



THE INTERGROUP LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

America is a nation built on the drive and creativity of newcomers. The war against terror has taught us all to be wary of enemies taking advantage of our history as a country welcoming to immigrants. But the continued influx of immigrants in search of better lives for themselves and their families undergirds the fabric that makes this country so vibrant. The areas in America that have been the most receptive to immigrants - Silicon Valley, Los Angeles, New York, South Florida - have also been the ones most blessed with prosperity and economic growth. Is this a coincidence? The economic vitality and revitalization that immigrants bring to our communities make it a pragmatic, in addition to a moral, imperative to support their assimilation into American society.

Through the Bridging America Project, AJC continues to counter the anti-immigrant fervor with programs designed to prepare community leaders for comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

The overarching goals of the Bridging America Project are to: create conditions for the successful enactment of immigration reform legislation in Congress; provide communities with the skills and structures necessary for achieving local support for immigration reform; and, to build and strengthen Latino-Jewish relations.

In its inaugural year, the Bridging America Project developed task forces comprised of stakeholders in the immigration debate from a handful of major metropolitan areas across the country. Below you will find the Declarations of Principles produced by these task forces.

This year, the Bridging America Project has expanded to include Atlanta, Denver, Miami, New York State, Greater Washington DC, and Phoenix while deepening our commitment to the communities already engaged in policy discussions and relationship building.

For more information, contact Ellen Carmell, Project Manager at carmelle@ajc.org