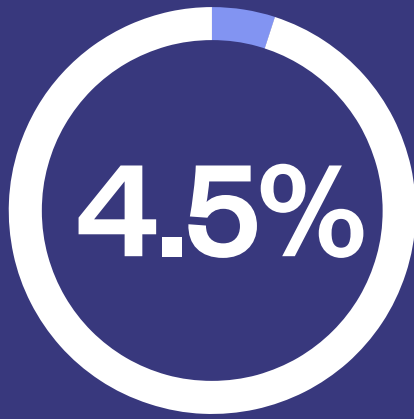


# New Americans in Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Region<sup>1</sup>



## POPULATION GROWTH



Immigrant share of the population, 2016

Between 2011 and 2016, the population in the region grew by **2.2%**.

The immigrant population increased by **13.3%**.

### Total population

610,027 → 623,448



### Immigrant population

24,917 → 28,228



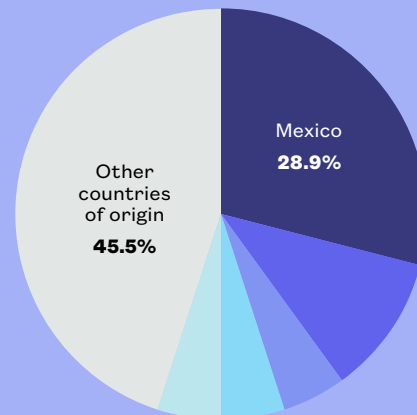
Share of total population growth in the region attributed to immigrants.

Number of immigrants living in the region in 2016:

**28,228**

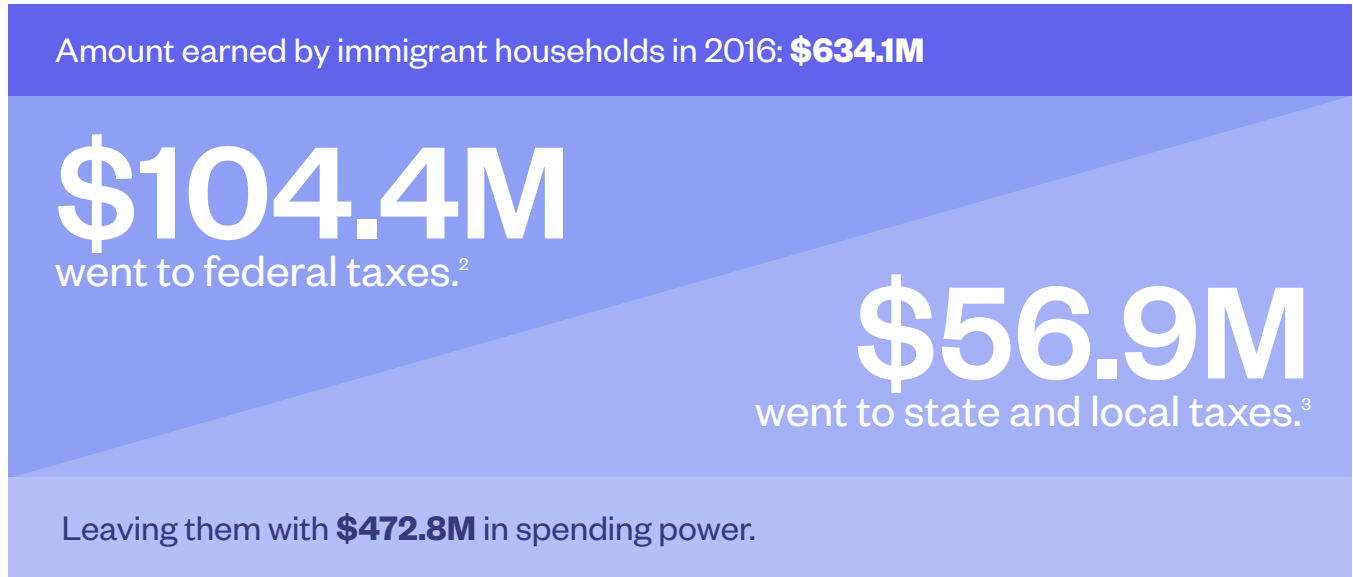
### Top five countries of origin for immigrants living in the region:

- 1 Mexico ..... 28.9%
- 2 Myanmar ..... 10.7%
- 3 India ..... 5.2%
- 4 Guatemala ..... 5.1%
- 5 China ..... 4.6%

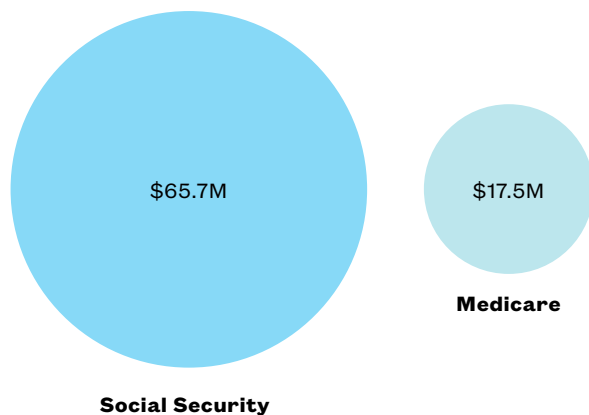


## SPENDING POWER & TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

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



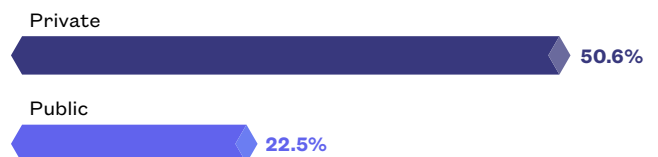
Immigrants in Fort Wayne also support federal social programs. In 2016, they contributed **\$65.7M** to Social Security and **\$17.5M** to Medicare.



**22.3%** of immigrants in the region received Medicare or Medicaid, compared with **30.1%** of the U.S.-born residents in 2016.



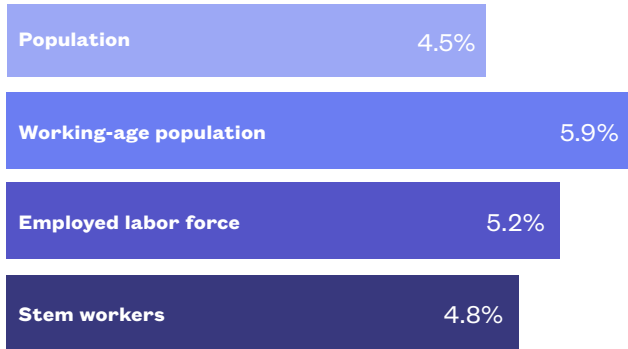
About **50.6%** of immigrants had private healthcare coverage, while **22.5%** had public healthcare coverage.



## LABOR FORCE GROWTH

Although the foreign-born made up **4.5%** of the region's overall population, they represented **5.9%** of its working-age\* population, **5.2%** of its employed labor force, and **4.8%** of its STEM\*\* workers in 2016.

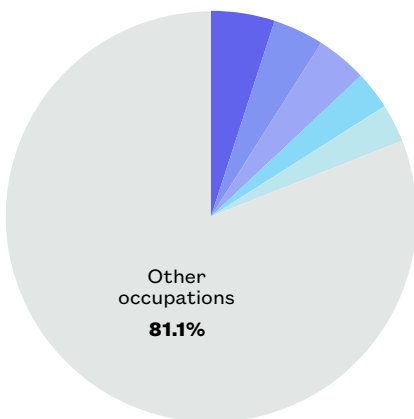
### Immigrant shares of the...



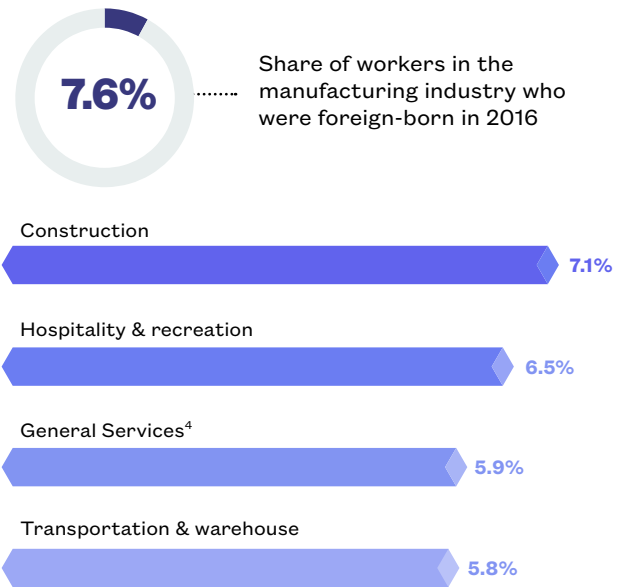
\* Working-age refers to people ages 16-64 years old.  
 \*\* Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Immigrants tend to concentrate in these **occupations** in the region in 2016:

- 1 Production workers . . . . . 4.9%
- 2 Cooks . . . . . 4.3%
- 3 Assemblers & fabricators. . . . . 3.7%
- 4 Sewing machine operators. . . . . 3.1%
- 5 Janitors & building cleaners. . . . . 2.9%
- 6 Other. . . . . 81.1%



Immigrants play a critical role in several **key industries** in the region. This includes:

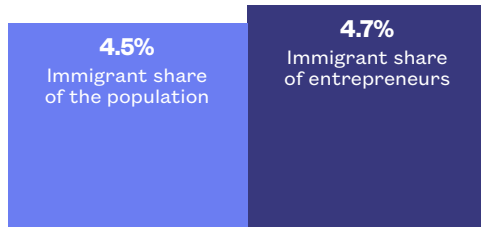


Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that by 2016, immigrants living in the region helped create or preserve

**1,299**  
**local manufacturing jobs**  
 that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.<sup>5</sup>

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Despite making up **4.5%** of the overall population, immigrants represented **4.7%** of the entrepreneurs in the region in 2016. About **1,170** foreign-born residents worked for their own businesses, generating **\$26.2M** in business income.



While **8.4%** of the U.S.-born population were self-employed, **7.5%** of the foreign-born residents worked for their own businesses.

Share of **foreign-born** who were self-employed: **7.5%**

Share of **U.S.-born** who were self-employed: **8.4%**

	Fort Wayne Businesses, 2012	Sales Revenue, 2012	Number of Paid Employees, 2012 <sup>6</sup>
<b>African American-owned</b>	<b>\$397.8M</b>	<b>1,435</b>	
<b>Asian-owned</b>	<b>\$603.7M</b>	<b>3,361</b>	
<b>Hispanic-owned</b>	<b>\$112.2M</b>	<b>855</b>	

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

# Ewelina Connolly

Clinical Director, *Amani Family Services*

**B**y the time she moved to Fort Wayne in 1998, Polish native Ewelina Connolly had already visited the city several times with the dance troupe in which she performed. On one of these trips, she fell in love with an American. But when they decided to marry, Connolly faced a difficult transition. She spoke little English, and while her immigration paperwork was processed, she wasn't legally allowed to drive or work. "In my own country, I was considered an accomplished individual—a college graduate," she says. "Here, I was nobody. You feel like a child who has to learn to walk and talk. That's an overwhelming and humbling experience."

Connolly rebuilt her life one step at a time. She watched Sesame Street to improve her English and, after obtaining legal status, took a series of retail jobs. She also found mentors at the international student center at Purdue University Fort Wayne, who believed in what she—like many local immigrants—had to offer. "I connected with people who were encouraging of my talents," she says. "They told me, 'you can absolutely go back to school.' I have since worked hard to make Fort Wayne my home. It's a wonderful place to live."

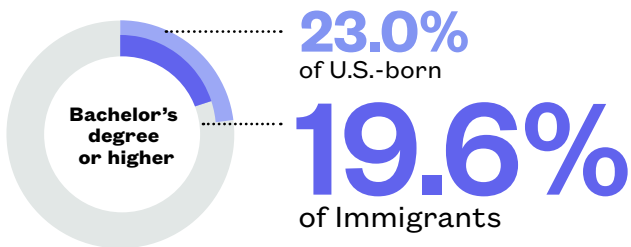
In Poland, Connolly was the first person in her family to attend college and had chosen a practical degree in administration and law. But in Fort Wayne, she realized she could pursue her true passion: marriage and family therapy. She worked hard to master written and spoken English and completed psychology and composition prerequisites. In 2009, she earned a master's degree from Purdue.

Today, Connolly is the clinical director of Amani Family Services, where she oversees all clinical operations. The nonprofit helps Fort Wayne's large refugee and immigrant populations integrate into American life. Connolly has found success at her job because she knows first-hand how challenging it is to start over in a new country. But she also understands the difference that a truly welcoming community can make. "I feel my biggest accomplishment is helping these newcomers attain goals that they feel are out of reach," she says. "It's returning a favor to Fort Wayne and coming full circle."

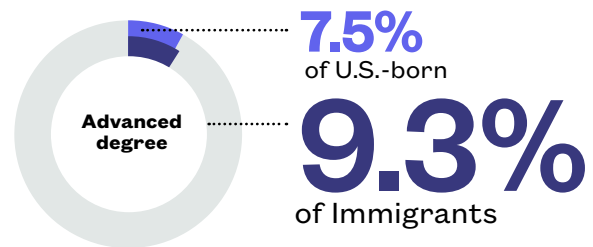
## EDUCATION

In the region, immigrants were more likely than their U.S.-born counterparts to have an advanced degree in 2016.

Share of the Fort Wayne population over age 25 with a **bachelor's degree or higher** in 2016:



Share of the Fort Wayne population over age 25 with an **advanced degree** in 2016:



Immigrants made up

# 2.6%

**of students under age 18** who attended public schools in the region in 2016.

# 1,013

students enrolled in colleges and universities in the region during the fall of 2015 were temporary residents.<sup>7</sup>

International students supported **215 local jobs** and contributed **\$36.1M** in spending in the 2016-17 academic year.<sup>8</sup>

## HOUSING WEALTH

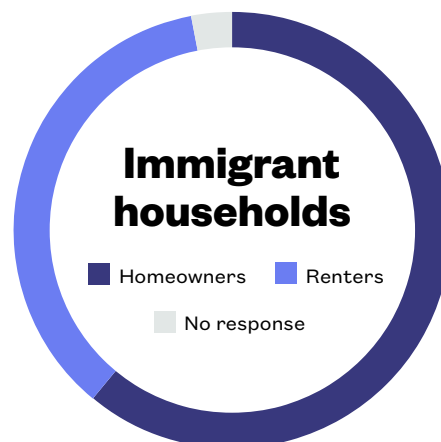
In 2016,

# 60.9%

of immigrant households in the region owned their own homes, compared to **69.2%** of the U.S.-born.

# 35.5%

of immigrant households were renters.



The total property value of immigrant households was

# \$915.4M.

Their total annual rent was

# \$26.6M.

SPOTLIGHT ON

# Palermo Galindo

Fort Wayne Citywide Community Liaison

In 1984, 15-year-old Palermo Galindo left Mexico City in search of greater opportunities. He joined his father, a land surveyor in San Antonio, but the transition was rough. He spoke little English, and only after 10 months of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes did he garner the courage to speak in class. Galindo also feared he would be recruited or harmed by high school gangs. "It was daunting to start from zero, working to create friendships and connections," he says. "You have to establish trust with people."

Galindo persevered. By 2000, he'd graduated from Purdue University Fort Wayne with a degree in graphic design and spent two years with Apollo Design Technology. He then became a freelance photographer and program coordinator with Purdue's Office of Multicultural Services. In 2009, he became a Fort Wayne Community Liaison, helping immigrant communities access city services and educating locals about the benefits of diversity. This community-building work paved the way for Galindo to become president of the Greater Fort Wayne Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2013. "I understand the tremendous potential of immigrants in our community," he says. "Their relentless determination makes them effective entrepreneurs and contributing citizens in the region."

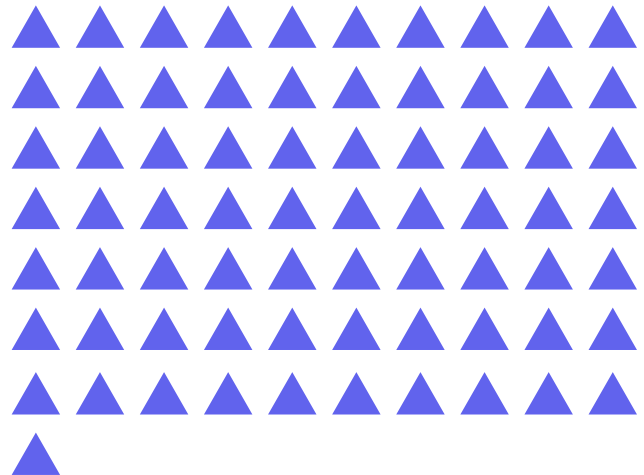
In recognition of his dedication to Fort Wayne, Senator David Long recently appointed Galindo to the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (ICHLA). He believes that securing the economic, educational and social equality for Hispanics and Latinos in Indiana, will benefit the whole state.

But he's still intently focused on Fort Wayne. He volunteers with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and has served on nonprofit boards, including the Hispanic Leadership Coalition of Northeast Indiana. A U.S. citizen for over two decades, he votes in every election.

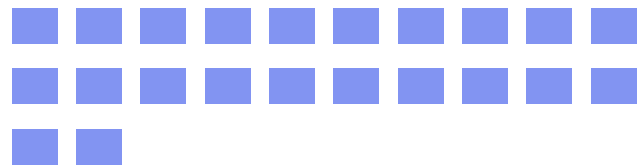
"Personally, I want to repay the great opportunities this country provided to me and my family," says Galindo. "I want to contribute as much as possible to show people that immigrants are making a positive difference in their community, state, and country."

## HOUSING WEALTH CONT.

In 2016, **71.0%** of immigrant households lived in houses and **22.1%** lived in apartments.



**71.0% in houses**

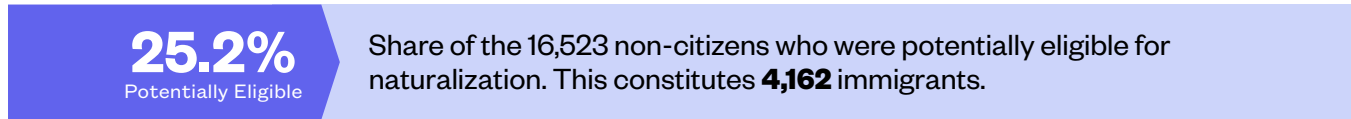
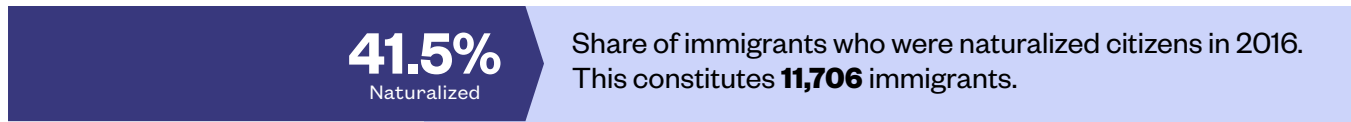


**22.1% in apartments**

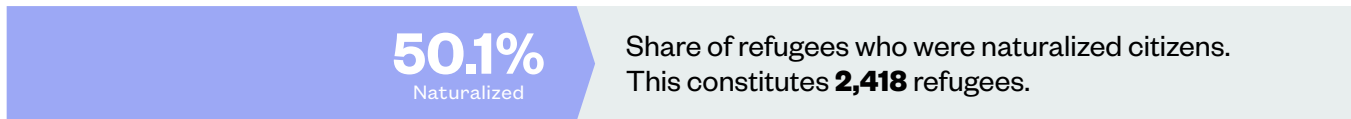


**6.9% in other types of housing or no response**

## NATURALIZATION

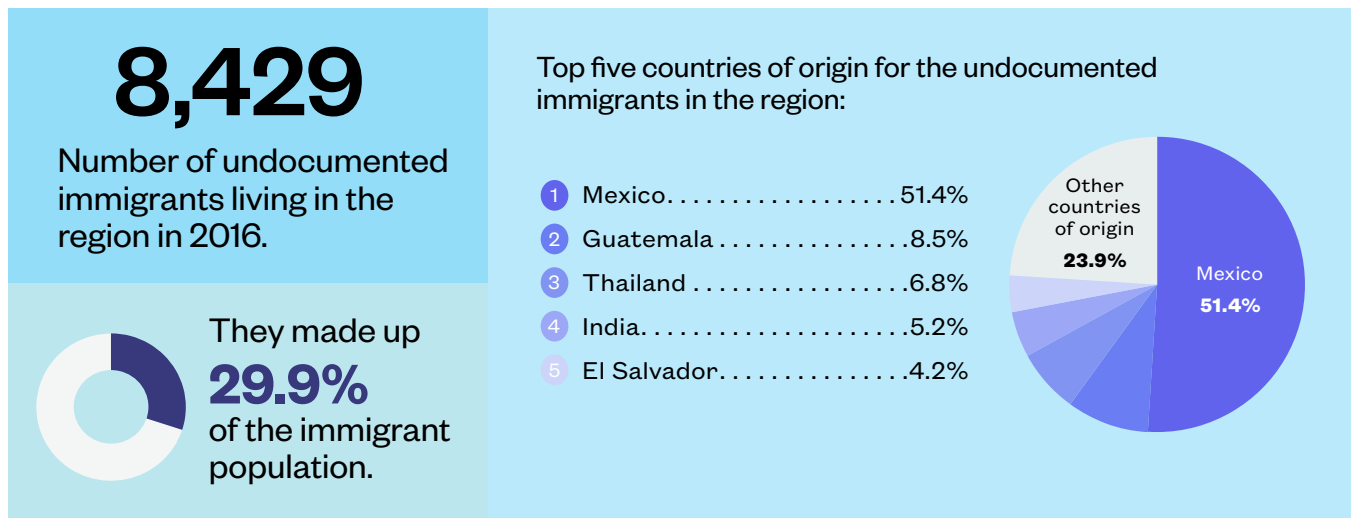


## REFUGEES



The median household income of the refugees in the region was **\$31,392** in 2016.

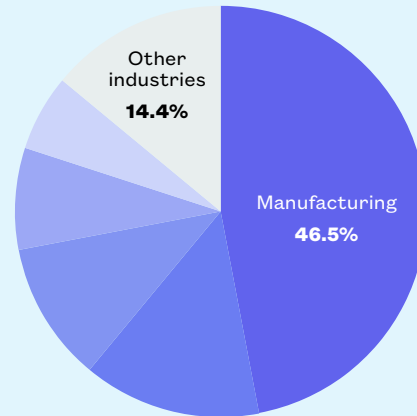
## UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS



**UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS CONT.**

Undocumented immigrants tended to concentrate in these industries in 2016:

- 1 Manufacturing . . . . . 46.5%
- 2 Construction . . . . . 14.3%
- 3 Hospitality & recreation . . . . . 11.0%
- 4 Retail trade . . . . . 7.6%
- 5 Healthcare . . . . . 6.2%



For more city, district, and state-level data, visit [MapTheImpact.org](http://MapTheImpact.org) and explore our interactive map.



- 1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2011 and 2016 and figures refer to the Combined Statistical Area of Fort Wayne-Huntington-Auburn, Indiana, including the counties of Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Noble, Wells, Whitley, and Steuben.
- 2 U.S. Congressional Budget Office. 2016. "The Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes, 2013."
- 3 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. 2015. "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All Fifty States."
- 4 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.
- 5 Vigdor, Jacob. 2013. "Immigration and the Revival of American Cities: From Preserving Manufacturing Jobs to Strengthening the Housing Market." New American Economy.
- 6 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau
- 7 Data on total student enrollment in the region is derived from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics. Temporary residents refer to people who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- 8 Economic data is derived from the International Student Economic Value Tool maintained by NAFSA, the association of international educators.
- 9 New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."