

Charlotte Compact on Immigration

As supporters of the City of Charlotte Compact on Immigration, we are committed to advocating for common-sense and comprehensive immigration reforms that strengthen our economy and attract talent and business to our city.

Charlotte is America's Queen City, opening her arms to a diverse and inclusive community of residents, businesses, and visitors alike; a safe family-oriented city where people work together to help everyone thrive. Immigrants play an important role in our nation and contribute toward the growth of our economy. Charlotte's immigrant community continues to grow and now represents at least 16 percent of our city's total population. They are integrated in our communities across Charlotte and help foster our unique culture. They are an integral part of our vision for the future.

We urge all Charlotte-Mecklenburg residents, including leaders in government, philanthropy, business, faith, nonprofits, our neighborhoods, and at the grassroots levels, to join us in advocating for the adoption of these five principles to guide the immigration discussion in our city.

- 1. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. government and other countries. Our community's representatives in Congress should work to enact federal immigration policy that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe, and protects our borders. As a municipality, we maintain the right to advocate to our federal representatives regarding the needs of our residents through our federal legislative agenda.
- 2. STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE:** Charlotte needs a robust workforce and policies that prioritize attracting a diverse talent pool to our city. Immigrants represent at least 12.6 percent of the Charlotte Metro Area's working-age population. We acknowledge the large economic role immigrants play as workers, entrepreneurs, and taxpayers. Charlotte's policies must reaffirm our global reputation as a welcoming city, and be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. We support local policies that ensure all residents have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.
- 3. FAMILIES:** Strong families are critical to developing successful individuals and unified communities. As stated in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Economic Opportunity Task Force report, "children and youth do best in stable households where they know what to expect and where they feel safe and secure." We champion policies that support families and improve the health, education, and well-being of all Charlotte's children.
- 4. LAW ENFORCEMENT:** We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets crime, and safeguards witnesses and victims. We support engaging all residents about their rights and responsibilities in relation to law enforcement. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department provides police services to everyone in this community regardless of their immigration status, race, creed, color, or sexual orientation.
- 5. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:** Consistent communication between our city government and its immigrant residents is mutually beneficial. Community leaders play an important role in keeping city staff and elected officials informed of their unique needs. We support immigrant residents being able to access more leadership and advocacy development and the expansion of those opportunities.