



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2018-05K

**Establishing the Office of Opportunities for New Americans
and the New Americans Advisory Committee**

WHEREAS, Ohio was the United States' first frontier, and our cities and towns have been shaped by the hard work and ingenuity of diverse groups of immigrants who settled here; and

WHEREAS, today, people from around the country and around the world continue to make Ohio their home and contribute to the same cities and towns that were enriched by earlier generations; and

WHEREAS, to continue Ohio's economic momentum, we need more hard-working, highly skilled men and women to help our businesses grow and expand, and to provide a ready workforce as we attract new businesses to our state; and

WHEREAS, immigration, which was the key to Ohio's industrial and commercial strength in years past, remains critical to our state's economic prosperity and workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, helping new immigrants successfully settle in Ohio will strengthen the fabric of our state, and lay a stronger foundation for the ongoing economic success that comes from innovations that can flow from new people and new ideas; and

WHEREAS, by attracting more immigrants to live, work and raise their families here, become part of our communities and our economy, Ohio can increase opportunities for new businesses to grow and for our existing businesses to thrive; and

WHEREAS, my administration is committed to an Ohio that is strong and vibrant where all residents—both new arrivals and those who have been here for decades—succeed at work and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, my administration seeks to strengthen Ohio's economy and increase population growth.

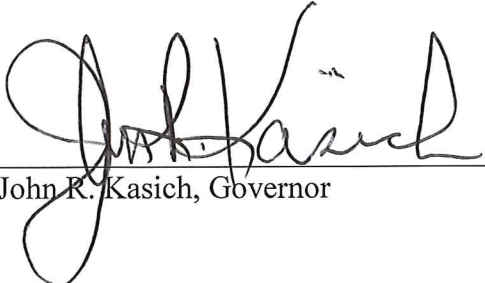
NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Office of Opportunities for New Americans (the “Office”) is hereby created in order to:
 - a. Inventory state agencies’ existing services that help new immigrants ascend the economic ladder, and identify services that could be especially beneficial to the immigrant community with a specific focus on occupational licensing, workforce training, and education; and
 - b. Align policies, programs, and resources across state government to better attract new immigrants and their skills and entrepreneurial spirit; and
 - c. Catalogue existing private efforts to assist transition, integration, and economic success of immigrants to Ohio, and share best practices involved in working with new legal immigrants; and
 - d. Distribute information and develop a one-stop website for those existing services to communities across the state to increase awareness and engagement with new immigrants, and to ensure they recognize Ohio is a welcoming place for them and their families; and
 - e. Conduct outreach to representatives of nonprofit organizations, state and local government agencies, elected officials, and other interested persons in support of the above objectives.
2. Staff support and resources necessary for the Office to fulfill its obligations as outlined in this Executive Order shall be provided by the Ohio Development Services Agency (“ODSA”). The Director of ODSA shall have the authority and discretion to establish the organizational structure of the Office.
3. All Cabinet Agencies, Boards and Commissions shall comply with any requests or directives issued by the Director of ODSA or the Director’s designee, on behalf of the Office, subject to the supervision of their respective agency directors. This requirement extends to, but is not limited to, the cabinet directors and employees of the following agencies and departments: Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Department of Commerce, and the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation. The Director of ODSA or the Director’s designee shall consult with the Ohio Department of Education to assist the Office in its work.
4. The New Americans Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) is hereby established to advise the Administration and the Office on matters of concern to Ohio’s new American population. In particular, the role of the Committee will be to:
 - a. Conduct, in partnership with the Office, public forums across the State in order to engage with new American populations and stakeholders on ways in which the State can best address issues facing those communities in achieving economic prosperity; and
 - b. Define the best methods for promoting Ohio to skilled immigrants from not only across the United States but also around the world, with the understanding that policies establishing legal immigration are set at the federal level; and

- c. Recommend ways to remove barriers in state government that prevent or impede integration and economic success of immigrants.
5. The Committee will consist of at least twelve (12) persons appointed by me, who will serve three- (3-) year terms, with the initial terms staggered so that no more than four (4) members' terms will end every year, and additional *ex officio* members whom I will designate, as described in paragraph (7) below.
6. The appointed members of the Committee shall consist of individuals who have been or are presently engaged with Ohio's New American population in any of the following capacities:
 - a. In private industry; or
 - b. In not-for-profit organizations; or
 - c. In governmental service.
7. Also serving on the Committee will be additional *ex officio* members as I may designate, including the Directors of the Ohio Development Services Agency, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Ohio Department of Commerce, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and the Ohio Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, or their respective designees, who shall serve their terms unless and until replaced by the respective agency director who appointed them. Additionally, I may designate such other representatives of the public or private sector who are engaged in statewide workforce development, talent acquisition, or workforce growth and retention, to assist the Committee in accomplishing its objectives.
8. I will designate one member to serve as the Chair of the Committee. A majority of the Committee may appoint a vice-chair, if necessary.
9. Members of the Committee will not receive compensation for their service to the Committee.

I signed this Executive Order on May 15, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will not expire unless rescinded.





John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State