



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS

NEW AMERICAN
PROGRAM

New American Program Presentation
Ohio Conference of Community Development
January 29, 2025 @ 11:00 am



Introduction and Overview

- About the Department & the New American Program
- Core Program Activities
- Challenges
- Lessons Learned
- Recommendations

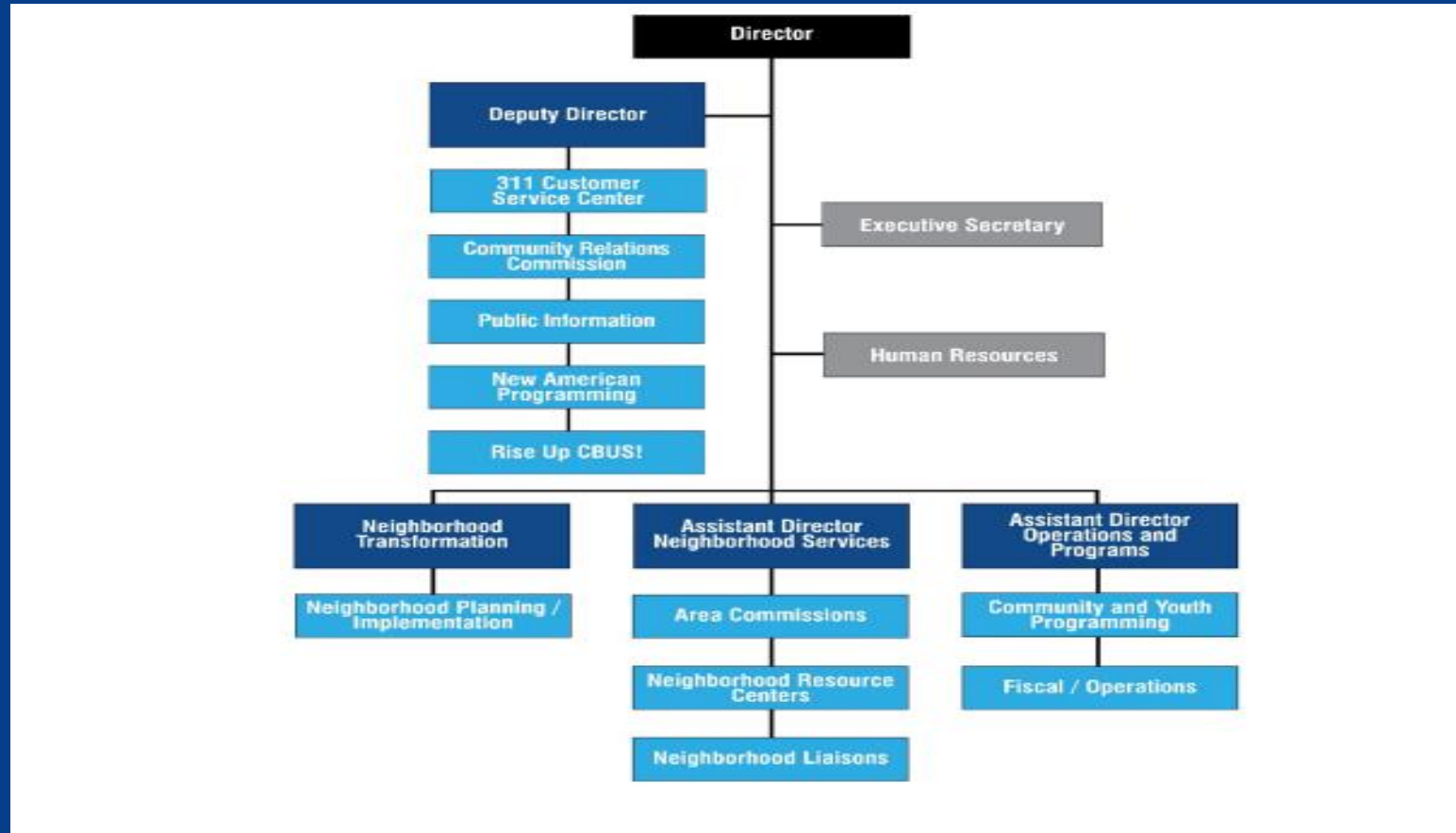


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The Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)



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Who do we (The DoN) Consider a New American?

a refugee

a newcomer

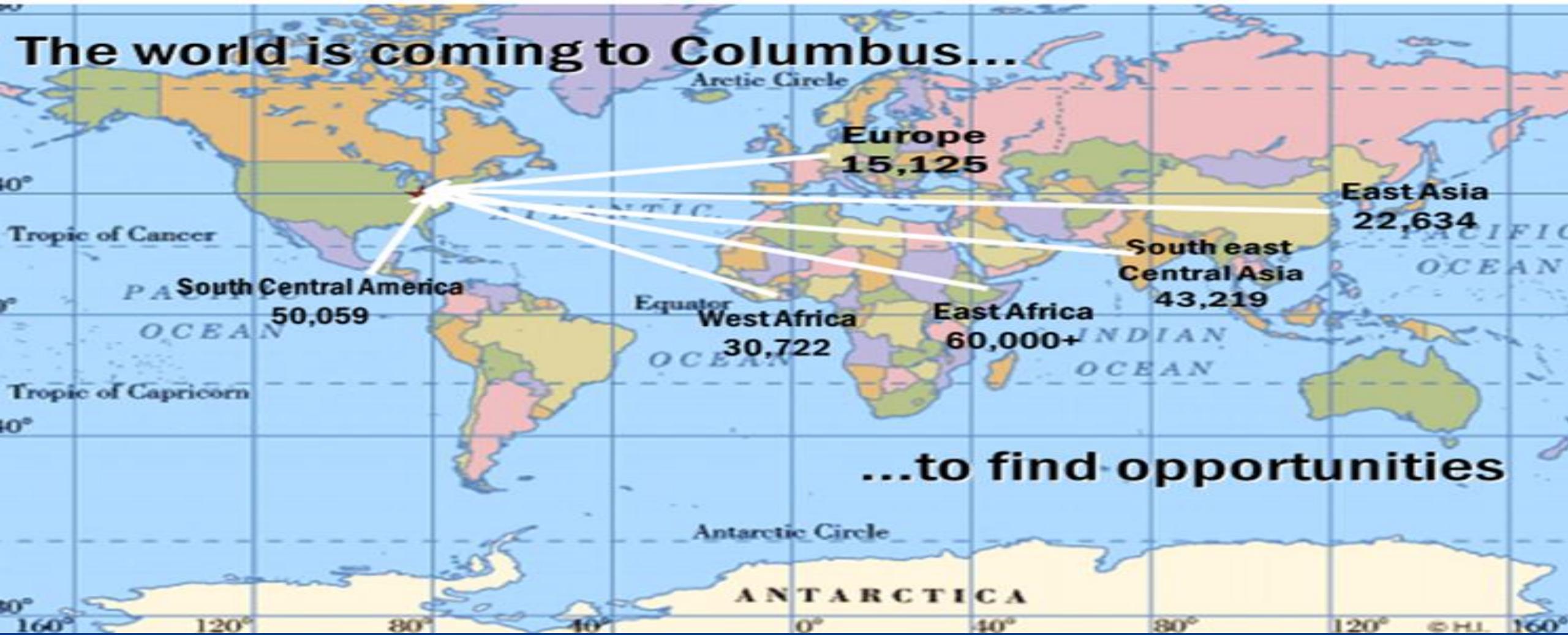
an immigrant



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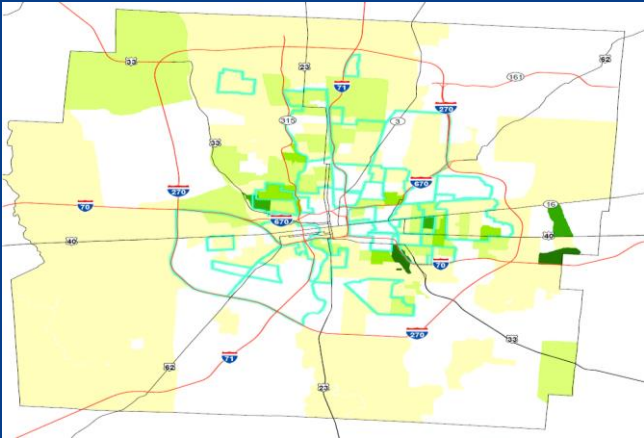


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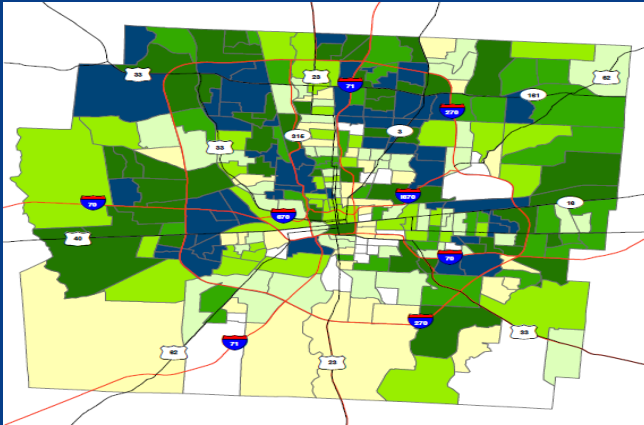


Trends: Foreign Born Population Franklin County | 1970–2016



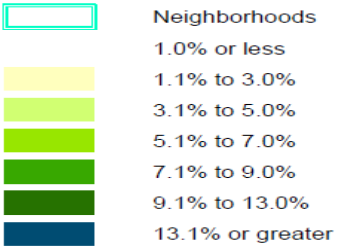
1970

16,781



2016

146,259



Source: Kirwan Institute



Population

184,800

immigrants lived in the Columbus metropolitan area, Ohio, in 2019.

Immigrants made up



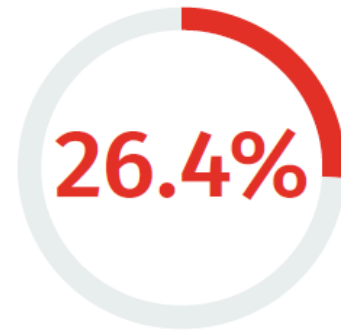
of the total population in the metro area in 2019.

Between 2014 and 2019, the population in the metro area increased by

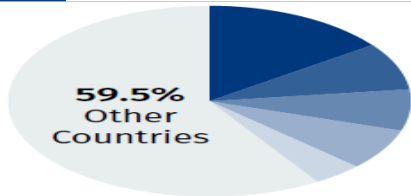


The immigrant population grew by

+22.2%



of total population growth in the metro area was attributable to immigrants.



India (15.4%)
Mexico (7.5%)

Somalia (6.7%)
China (6.7%)

Bhutan (4.2%)



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Across Columbus, there are:

50 + Nationalities

100+ Languages

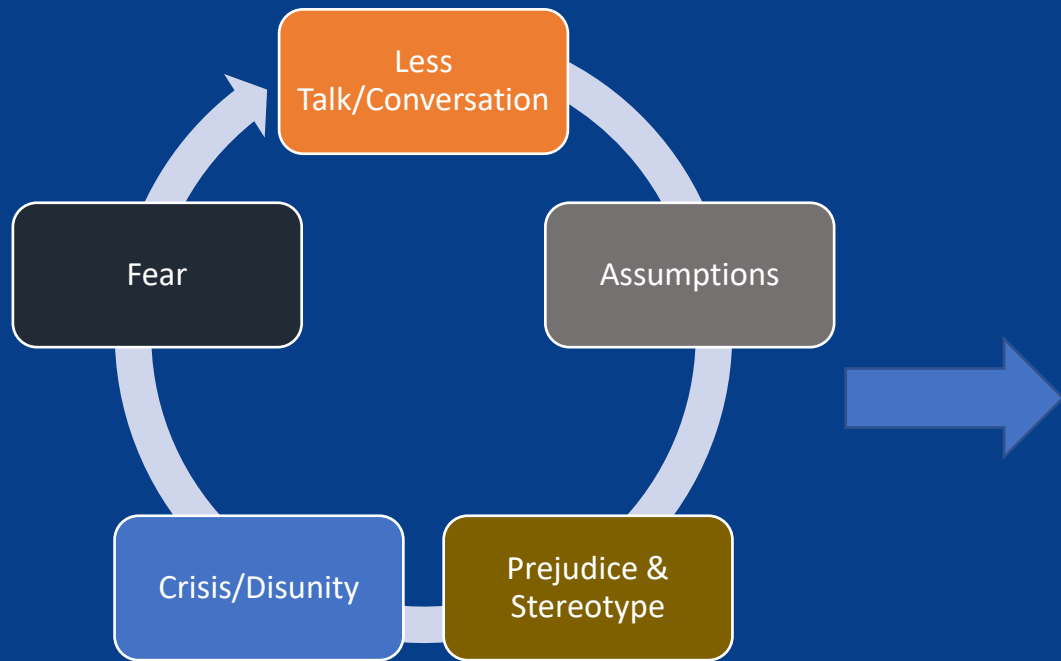
Big 6 Languages:

Spanish, Somali, Nepali, Arabic & French, Haitian Creole

Source: Columbus City Schools



Why Embrace Diversity?



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The New American Program

Program Goal:

Strengthen Support for New Americans across Columbus.



Recognize, Include and Support those with the greatest need.

Create Opportunities & Protect Rights.

Create access to information, adaptable and affordable services.

Build capacities, hold accountable and sustain engagements.

Source: [Conversation](#)



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Core Program Activities & Initiative

- New American Leadership Academy (NALA)- Builds leadership capacities and fosters civic engagement across Columbus.
 - ☐ COHORT
 - ☐ NALA Junior Council
 - ☐ NALA SUMMIT
- The Ubuntu Conversation Series- Fosters dialogue, collaboration, relationship building and community connections.
- One Columbus Culture Day: Many Neighborhoods, One Columbus (promote Arts & Culture).
- Civic Integration and Seed Grants : Facilitates access to finance.
- Language Access (Translation and Interpretation Services).
- Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs- Helps create a more conducive environment for policy and practice.



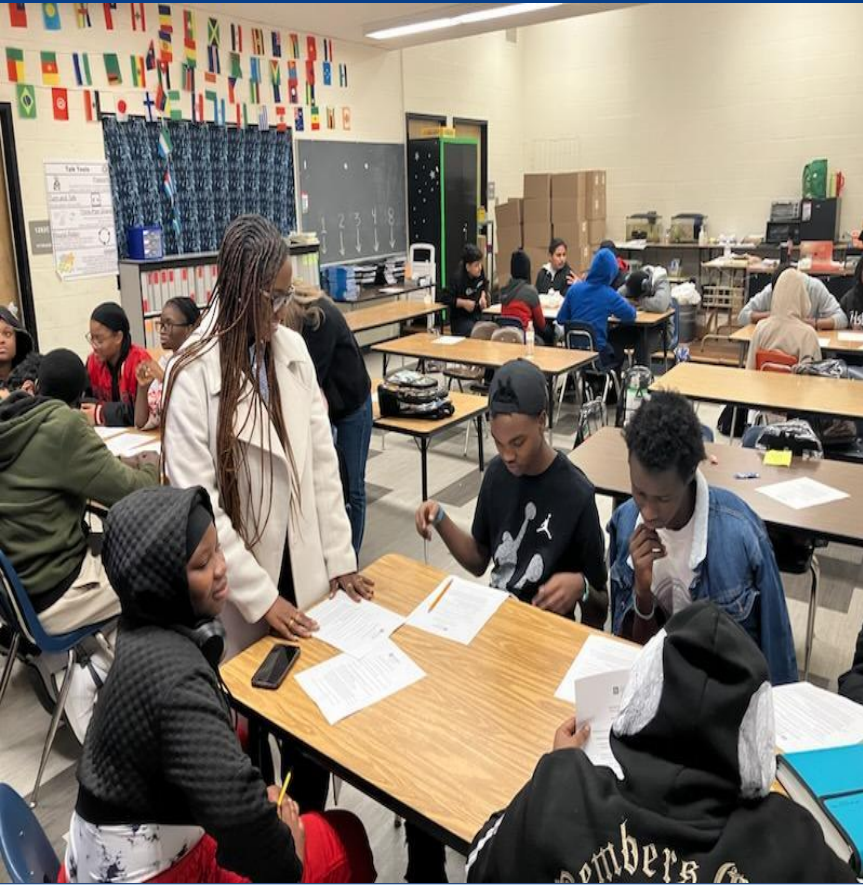


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NALA Junior Council



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What happens after graduating from NALA?

- Fellows Join the NALA Alumni family. There are now 144 graduates since 2018 from 60 plus countries.
- They serve as volunteers and community Ambassadors for the city through the Department of Neighborhoods.
- They foster community engagement but support New American communities across the city.
- They continue their work as employees, parents, nonprofit leaders, business owners etc.
- They continue contributing to the growth of Columbus and The American economy in general.
- They continue educating, innovating and helping to create safe spaces for personal growth, and community development.

They need accompaniment, practical and affordable tools, access to networks, and finances that make them better/productive citizens and residents.



Some Success Stories:



- Public Office:
Reynoldsburg Council
Member Bhuwan
Pyakurel
- Public/Community
Service:
 - ❖ New African Immigrant
Commissioners Cynthia
Engmann and Comfort
Kenneh
 - ❖ Area Commissioners
Awatif Elnour, Daniel
Ajayi, and Maryan Duelles
 - ❖ US Military Veterans
 - ❖ City Employees

2023 Cohort's Resume:

19 Fellows, 29 different languages, 16 different nations, 2 authors, 2 US Military Veterans, 1 Police Officer, 2 American Born fellows, 49% women, 90% of the class hold university degrees including Master's, PhD, JD and MD in addition to professional licenses and certificate.



Spending Power & Tax Contributions

Given their income, immigrants contributed significantly to state and local taxes, including property, sales, and excise taxes levied by state and local governments.

Foreign-born households held



of all spending power in metro Columbus, more than their 8.7% share of the population.

In 2019, foreign-born residents in the metro area contributed

\$15.4 billion

to the metro area's GDP, or 11.5% of the total.⁶

In 2019, immigrant households in the metro area earned **\$7.4 billion**

■ **\$1.4 billion**

went to federal taxes⁴

■ **\$712.4 million** went to state & local taxes⁵

■ **\$5.3 billion** left in spending power

Immigrants in the metro area also supported federal social programs. In 2019, they contributed

\$729.5 million
to Social Security

\$204.3 million
to Medicare



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Source: The Columbus Dispatch



How others help?



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How can you help?

engage

help provide &
indirect access
to resources

serve as
mentors,
coaches, and
tutors.

help
provide
opportunities.

support
businesses

have questions?
reach out to the
DoN or liaisons



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Thanks for listening.

We're happy to
answer ? you may
have.



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