



CREATING A WELCOMING METRO ATLANTA

One Region- Request for Proposals

Welcoming America is pleased to announce this request for proposals to lead the One Region Initiative into its next phase. Applications are due by May 31, 2021.

Background

The One Region Initiative was launched with the goal of creating an inclusive metro Atlanta region in which all people, including immigrants and refugees, have the opportunity to reach their greatest potential, engage with the larger community, and fully contribute their talents - expanding prosperity and well-being for all.

To do that, in 2017, Welcoming America, with the support of the Atlanta Community Foundation and the Atlanta Regional Commission, brought together a [steering committee](#) of local governments, business leaders, community organizations, immigrant and refugee communities, and other residents to plan for and adopt welcoming practices across the metro Atlanta region.

[The resulting One Region Strategic Plan](#) outlines 59 recommendations to make the region more welcoming (with an emphasis on communities within Fulton, DeKalb, and Gwinnett counties). Since the publication of the plan, the One Region Initiative, as a program of Welcoming America, has supported participating local cities and nonprofits with peer learning, training, and cross-sector networking during quarterly steering committee meetings to implement the strategic plan. The steering committee is highly dedicated to advancing regional immigrant inclusion and has continuously made strides in their own spheres and together. Through the One Region, steering committee members have shaped a collective vision, informed shared policy and practice priorities, hosted Welcoming Week events, spearheaded non-discrimination ordinances, launched a regional communications campaign, collaborated on census counts, and so much more.

Welcoming America has been honored to set a strong foundation for the One Region in the metro Atlanta area. As part of our commitment to ensuring its sustainable future, and that it can be replicated by other regions across the U.S., we are seeking a local institution to lead the next phase of the Initiative and own the program, with transitional support from Welcoming America. We know that a strong collective impact effort requires a convener and that the most successful conveners will be locally based; have the trust and relationships needed to convene a diverse array of stakeholders and set a common vision, and be rooted in the community with strong accountability to the racially and ethnically diverse residents most impacted by welcoming policies and practices.

Welcoming America invites proposals from institutions that demonstrate a commitment to the founding vision of the One Region Initiative: an inclusive metro Atlanta region in which all people, including immigrants and refugees, have the opportunity to reach their greatest potential, engage with the larger community, and fully contribute their talents.

ONE REGION INITIATIVE

CREATING A WELCOMING METRO ATLANTA

The selected institution will receive:

- A one-time, \$20,000 grant
- Letters of support for future funding opportunities, as needed
- Programmatic transition support (intensive support initially, followed by 2-3 years of support via Welcoming Network membership)
- Visibility with an international network of welcoming initiatives and opportunities to share learnings with peers
- Executive-level support in partnership development
- Collaboration on Welcoming Week
- The One Region Initiative brand, should the institution desire to maintain the logo and other assets (though not required)

Note: Welcoming America will work with the selected entity to co-create a transition timeline with roles that are mutually beneficial.

Expectations

The ideal institution will meet the following criteria:

1. Be located within metro Atlanta (no exceptions) and have a regional footprint
2. Be able to convene a broad coalition in the community to advance regional immigrant inclusion, and work across the aisle and with multiple sectors, including local government, nonprofits, and the business community
3. Be already established in working with the immigrant population in metro Atlanta
4. Have the ability to implement or coordinate others to implement some of the [One Region Strategic Plan](#) recommendations
5. Be dedicated to fostering a regional collective that addresses policy gaps and cultivates cross-sector collaboration
6. Be willing to share lessons and practices with other local and regional initiatives through the Welcoming America network

The most competitive applications will meet all of these criteria, and those that meet some but not all are still encouraged to apply. Welcoming America recognizes that the goals and objectives of the One Region will naturally evolve. We encourage proposals that build upon or adapt the current One Region focus, knowing that creativity will propel this work forward.

Institutions may submit a joint proposal for a co-leadership structure if desired.

Timeline

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. EST on May 31, 2021. After reviewing applicants (on a rolling basis), we may reach out with additional questions. We will notify all applicants of our decision on July 12, 2021.

Proposal Questions

Narrative responses to the following questions should be less than seven pages. Please take care to organize your thoughts with attention to vision, risks, and sustainability.

1. Lead agency(s):
 - a. Organization Name
 - b. Name, title, phone number, and email for the person submitting this proposal
 - c. Tax-exempt status

**If co-submitting this proposal in partnership with another organization that will co-lead alongside you, please include the above information for both organizations.*

2. Structure:
 - a. Describe the structure and mission of your organization.
 - b. List your primary geographical footprint and any anticipated changes to your organizational structure or footprint that may occur in the next five years.
3. Leadership:
 - a. Who will lead this project?
 - b. Describe any relevant work in strategic planning, political organizing, regional collaboratives, and/or movement building.
4. Rationale:
 - a. Explain why your organization wants to lead the One Region Initiative.
5. Proximity:
 - a. Describe your current organizational involvement with the One Region Initiative and Welcoming America. (If you have not been involved, please explain why you are interested in this work.)
 - b. Describe your understanding of the realities in navigating the One Region Initiative and how you would finesse these intricacies.
6. Vision:
 - a. Explain your vision for the One Region and how it aligns with your organizational priorities.
 - b. Please lay out a few of your ideas for structuring the Initiative to advance regional immigrant inclusion moving forward.
 - c. What does a successful One Region Initiative look like to you five years down the road?

ONE REGION INITIATIVE ▼

CREATING A WELCOMING METRO ATLANTA

7. Funding:
 - a. What resources are you able to contribute?
 - b. Besides the resources offered, describe any additional funds you foresee needing and briefly outline your plan to acquire and sustain that funding.

8. Concerns:
 - a. Detail any concerns you have about taking on this work.
 - b. Are there any unknown factors (internal or external) that would hinder your decision to take this on, or change the above-mentioned information? If so, explain.
 - c. If chosen, would you request any additional information from us or others before agreeing to take on this initiative?

9. Anything else you want us to know?

Application Instructions

Email proposals to: jordyne@welcomingamerica.org by 5 p.m. on May 31, 2021.

Questions may be directed to Jordyne@welcomingamerica.org.

Top candidates may be contacted for additional information and/or clarification during the month of June with notification of decisions in early July.