



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO**

**LORI E. LIGHTFOOT**  
MAYOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-7**

**WHEREAS**, The Office of New Americans (ONA) was first created in 2011 with the goal to make Chicago the world's most immigrant-friendly city; and

**WHEREAS**, Since its inception, the Office of New Americans has been dedicated to improving services and engaging Chicago's diverse immigrant and refugee communities through collaboration with community organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector; and

**WHEREAS**, As of September 2021, the City of Chicago ranked first in the nation for inclusive policy and socioeconomic environment for immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, Chicago is home to over 550,000 immigrants, meaning over 20 percent of the City's population is foreign-born; and

**WHEREAS**, One in three children in Chicago has at least one immigrant parent; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois has the Nation's third largest population of immigrants covered by DACA with an estimated 42,701 people approved, many of whom work in crucial sectors such as healthcare; and

**WHEREAS**, Chicago continues to become home to thousands of refugees and asylum seekers each year, including those being bused from the State of Texas and those fleeing wars in their home countries, such as Ukraine; and

**WHEREAS**, In May 2015, ONA led the effort to pass the City's first Language Access Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, About one-third of Chicagoans 5 years and older speak a language other than English at home; and

**WHEREAS**, At 21 percent of the population, immigrants contribute to the fabric of the City of Chicago in a multitude of ways, including comprising over a quarter of the City's workforce and paying \$1.6 billion to state and local taxes in 2016; and

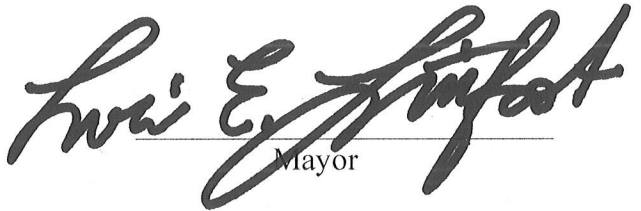
**WHEREAS**, Chicago has long stood as a welcoming city for immigrants and refugees, and the City Council has reaffirmed this commitment, including by passing a Welcoming City Ordinance in 2020; now, therefore,

**I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do hereby order as follows:**

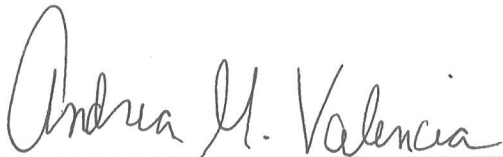
1. This order hereby establishes the Mayor's Office of New Americans.
2. The mission of the Office of New Americans shall be to:
  - (a) welcome and support immigrants and refugees in the City of Chicago;
  - (b) provide oversight and guidance for processes, practices, and functions for the City aimed at ensuring immigrant and refugee inclusion in service delivery, resource distribution, policy creation, community engagements, and other government business on behalf of residents;
  - (c) promote and support immigrant and refugee integration into the social, cultural, economic, and civic life of the City of Chicago;
  - (d) enhance the accessibility of City programs, benefits, and services to immigrants and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons by establishing outreach programs in conjunction with other City agencies to inform and educate immigrants, refugees, and LEP persons about relevant City programs, benefits, and services;
  - (e) ensure, in collaboration with authorized city agencies, compliance with Chapter 2-173 of the Municipal Code of Chicago to protect immigrant communities by restricting City agencies from cooperating and sharing information with federal immigration authorities.
3. The Office of New Americans shall be led by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Mayor and direct the Office in carrying out the following duties and responsibilities:
  - (a) to facilitate economic stability and promote successful economic, social, linguistic, and cultural integration of immigrants and refugees;
  - (b) to identify and address issues relating to integration while fostering and enhancing inclusion for immigrants and refugees;
  - (c) to research and plan processes, resources, and practices that will advance immigrant and refugee inclusion in the provision of City services and resources to residents;
  - (d) to educate and communicate to City departments, other governmental bodies, advisory councils, community and civic organizations, and the public regarding the status and progress of the immigrant and refugee inclusion efforts, as well as opportunities to advance progress and innovation regarding such efforts;

- (e) to advise and assist the Mayor in developing and implementing policies designed to assist immigrants, refugees and LEP persons in the City, including, but not limited to, obstacles to accessing City programs, benefits, and services, and socioeconomic trends affecting immigrants, refugees and LEP persons;
- (f) to collaborate and partner with sister agencies, advisory councils, community and civic organizations, national coalitions, and the public in developing policies, initiatives, and planning efforts aimed at advancing immigrant and refugee rights;
- (g) to collaborate with relevant City departments and other entities as needed.

This Executive Order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the City Clerk.

  
Mayor

Received and filed May 12, 2023

  
City Clerk

Chicago City Clerk-Council Div.  
2023 MAY 12 AM 9:45