

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



Immigrant Integration & Inclusion Strategic Plan Community Engagement Teams

**Info Sessions
April 29, 2021**



Agenda

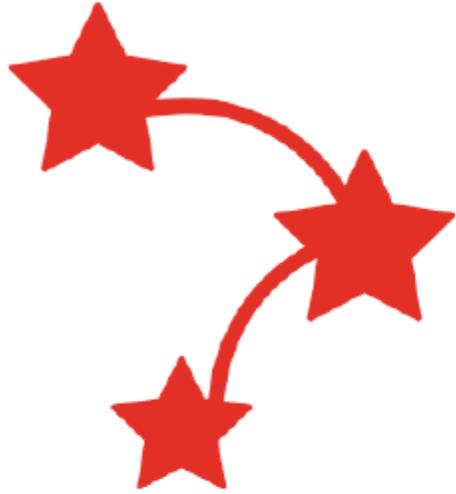
- Welcome
- Gateways for Growth Overview
- Community Engagement Categories/Teams
- Challenges
- Call to Action

Gateways for Growth

The Gateways for Growth Challenge (G4G) is a competitive opportunity for localities to receive research support and technical assistance from New American Economy and Welcoming America to improve immigrant inclusion in their communities.



Welcoming America & The Welcoming Network



WELCOMING AMERICA

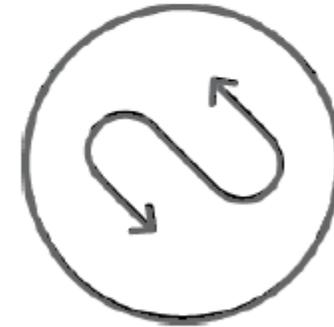
CONNECT



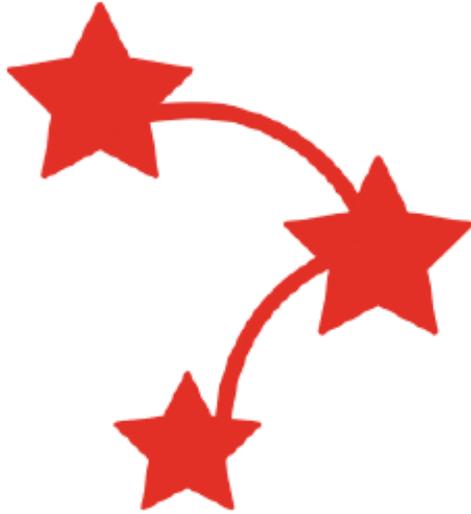
BUILD



CHANGE



New American Economy



New American Economy

500 Republican, Independent, and Democratic mayors and CEOs in all 50 states agree:

Immigration is critical to America's economic success.

**ECONOMIC
IMPACT
STUDIES**



**AGRICULTURE,
BUSINESS, & TECH
ADVOCACY**



**LOCAL
IMMIGRATION
ACTION PLANS**



Gateways for Growth 2020-2021 Cohort

19 localities across 10 states

Cleveland, OH

Los Angeles, CA

Saint Paul, MN

Columbus, OH

Mercer County, NJ

 **San Mateo County, CA**

Contra Costa County, CA

Miami-Dade County, FL

Southwest Kansas

Dayton, OH

Minneapolis, MN

Spokane, WA

Erie, PA

Ottawa County, MI

Washtenaw County, MI

Gainesville, FL

Passaic County, NJ

Lancaster County, NE

Reno/Washoe County, NV

Gateways for Growth

- Award 1: Technical Assistance
 - Purpose: Immigrant Integration Strategic Plan
 - Timeline: January 2021-December 2021; Implementation January 2022
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- Award 2: Tailored Research
 - Purpose: Research Report
 - Timeline: Release in September, 2021

Gateways for Growth

Strategic Welcoming Plans



What to Expect

Monthly G4G TA Call

Opportunities for:

- Guidance
- Troubleshooting
- Best Practices

Virtual TA Visit

Entitled to one virtual TA visit from NAE and Welcoming America

3-4 Peer Group Calls

Peer-to-peer learning opportunities

Public Launch of Strategic Welcoming Plan

Gateways for Growth

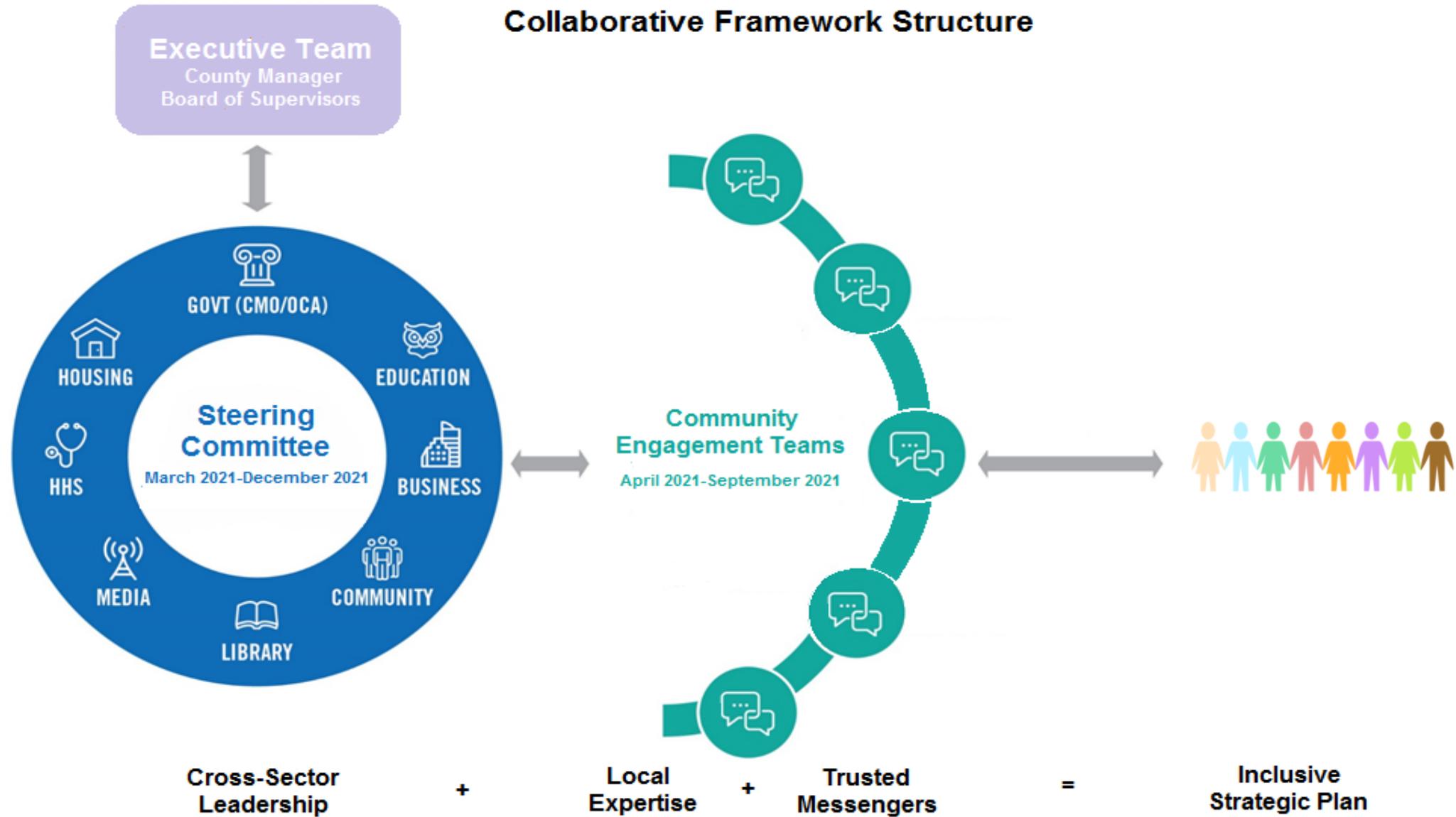
- NAE will provide customized quantitative research specific to SMC.
- Data points will include demographics of immigrant population, economic indicators, labor market, education, entrepreneurship, housing, naturalization, refugees, and more.



Immigrant Integration & Welcoming Plans

- Most strategic welcoming plans follow a similar path:
 - Partner collaboration
 - Needs assessment
 - Community engagement and input
 - Compiling feedback, input, and data into a strategic plan
- The plans developed are working documents meant to be changed and adapted over time
- Community collaboration is crucial to the implementation of the plan

Collaborative Framework Structure



Strategic Planning Timeline

March:

- Launch steering committee
- Confirm categories and community engagement teams

April-September:

- Needs assessment
- Gather community input and info that will inform strategy
- Community engagement teams conduct surveys, focus groups, community meetings...

September-November:

- Launch research at Immigrant Integration Summit
- Compile data and analyze information – create draft of Strategic Plan

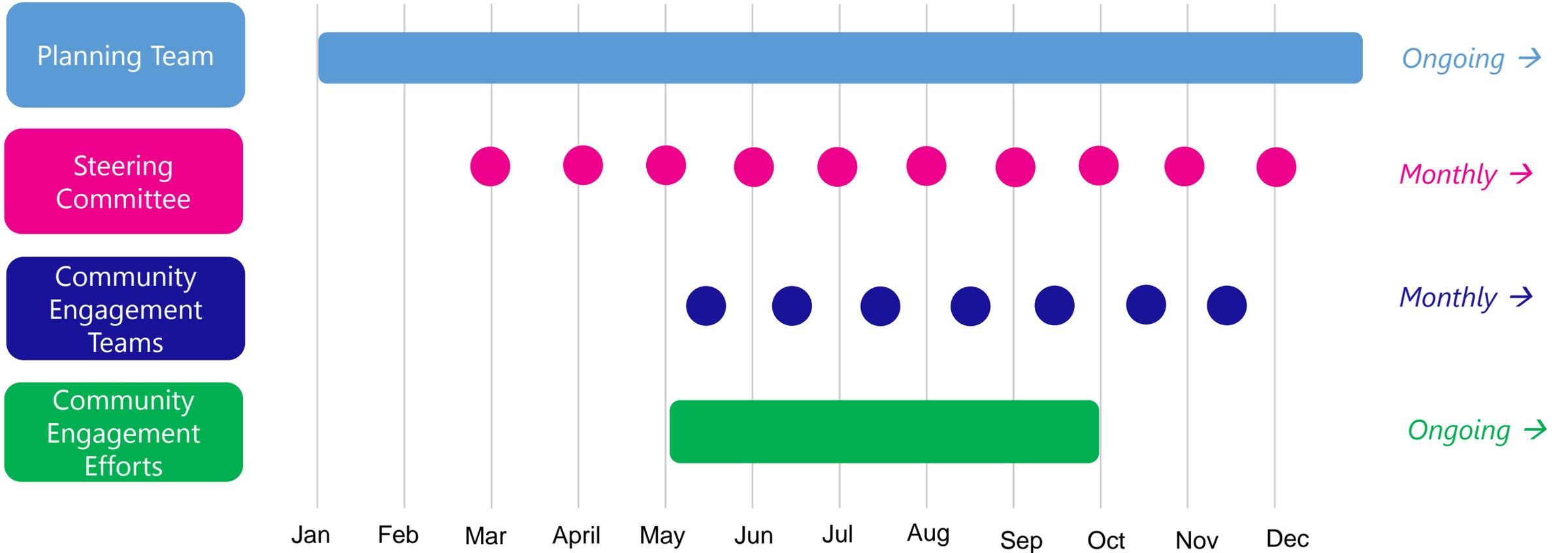
November-December:

- Gather feedback from executive team, steering committee, community engagement teams
- Write the final Strategic Plan

December:

- Present to SMC Board of Supervisors and Launch Plan!
- Community collaboration to begin implementation of plan
- Immigrant Services to facilitate and assist in implementation throughout County

Timeframe for this work



Community Engagement Categories

- Community Connectedness & Engagement
- Economic Development
- Education Opportunities & Outcomes
- Equitable Access to Services
- Safe Communities

Community Connectedness & Engagement

- Programs actively welcome immigrants and work with their native-born neighbors to promote acceptance and assistance to promote inclusiveness and belonging for all
- Continue to draw more public engagement in all public processes, civic engagement, volunteering, voting, PTA meetings, local city council participation w/ all immigrants whether documented or not.
- Easy access and freedom to fully participate in civic activities at all levels and outreach to provide quality information to support informed decisions.
- Building community trust, relationships and purposefully investing in and lifting up immigrant leadership; develop & promote leaders who look like the communities they serve
- Maximizing resources and impact by educating the community and working together on planning and implementing active solutions.

Community Engagement Teams

Community Connectedness & Engagement

Co-Chairs: Nuestra Casa & Coastside Hope

- SAMCEDA
- The Big Lift/SMC District 2
- League of Women Voters
- The Grove Foundation
- SMC District 1
- SMC District 3
- Human Services Agency

Economic Development

- Immigrants are accorded the consideration they need at work to manage the complexities of their new situations, have access to good jobs with fair wages, and are assisted in building their own self-sufficiency by promoting entrepreneurship programs & credential recognition
- Planning for the future – help businesses recover & grow, promote economic sustainability & create opportunities for economic growth
- Help create a pipeline of job seekers in career pathways that show projected growth, promote educational opportunities for career development.
- Open the door to opportunities for non-English speakers, those w/o higher education, allow for skills we may not immediately recognize to become part of the economy and support their growth with trainings, financial literacy, etc.

Community Engagement Teams

Economic Development

Co-Chairs: SAMCEDA & The Grove Foundation

- SMC Housing Department
- Self-Help for the Elderly
- ACCEL
- Upwardly Global

Education Opportunities & Outcomes

- Immigrant families are accorded extra consideration of their and their children's needs for educational support, supplies and tools.
- Ensuring immigrant communities know how to access educational opportunities for youth, increase access to services and supports needed to succeed in school, and increase access to better and higher education while ultimately increasing graduation rates.
- Promote job preparation & career pathways through education, and develop collaborations for placements for job seekers
- Promoting and expanding ESL classes, community colleges courses, and provide scholarship information and opportunities
- Provide social-emotional support, literacy and mathematic boosts early on so that children are meeting and exceeding learning benchmarks

Community Engagement Teams

Education Opportunities & Outcomes

- Co-Chairs: Office of Education & SMC Health
 - Legal Aid Society
 - SAMCEDA
 - Coastside Hope
 - The Big Lift
 - Self-Help for the Elderly
 - JobTrain
 - SMC District 1
 - ACCEL

Equitable Access to Services

- Ensuring that immigrants have knowledge of and access to all the services congruent with their needs, regardless of status, and know where and how to access them (Providing linguistically, culturally, and technologically accessible services)
- Food security, rental/housing assistance, child care, access to healthcare
- Meeting residents where they're at, rather than expecting them to connect to the County spontaneously or as needed on their own
- Mapping the barriers to access, changing systems to address those barriers and adopting a "no wrong door" approach to accessing services: creating programs to address the disadvantages for immigrants
- Providing a sense of safety and assurance that utilizing services will not damage or hinder their security and immigration status
- Ensuring people providing services have an understanding of the different cultures and backgrounds where residents come from

Community Engagement Teams

Equitable Access to Services

- Chairs: Legal Aid Society, Samaritan House, Self-Help for the Elderly
 - Office of Education
 - SAMCEDA
 - Grove Foundation
 - Coastside Hope
 - SMC District 1
 - SMC District 3
 - Nuestra Casa
 - Human Services Agency

Safe Communities

- Ensuring immigrant children, youth, adults, seniors, LGBTQ+ and people with disabilities, regardless of country of origin, feel that they can live, access services, succeed and advocate without fear.
- Working on mindsets regarding immigrants to keep them safe from harm. Need to empower immigrants to tell us what safety feels like in their communities
- Safety of all who reside in our community cultivates healthy communities that participate. Better relationship and trust needs to be built w/ law enforcement so that immigrants feel rightfully safe from harassment or discrimination in their living environment, employment, education and social settings.
- Continuously striving to decrease crime in our communities, accessible police, fire, first responder services, meanwhile allow immigrants to feel safe to be outside, clean streets, clean parks, etc.
- Safety issues/concerns are broad, and should include not only physical safety, but also emotional safety, access to health care and social service benefits/programs, access to other needs such as safe/affordable housing, education

Community Engagement Teams

Safe Communities

- Chair: Sheriff's Office
 - Coastside Hope
 - Department of Housing
 - Catholic Charities

Roles of Community Engagement Team Members

1. Attend monthly subcommittee meeting and contribute with your expertise and knowledge
2. Participate and conduct community engagement efforts via surveys (online & paper), 1-1 outreach during direct services (if COVID safety precautions allow), community listening sessions, focus groups, town halls, etc.
3. Provide details, data, and feedback on community engagement efforts

Roles of Community Engagement Team Members

San Mateo County's Immigrant Integration & Inclusion Strategic Plan Community Engagement Subcommittee Overview

PURPOSE AND ROLE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAMS

Replicating the successful strategic framework implemented during the Census 2020 complete count initiative, this process will also incorporate community engagement teams that will serve as subcommittee members. The goals of the Community Engagement Subcommittee during this strategic planning process are to

1. Assist in the outreach and engagement of San Mateo County's immigrant community residents in order to gain better insight in the needs of our immigrant community;
2. Help promote immigrant integration community surveys, conduct town halls and listening sessions, facilitate focus groups, and gain feedback of residents to help shape the strategic planning process and the overall strategic plan with the voices of our immigrant community;
3. Provide additional feedback as a community service provider on the strategic plan.

Roles of Community Engagement Team Members

MEMBERSHIP

Members are expected to participate in one Subcommittee meeting per month. Members may participate in additional Subcommittee meetings if desired.

MEETING PROTOCOLS:

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance of committee members is expected for the committee to function effectively.
- **Alternates:** Organizations may send alternate representatives in their place but will be expected to be briefed and prepared for the meeting.
- **Chair/Co-chairs:** The Subcommittees will have designated Chairs or Co-Chairs.
- **Meeting Agendas:** Agendas will be distributed prior to meetings.
- **Meeting Summaries:** Each Subcommittee will have a designated minute taker. Highlights of key meeting outcomes will be distributed to members within two weeks of each meeting.

New Challenges to this Work

- Still working through the pandemic, people focused on surviving
- Competing priorities: COVID-19 vaccine education, pandemic recovery efforts, redistricting, Governor Newsom recall election (?) etc.
- Virtual setting environment vs in-person focus groups & community meetings – digital divides

Join us!

- We need your expertise and leadership to make this Strategic Plan a success
- The outcomes of this plan will impact our immigrant communities for years to come
- Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G4GTeams> to select your Community Engagement Team
or email us at immigrantservices@smcgov.org



Thank You!

