Mapping Community Characteristics for Enhancement of Recent Immigration Population Front End Support Systems

Chyi-lyi (Kathleen) Liang, Associate Professor
(CLIANG@UVM.EDU, 802-656-0754)

The University of Vermont, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Community Development and Applied Economics
Speaker’s Background and Experiences

- **Interests** - Agri-tourism, Community and Youth Entrepreneurship, Applied Economics

- **Leadership** –
  - Chair, Technical Advisory Committee, Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
  - Past President for the Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (www.asbe.us)
  - Executive Board member with Invent Vermont, LLC (www.inventvermont.com)

- **Teaching (every semester)** –
  - Introduction to Community Entrepreneurship (120-140)
  - Strategic Planning (capstone course for community entrepreneurship major, 20-40)

- **Funded Projects** –
  - Multifunctional Farm Operation and Its Impacts on Small/Medium Sized Farms (USDA, AFRI)
  - Innovative Waste Management Strategies (USDA, Conservation Incentive Grant)
My First Experience with The Immigrant Labor in the US

- Between 1996 and 1998 at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center (University of Nebraska) in Scottsbluff, Nebraska

- Working in farms (sugar beets) and manufactories

- Characteristics of the immigrant labor from my own experience – hard working, average living condition, sustainable income
Unique Situations in Vermont
(Articulate Community Characteristics)

- **People**
  - Who we are
  - What our spirit is
  - How we feel
  - How we treat others

- **Place**
  - Resource and limitation
  - Geographical location and relationship with surrounding areas

- **Prosperity**
  - Opportunities
  - Types of industries and employment
  - Tangible and intangible assets
Questions?  Comments?
Vermont’s immigrant population increased by 30.7% between 2000 and 2006.

In 2005, housing authorities reported over 2,000 of Vermont households as crowded or severely crowded. Studies by the Urban Institute in 2001 indicate a rise in crowded housing often correlates with an increase in the number of immigrant residents.

As of 2007, FAIR estimates the state’s illegal alien population to be about 5,000 persons which equates to approximately 0.8% percent of the overall population.

The annual fiscal cost to Vermont taxpayers for emergency medical care, education and incarceration projected by FAIR is currently $5 million and is estimated to rise to $8 million per year in 2010 and $14 million per year in 2020.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary Demographic State Data (and Source)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2008 CB est.): 621,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share Foreign-Born (2008 FAIR est.): 3.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share Foreign-Born (2000): 3.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigrant Stock (2000 CB est.): 71,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share Immigrant Stock (2000 est.): 11.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naturalized U.S. Citizens (2006 CB est.): 12,507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share Naturalized (2006): 53.6%</td>
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<td>Legal Immigrant Admission (DHS 1997-2006): 7,685</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refugee Admission (DHS 1997-2006): 2,319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal Alien Population (2008 FAIR est.): 5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projected 2050 Population - (2006 FAIR): 1,880,541</td>
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Source: http://www.fairus.org/site/PageNavigator/facts/state_data_VT
Challenges and Barriers for Immigrants in General and in Vermont

- Language and communication
- Basic technology applications
- Skills, education, and employment
- Culture
- Weather and climate
- Food and other dietary needs
- Transportation and healthcare

- Trauma from previous war and living in persecution
Organizations Assisting Immigrants and Refugee Resettlement in Vermont

- Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (Somali Bantu, Sudan)
- Association of Africans in Vermont
- Local churches
- Local libraries (language training, store telling and sharing, reading, cultural sharing, arts and crafts)
- Other non-profit organizations
Questions? Comments?
Examples of Innovative and Successful Community Programs in Vermont
(matching community characteristics with the needs)
We Share Our World

An exhibit about former refugees now living in Vermont.

We Are All...

Cultivating our roots in Common Ground

September 6 thru October 16, 2010
Scott Memorial Gallery in the Dibden Center for the Arts
Johnson State College

September 15, 2010
3 pm-5:45 pm Reception with Ethnic Food
6 pm-7:30 pm Panel Discussion

Visitors will get a glimpse into the lives of new Americans who came as refugees from Bhutan, Burma, Iraq, and Somalia.

This exhibit is a collaboration between Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP) and Johnson State College (JSC)

For more information call JSC at (802) 635-1469 or email jrrand@uscivilvt.org

Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program
Movie and Dinner Series

Home Across Lands Event at Champlain College

Home Across Lands

© 2008 www.homeacrosslands.org

Please join us for a discussion after the movie and/or a conversation over dinner with refugees who are starting new lives in Vermont. Learn about the struggles, triumphs and renewed sense of hope experienced by refugee families resettling in this country.

Sunday, September 27
Movie 4 pm
Discussion 5 pm
Alumni Auditorium
Champlain College
375 Maple Street, Burlington, VT
FREE and open to the public
Suggested Donation of $15
RSVP lstavrand@uscrvt.org

Dinner 6:30 pm
Parima’s Restaurant
185 Pearl Street Burlington VT
Frank Lloyd Wright Room
$30 Donation
RSVP lstavrand@uscrvt.org
Proceeds benefit the Volunteer Department at the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. For more information, please contact Laurie Stavrand at 802-338-4627.
Learn more about the film Home Across Lands at http://www.homeacrosslands.org/
Janet S. Munt VNA Family Room

The VNA Family Room provides services to parents and their children from birth through five years including preschool, play groups, and parent education and support programs. The Family Room is located at 20 Allen Street (St. Joseph's School) in Burlington. Most of the families that participate in programs live in Burlington's Old North End.

All services are free to participants. Funding for these programs comes from state grants and contracts, VNA charitable care contributions, a federal fatherhood grant and private foundation grants, and support from individual donors and community organizations.

The Family Room Mission

The program's mission is to foster characteristics that are associated with strong families and child abuse prevention. These protective factors are:

1. Parent-child nurturance and attachment
2. Knowledge of parenting and child development
3. Parental resilience and ability to handle stress
4. Social connections
5. Parent support to access community resources

The Family Room's goal is to promote healthy social and emotional development in young children and enhance school readiness factors such as the child's ability to interact with others, and communicate effectively.

Calendars and Newsletters

You can download a monthly calendar of upcoming Family Room activities here:

- [December Family Room Calendar](#)

Want to hear more about the latest activities and events? Click on our monthly newsletter here:

- [This Month at the Family Room - December](#)

Family Room Programs

The Family Room provides information about community resources and partners with other social service agencies for more effective service delivery. The Family Room is part of the VNA Family and Children's Services division and works closely with the Family and Children's Services home-visited to meet the needs of families. Family Room offers these weekly programs:
Business Refugee Resource Guide
The City of Burlington, Vermont

Banking
Financial Services
Cultural Exchange
Employment and Training
English
Food and Food Shelves
Housing
Public Assistance
Legal Services
Links to Agencies

Business Refugee Resource Guide

The Business Refugee Resource Guide was created in response to challenges to hire, retain and promote refugee workers. The valuable segment of Burlington's workforce and seeks to collaborative guide is a step in linking the businesses with the vital service program integral to the immersion into American life, such as, children and

The initial contact for most refugees in the state is the Vermont Resettlement process in Vermont. VRRP provides a variety of job placement, social adjustment/mental health counseling, family services. The objective is to help refugees achieve economic and social integrate and administer a program, Vermont Project Progress, that comprehensively addresses.

For 1999, VRRP resettled 398 refugees in Vermont. The Burlington years, Burlington has settled more than 400 refugees while all of them in the Burlington area, it is critical that a broad network of services be made available.

CEDO works to achieve economic justice and sustainability in Burlington, increase economic opportunities for all, and particularly to extend its services to those in need. Guide is a joint project of CEDO and Americorps/WIST. It is targeted

CEDO in collaboration with Americorps/WIST wishes to acknowledge Burlington Putnam, Inc., Conant Custom Brass, Inc., Fresh Connection

LET US KNOW!

Please help us make the Business Refugee Resource Guide an even more valuable resource by alerting us to programs/organizations that we have left out. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Send your comments and suggestions on how we could improve the guide. 

Page last updated October 7, 2003
Vermont State Conference on Migrant Farmworkers

Saturday, April 24th, 2010
McCardell Bicentennial Hall, Middlebury College
8:30am – 4:00 pm

This conference will provide opportunities for individuals and communities to organize at the local level to help farms and farmworkers.

Sponsored by:

The Addison County Farmworkers Coalition
People of Addison County Together (PACT)
Champlain Valley Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
Vermont Human Rights Commission
Open Door Clinic, Middlebury
Vermont Action for Peace

Middlebury College, Juntos
UVM Extension Migrant Education Program
Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services
St. Mary’s Church of the Assumption, Middlebury
Mexican Consulate of Boston
Vermont Farm Bureau
Vermont Movie on Migrant Workers at Cedar Circle Farm

Free film: “Silenced Voices” — an important new film about migrant farm labor in VT
When: 6-7pm (25 minute film followed by a discussion with the film makers)
Where: Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center
225 Pavilion Rd East Thetford VT
Come early to enjoy the Cafe and Farmstand which close at 6pm.

About Silenced Voices:
Migrant Farmworker José Obeth Santiz Cruz was killed in a farming accident last December in Vermont. The Vermont Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project sent a delegation to Mexico to return his remains and document his family and community coming to terms with his death, sharing stories about the causes, effects, and their experiences of migration. Their stories draw attention to the conditions and economic policies that force migrants from their homes in Mexico and suggest a need for a new dialogue about the root causes of migration. Produced and directed by Gustavo Terán, Brendan O’Neill, and Sam Mayfield for the Vermont Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project.

For more info, visit: [http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org/news/](http://www.cedarcirclefarm.org/news/)

VT Migrant Farmworker Solidarity Project

Resources
- VT Immigrant and Farmworker Rights Resources
  - For Educators
  - Farmworker and Immigrant Rights Organizations
  - Family Farming, Food Justice and Farmworker Rights
  - Root Causes of Migration: Globalization of Agriculture
  - Mexico/Español
Questions? Comments?
Job Creation for Immigrants in Vermont

- Microenterprise development assistance
  - Communication and finding the “right person to connect refugees with organizations.”
- Famers’ market
- One World Market
Key Issues for Future Planning and Policy Implications

- What are our community characteristics?
  - People
  - Place
  - Prosperity
Key Issues for Future Planning and Policy Implications

- Racism
- Education
- Poverty
- Healthcare
- Law enforcement
- Public safety
- Children
- Role of religion

- What we take for granted ≠ What others will understand
- Focus on value and benefit for the community by working with immigrants
- Create specific action plans to introduce immigrants to the community, and to introduce the community to immigrants
References

- http://www.unl.edu/sdn/immigration/articles/summary.shtml
- http://www.usim immigrationsupport.org/vermont.html
- http://www.fairus.org/site/PageNavigator/facts/state_data/
- http://www.fairus.org/site/PageNavigator/facts/state_data_VT
- http://uscri.refugees.org/site/PageNavigator/Vermont/ServicesVermont
- http://www.vtmigrantfarmworkersolidarity.org/node/45
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