



*State of New Jersey*

**Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Immigrant Policy**

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**NOTICE: TELEPHONIC HEARING, JULY 31, 2008 AT 10:30 AM**

July 11, 2008

Dear Mayor:

The State and Local Government Subcommittee of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Immigrant Policy invites you to participate in a **telephonic hearing on Thursday, July 31, at 10:30 am on issues related to immigrant integration at the municipal level.** The call will be moderated by Englewood City Mayor, Michael Wildes who is not only a Member of our Panel but is also Chair of the League of Municipalities' Immigration Task Force.

Established in August 2007, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Immigrant Policy is charged with developing policy recommendations to respond to New Jersey's burgeoning immigrant population, which comprises 20 percent of the state's total population.<sup>1</sup> An estimated 20 to 24 percent of the state's foreign born population is undocumented, leading to new challenges in immigrant policy and integration.<sup>2</sup> The panel addresses these issues through two main goals: first, to advance the political, social, and economic integration of immigrants in New Jersey. Second, the panel must ensure that municipalities remain just and legal environments for immigrant individuals.

The panel is divided into four subcommittees, each charged with specific tasks. Among other issues, the State and Local Government subcommittee must address immigrant integration at the municipal level. It therefore seeks testimony from New Jersey mayors and municipal officials through a **telephonic hearing to be held with the League of Municipalities on July 31.** The subcommittee is interested in hearing the experiences of municipal leaders' integration initiatives.

Although the full panel has already elicited testimonies from the general public through three public hearings, the State and Local Government subcommittee would benefit from input from the League of Municipalities in crafting its recommendations on general best practices for municipalities.

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

<sup>2</sup> Pew Hispanic Center, "Estimates of the Unauthorized Migrant Population for States based on the March 2005 CP" Pew Research Center, 26 April 2006, <http://pewhispanic.org>.

The panel hopes to provide a resource guide for municipal leaders highlighting successful integration initiatives. The guide will be based upon the panel's research and will help communities become more cohesive by utilizing/expanding existing structures.

The guide will address the following:

- municipal IDs
  - feasibility, associated costs, pros and cons
- welcome/community/day labor centers
  - capacity to use existing structures (e.g. attached to CBO or visitor center)
- ensuring access to services
  - delivering services in culturally and linguistically competent manner
- affordable housing
  - encompassing immigrant community in affordable housing plans
- local law enforcement and public safety
  - garnering trust between law enforcement and the immigrant community

All municipal leaders with experience in immigrant integration initiatives are welcome to provide testimony to the subcommittee. Those who cannot provide telephonic testimony can submit written testimony.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TESTIFYING, YOU MUST RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, JULY 16 TO ARMAND DEKASER AT [ARMAND.DEKASER@GOV.STATE.NJ.US](mailto:ARMAND.DEKASER@GOV.STATE.NJ.US).**