

# Welcoming Gainesville

Carrie Bush, Director of Strategic Initiatives

**CITY COMMISSION GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

# Welcoming America Overview

100+ communities

Purpose: to reduce barriers  
for immigrants and build  
bridges between newcomers  
and long-time residents



# Welcoming Gainesville & Alachua Co. Overview

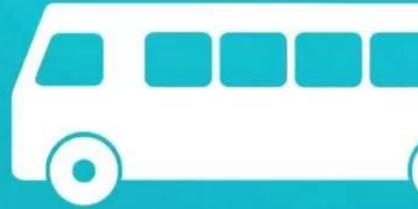
Resolution passed in March  
2016

First welcoming city in Florida

Local non-profit, led by  
citizens



# Welcoming Gainesville programs



*How to use the RTS*

*No importa de dónde eres,  
estamos contentos que seas  
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are  
from, we're glad you're  
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا  
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

# 2017 Welcoming Week Activities



September 15-24, 2017  
Gainesville, FL

City and county "Welcoming Week"  
proclamations

Program relating to immigrants facing  
deportation

Film showing of "8Days8Borders"

"Immigrants of Gainesville" photographic  
exhibit

Household items collection for refugees

Speaking event, describing work with  
refugees in Iraq



Includes a commitment to  
*“...institutionalize welcoming  
efforts through adopting  
policies and practices that  
promote inclusion...”*

**BUILD COMMON GROUND IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY**

# Welcoming America: Ways to engage

- Create a multi-sector Welcoming City plan to integrate long term efforts
- Planning grants available through “Gateways for Growth” grant to establish planning efforts (note: a match may be required)
- Receive training from the Welcoming Institute in the areas of Leadership, Economic Opportunity, Civic Engagement, Equitable Access and Safe Communities
- Certified Welcoming Program
- Welcoming Refugees K-12 and Afterschool “Toolkit”

**Thank You.**