immigrants are critical to the success of business and entrepreneurial activity across the state and are key to Michigan's agricultural and tourism industries.
- It is critical to Michigan's reinvention, population growth, economic vitality, cultural diversity, and well-being that Michigan is known as a state that embraces, welcomes, and sustains a diverse population and the economic growth of that diversity



Michigan Office for New
Americans

Population Growth

- During this decade, Michigan was the only state in the nation to lose population according to the recent census
- By 2040, nearly 25% of Michigan's population will be 65 years or older. Economist Don Grimes from U of M said this, “We are going to run out of people of working age.”



Michigan Office for New
Americans

Economic Growth

“So in a flat world,
economic development
priority #1 is to prepare,
retain and attract talent.”
Michigan Future Inc. 2006

“Creative people seem to really like and thrive in an environment that is diverse. Learning from and connecting with others is vital to economic growth. If you cannot, or will not communicate with others than you are cutting yourself off from any growth.” **Charles Ballard, Professor of Economics, Michigan State University**

CHALLENGES

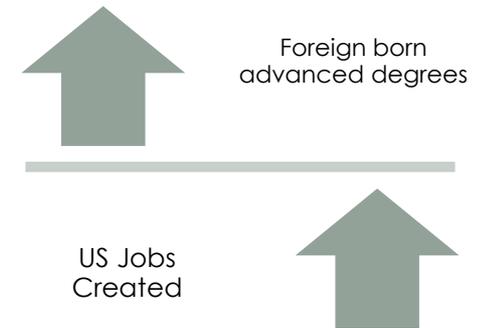
- By 2018, Michigan will need to fill 274,000 STEM field jobs. (Georgetown University)
- Recent Detroit area job fair featuring 50 companies with a combined total of 3,000 engineering positions saw only 276 engineers applications. (Detroit Free Press 12/13)
- Estimated that 49,000 seasonal agricultural workers are needed annually (*find the number we typically have*)
- Health care profession shortage
 - Nurses to be short 18,300 by 2020
 - More than $\frac{1}{4}$ of physicians are 60 + years old
 - More than $\frac{1}{2}$ medical school graduates leave Michigan



Michigan Office for New
Americans

ASSETS

- For every 100 foreign born advanced degree grads, 262 US jobs are created
- 1 in 5 STEM workers with an advanced degree is an immigrant
- Foreign-educated immigrants more likely to be unemployed or under-employed than US-educated counterparts
- Immigrants are more than twice as likely to start a business as their native-born counterparts
- 1/3 of Michigan high-tech startups over the past decade are immigrant founded
- Rate of immigrants starting businesses has grown by 50%, whereas the rate of US born declined 10%





Michigan Office for New
Americans

Education Assets

- 36.6% of Michigan's foreign born population age 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2009 compared to 24.7% of native born persons age 25 or older
- Michigan's 26,926 foreign students contributed \$823 million to the state's economy.
- At UM, 2/3 of the University's patents had at least one immigrant inventor.
- More than 60% of MI engineering PhD graduates are foreign born



Michigan Office for New
Americans

Here is what we are trying to build upon:

In 2010, new immigrant
business owners generated

\$1.8

Billion

In total net business
income



30,233

Immigrants became new
business owners in
Michigan between 2006-2010

10.4%

of business owners in Michigan are immigrants



Michigan Office for New
Americans

Detroit's Proposal for 50,000 Visas

- The State of Michigan is requesting the Obama Administration designate 50,000 visas for the City of Detroit over a period of five years to attract highly-skilled, entrepreneurial immigrants who commit to living and working in the City of Detroit, contributing to its economic and population growth.
- We propose an initial pilot allocation of EB visas: 5,000 in year one; 10,000 in years two, three and four; and 15,000 EB visas in year five.
- We believe that the pipeline to fulfill and potentially exceed this “Detroit Allocation” already exists amongst foreign nationals legally studying at and graduating from our Michigan universities and colleges, recently arrived refugees with exceptional skills and education levels, and individuals already legally in Michigan on temporary visas – including entrepreneurs willing to invest and create jobs and high-skilled specialists in key industries – including automotive, IT, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism.
- An investment in human capital will increase the return on existing investments in Detroit by the federal government* and result in creation of more jobs for American workers.



Michigan Office for New
Americans

Overview of Proposal's Rational

- We are focusing on the Employment-Based (EB) visa classification as the pool from which we would like the Federal Government to consider designating an allocation for Detroit. A key reason to focus on Employment-Based visas is that unlike many other classifications, EB visas allow for permanent residence (i.e. Green Card).
- Though the EBs require an applicant to be tied to an existing job, the EB-2 visa classification specifically contains a waiver, known as the “National Interest Waiver” (NIW), which waives the job requirement and required labor certification from the Department of Labor of Employment-Based visas. The NIW applicant is not required to have a job lined up to get the visa. We are proposing to apply “National Interest” more broadly as the rationale for the request that the Federal government allow Detroit an annual allocation over five years.



Michigan Office for New
Americans

President Obama Administrations Interest

- We would like to persuade the Obama Administration that Detroit succeeding is within the “National Interest” by drawing a link to how this immigration proposal can amplify their Detroit-related efforts (Auto Bailout, NITC, Transit, Blight, as well as the ongoing work of the USDOT, HUD, Dept. of Education, Treasury, Health and Human Services, and others in Detroit). Moreover, we should further explore President Obama’s ability to impact visa allocations by administrative action.
- An argument may certainly be made that a Presidential Executive Order, modifying federal immigration statute, is outside of the President of the United States’ privilege under Article II, Sections 1 and 2 of the U.S. Constitution. However, an argument may also be made that the President is furthering Section 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act by quantifying those visas allocated within the preference categories in order to use them more appropriately to improve the economy and welfare of the United States.



Governor's Proposal

1. Federal statute allocates 140,000 Employment-Based (EB) visas each fiscal year. We want to draw from a larger numerical pool than the 40,000 visa officially allocated for EB-2.
 - a) We do know that the unused visas in other classifications (specifically, the Family-Based preference area) are shifted over to the Employment-Based visa classification annually.

EB-1 –Priority Workers. Persons of “extraordinary ability,” “outstanding professors or researchers,” or “multinational managers or executives.” These are extremely particular, requiring national or international acclaim, and have included Nobel prize winners, pro athletes, etc.

EB-2 –Professionals Holding Advanced Degrees and Persons of Exceptional Ability

EB-3 –Skilled Workers, Professionals, and Unskilled Workers (Other Workers); Skilled workers are persons whose jobs require a minimum of 2 years training or work experience that are not temporary or seasonal; Professionals are members of the professions whose jobs require at least a baccalaureate degree from a U.S. university or college or its foreign equivalent degree; Unskilled workers (Other workers) are persons capable of filling positions that require less than two years training or experience that are not temporary or seasonal.

EB-4 Certain Special Immigrants – Laundry list of specialist

EB-5 –Immigrant Investors.

National Interest Waiver (NIW)

Beneficiaries of an NIW must qualify as either an "Advanced Degree Professional" or "Alien of Exceptional Ability." Under INA 203(b)(2)(b) of the EB-2 NIW category, there are two types of NIW petitions that are available: (1) NIW based on a foreign national's services in the sciences, arts, professions, or business; and (2) NIW based on a physician working in a Health Profession Shortage Area (HPSA), Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or at a healthcare facility of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Pipeline

- **International Students at Michigan Universities** – The most recent data we’ve been able to pull (*still working*) from the 2011-12 school from all 15 public universities cites **6,479 int’l student graduates** (including both undergraduate and graduate). In the Fall 2012, there were **21,032 total international students at Michigan’s public universities**.
 - International Students studying in the US- 524,000 Students studying in the US. 2/3 of foreign students pursuing a bachelors or higher degree are in STEM or business management and marketing fields
- **Refugees - 4658 refugees** entered Michigan in FY 2013; **6.6% of all arrivals to U.S.** came to Michigan; **5th largest number of arrivals in U.S.** [*Governor we will be attaching additional details regarding refugees, including the refugee resettlement process, as provided by the DHS Office of Refugees Director, Al Horn.*]
- **Nonimmigrant/Entrepreneurial visa Holders** - We would **propose that holders of any of the nonimmigrant/entrepreneur visas be provided a guaranteed path to permanent residency (Green Card) which is currently difficult to achieve, by creating a provision allowing them access to our “Detroit Allocation” of EB visas.** Many of these visa holders remain in uncertain status indefinitely. (E-2 treaty investors)
- Leveraging our “Detroit Allocation,” individuals already holding an entrepreneur visa could gain permanent residency by committing to live, work/invest in Detroit for a period of five years. **After two years, they could apply and receive one of the Employment-Based visas from the “Detroit Allocation” based on some specification to be determined (ex. \$100k investment and 3 jobs).**
- This aspect of the proposal would potentially target E2 investors that would likely make up the restaurant, dry cleaners type investors; and possibly provide a path for H-1B specialists to get on a path to permanent residence.



Michigan Office for New
Americans

Live & Work Requirement

- Legal authority for requiring visa holders to commit to live and work in a particular geographic location does exist. Specifically, foreign national physicians that agree to live in an underserved area or perform specific work, can be required to do so for a **period of five years**. The regulation that covers this category is found at Chapter 8, Section 204.12 of the Code of Federal Regulations.



Michigan Office for New
Americans

“The future is in the hands of those who
choose to understand it”.

Michigan Office for New Americans

Bing Goei

Director

Karen Phillippi

Deputy Director

Contact information:

Phone: 517.335.1181

E-mail:

NewAmericans@michigan.gov