

Growing Communities

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MAS

MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF SUSSEX



Who are we?



Advocates for multiculturalism and diversity

- ▶ We are championing diversity and inclusion
- ▶ We respect the complexities of each individual we serve, and we are not speaking for newcomers and BIPOC communities
- ▶ We aim to raise newcomer voices, eliminate barriers, giving newcomers more visibility
- ▶ We work to bridge the community and newcomers populations, and advocate for the newcomer lens to be considered in the wider community context

Geographic area and profile

- We serve approximately 350 newcomers living within Regional Service Commission 8, with most newcomers living in Sussex proper.
- Economic and Post-Graduate Immigration Streams
- Private Sponsored Refugee streams
- Predominately families with an average of 2 kids
- Brazil, Ukraine, India, Philippines, Syria
- In 2 years the Newcomer population has more than doubled



Integration and Retention

- ▶ Help newcomers plant roots in our communities
- ▶ Overcome barriers to reaching their full potentials
- ▶ Create Newcomer Friendly Communities



Planting Roots

Where are our opportunities to "plant roots"?

- Employment
- Education
- Social connections and building a social network
- Special Interest Groups, religious groups, hobbies, volunteer work etc.
- Youth employment
- Sports teams, youth social networking



Eliminating Barriers



- ▶ Barriers that the settlement sector can influence
- ▶ Barriers that the municipalities can influence

Building Newcomer Friendly Communities



Championing your cause!

- ▶ Have ambassadors who believe in your message
- ▶ Use your settlement agencies!
- ▶ Don't duplicate services and work- make partnerships





Rural
Settlement
Network