

Mike Bloomberg's Immigration Policy

The American dream is built on the idea that through hard work and determination, you can secure a better life for yourself and your children. By embodying these values, immigrants have helped make America the most dynamic and prosperous nation in the world. America also continues to be a beacon of hope for people fleeing violence and persecution, a place for those who value freedom and liberty.

But right now, our immigration system isn't working for any of us. Congressional inaction—coupled with President Trump's incompetent and cruel policies—has created chaos at the border, separated families, trapped millions of immigrants in legal limbo and paralyzed an already inefficient system. This is not who we are, and it has not made us any safer.

Mike Bloomberg believes that America is stronger when we have an immigration system that works for all of us. As mayor, Mike recognized that immigrants are a vital part of our economic, civic and cultural life. He encouraged eligible immigrants to become U.S. citizens, helped local small business owners thrive and welcomed newcomers while keeping New York the safest big city in America. Mike has also made immigration reform a top national priority, launching [New American Economy](#) to unite mayors, business leaders and communities across the country in the effort to fix our immigration system.

1. Restore fairness, transparency and accountability to the immigration system.

After decades of inaction from Congress, it is time to fix our immigration system once and for all, starting with creating a way for 11 million undocumented immigrants to come forward, register and begin an earned path to citizenship. The majority of undocumented immigrants [have lived in the U.S. for 10 years or longer](#)¹—working, raising families and contributing to our communities. Many are also Dreamers, young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, who are now completing school, [working as teachers and nurses](#),² and even [serving in our military](#).³ America is a nation of laws, and we have a responsibility to preserve our sovereignty and security—but it is wrong to think that rounding up parents at school or raiding places of worship makes us any safer. We can enforce our laws, protect our borders and still welcome newcomers and treat all people with dignity and respect.

- **Provide an earned pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented.** As president, Mike will work with Congress to provide an earned pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who agree to register, pay necessary fees and taxes owed, and pass criminal background checks. Once they become eligible, immigrants on the path to citizenship will be required to pass the naturalization exam, which includes an English and civics test.
- **Protect Dreamers.** President Trump rescinded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), which provided protection and work authorization to qualified Dreamers. Mike will take

¹ Pew Research Center, [5 facts about illegal immigration in the U.S.](#), July 2019

² New American Economy, [Spotlight on the DACA-eligible population](#), September 2017

³ New American Economy, [Outside the wire: How barring the DACA-eligible population from enlisting weakens our military](#), November 2017

executive action to restore DACA and then work with Congress to provide an expedited path to citizenship for Dreamers.

- **Protect individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations and then work with Congress to allow those who have built their lives in the U.S. to stay.** Due to conditions in their home countries that make it unsafe to return, TPS holders have [lived in the U.S. for an average of 19 years](#).⁴ Mike will order an administrative review of TPS designations, protecting those that the Trump administration has moved to rescind and extending TPS to Venezuelan nationals in the U.S., and work with Congress to provide an earned path to citizenship for those who have built their lives in the U.S.
- **End arcane rules, like the 3- and 10-year bars to re-entry, that keep families apart and deter immigrants from coming forward to apply for legal status.** Many immigrants who are living in the U.S. without authorization but who qualify for legal status (e.g., through marriage or employer sponsorship) [must leave the country for either 3 or 10 years](#) before they can apply to re-enter. Mike will urge Congress to repeal rules that prevent immigrants from adjusting their status and review the list of removable offenses in order to prioritize public safety and national security.
- **Order the Department of Justice to investigate abuse at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and reform the agencies to ensure oversight and accountability.** Since 2017, there have been more than [400 allegations of sexual assault or abuse and at least 29 fatalities in detention facilities overseen by ICE](#),⁵ and the Department of Homeland Security's own Inspector General has [found "egregious violations" in detention centers](#),⁶ including conditions that pose a danger to the health of detainees. As president, Mike will order the Department of Justice to launch an investigation into abuse at ICE and CBP, and will reform the agencies—implementing sensible enforcement priorities, targeting their efforts on true homeland security objectives, significantly reducing immigrant detention for those who do not pose a threat to public safety, and establishing clear and effective oversight—to ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Establish sensible immigration enforcement priorities that promote public safety and national security.** The Trump administration [eliminated immigration enforcement priorities](#)⁷ that focus on threats to public safety and national security. When President Trump took office, our immigration courts were faced with a record-level backlog of 542,000 cases; less than two years into the Trump administration, the [backlog now exceeds 1 million cases](#).⁸ Immigrant detention has also [reached an all-time high, with most of the growth attributable to immigrants who have no criminal convictions](#).⁹ A Bloomberg administration will direct the Department of Homeland Security to establish sensible enforcement priorities that promote public safety and

⁴ Center for American Progress, [TPS holders are integral members of the U.S. economy and society](#), October 2017

⁵ USA Today, [Deaths in custody. Sexual violence. Hunger strikes. What we uncovered inside ICE facilities across the US](#), December 2019

⁶ Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General, [Concerns about ICE detainee treatment and care at four detention facilities](#), June 2019

⁷ American Immigration Council, [The end of immigration enforcement priorities under the Trump administration](#), March 2018

⁸ American Immigration Council, [How the immigration court reached a record one million case backlog](#), September 2019

⁹ TRAC Immigration, [Growth in ICE detention fueled by immigrants with no criminal conviction](#), November 2019

national security—and make the smartest, most efficient use of taxpayer resources. As mayor, Mike signed landmark executive orders [protecting immigration status as confidential](#) and [maintaining a measure of separation between federal immigration enforcement and local law enforcement](#) when public safety was not at risk. Mike will replace the practice of workplace raids with smart enforcement that holds employers accountable and protect schools, places of worship, and other sensitive locations while focusing taxpayer resources on keeping all Americans safe.

- **Place a moratorium on border wall construction and divert resources to smart, effective security measures.** President Trump’s border security “[national emergency](#)” designation has [sapped billions from our military](#)¹⁰ to pay for a wall that [experts agree](#) fails to address our most pressing national security concerns.¹¹ Mike will end the national emergency declaration, place a moratorium on new border wall construction, and divert resources to smarter, more effective security measures.
- **Modernize America’s ports of entry and implement a complete entry and exit system.** Most of America’s ports of entry were [designed more than 40 years ago](#)—they are not equipped to handle today’s [security](#), [economic](#), and [humanitarian](#) demands. A [2019 report estimated](#) that wait times caused by inefficiencies at the U.S.-Mexico border could cost the U.S. \$69 billion in GDP.¹² Mike will modernize U.S. ports of entry, ensuring adequate staffing to increase efficiency and promote security and, as part of [Mike’s national infrastructure plan](#), also strengthen border community infrastructure. Mike will also work with Congress to implement a complete entry and exit system so that the U.S. is able to track who is entering and leaving the country.

2. Open America’s doors to the immigrants our communities and economy need.

Immigration has always been one of America’s greatest competitive advantages, but our legal immigration system has not been reformed in three decades: It is outdated, inflexible and fails to serve our economic and social interests. America is [turning away promising innovators and entrepreneurs to our international competitors](#), making families [wait decades to be reunited](#), and limiting our ability to bring new energy to communities that have fallen behind. Mike believes we need more immigrants, not fewer, and that we can grow our economy by investing in American workers and welcoming new immigrants at the same time.

- **Protect and invest in American workers.** Any expansion of legal immigration should address unmet needs in our labor market, not replace U.S. workers and undercut their wages. In conjunction with reforming the legal immigration system and increasing overall legal immigration, Mike will push Congress to implement an effective worker authorization mechanism to ensure that employers are hiring only those individuals authorized to work in the United States. He will also raise wage requirements for temporary workers to prevent U.S. worker displacement. Finally, Mike will invest [revenue generated by immigration reform](#) into

¹⁰ Claudia Grisales, [Trump administration diverts \\$3.6 billion from military projects to border wall](#), National Public Radio, September 2019

¹¹ American Immigration Council, [The high cost and diminishing returns of a border wall](#), September 2019

¹² Julian Aguilar, [Report: Slowdowns at border ports of entry could cost Texas billions](#), The Texas Tribune, May 2019

workforce training and education for U.S. workers.

- **Modernize legal immigration and make the system more flexible and responsive to economic conditions.** Each year, just 12 percent of permanent visas are awarded for employment—and [more than half of these visas](#) go to dependent family members of new workers.¹³ By comparison, Canada accepts [11 times the rate of economic immigrants](#) as the U.S.¹⁴ Mike will push for an overhaul to our immigration system that increases legal immigration, raising the number of green cards awarded for employment at all needed skills levels, including for [labor-intensive industries with worker shortages](#). Mike will also fight to eliminate per-country caps and set an annual cap on employment-based immigration that is adjustable, within a range set by Congress, based on a Job Demand Index that reflects current economic conditions—allowing the system to be more flexible and responsive.
- **Protect family and diversity immigration, and reduce backlogs that keep families apart.** The U.S. has a long tradition of promoting family unification, and [family ties also help newcomers become self-sufficient more quickly](#).¹⁵ While our immigration system should be more responsive to economic conditions, this should not come at the expense of existing family or diversity pathways. Mike will preserve family and diversity immigration and reduce [lengthy green card backlogs](#) by eliminating per-country caps on family-based visas, ending the practice of [counting dependent family members against the employment-based visa cap](#), and recapturing unused green cards and allocating them to the family immigration backlog.
- **Open our doors to innovators and entrepreneurs.** Whether they are starting businesses in Silicon Valley or on Main Street, job-creating immigrants should be welcomed to the U.S. and not sent away to our competitors. Mike will push for the creation of a startup visa and will create an opportunity for international students who graduate with advanced degrees in essential fields like STEM, healthcare or business to apply for green cards. Mike will also raise the cap on temporary high-skilled visas while implementing stronger wage requirements and ensuring that employers do not hire temporary workers in order to displace U.S. workers.
- **Allow states and localities to welcome more immigrants to address unmet needs.** Mike’s plan will allow certain localities to petition for [place-based immigrant visas](#) to help address unmet economic or social needs.¹⁶ Mike will also expand opportunities for [foreign-born physicians](#), [nurses](#) and mental health and substance abuse professionals to help address the [shortage of healthcare workers](#) in rural and under-served communities across the country.¹⁷
- **Reform temporary worker visas to address labor shortages and give employers and workers more flexibility.** Temporary workers are a crucial part of key industries across the U.S. like agriculture and hospitality. Mike will expand and reform temporary worker visas, making them portable to give employers and workers more flexibility, raising wage requirements to

¹³ Alex Nowrasteh, [Fewer than half of employment-based green cards are for workers](#), Cato Institute, February 2019

¹⁴ David Bier, [Canada will up immigration to 1% of its population, 2.6 times the U.S. rate](#), Cato Institute, November 2018

¹⁵ American Immigration Council, [The immigrant success story: how family-based immigrants thrive in America](#), June 2018

¹⁶ Economic Innovation Group, [From managing decline to building the future: Could a heartland visa help struggling regions?](#), April 2019

¹⁷ New American Economy, [Life support: The shortage of physicians in America’s rural counties and how foreign-born doctors can help](#), September 2015

protect U.S. workers, and allowing farm workers and other temporary workers who return year after year the ability to apply for legal permanent residency.

- **Protect all workers, including immigrants, from exploitation and labor violations.** Temporary workers and workers who lack immigration status are especially vulnerable to exploitation, wage theft and other labor violations. Mike supports raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour and extending it to farm workers and domestic workers. To increase protections for immigrant workers, Mike will provide an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, make temporary worker visas portable and allow certain temporary workers to apply for permanent residency. Mike will also replace the practice of workplace raids with smart enforcement and hold employers and international labor recruiters accountable for labor violations.

3. End policies that run counter to our deepest values as Americans.

The Trump administration has exploited legitimate concerns about our dysfunctional immigration system by enacting cruel policies that run counter to our deepest values as Americans. Separating families, locking children in cages, and turning back those fleeing systemic violence and persecution does not represent who we are, and it doesn't keep us safe. Mike will end the cruelty and incompetence of the current approach, honor America's long-standing humanitarian traditions, and provide refuge to those fleeing systemic persecution while protecting the integrity of our asylum system.

- **Rescind the discriminatory and un-American travel ban.** Discriminating against individuals on the basis of religion or country of origin is profoundly un-American—and it will end under a Bloomberg administration. Mike believes that we can protect the U.S. from national security threats while upholding our values and welcoming newcomers. As president, Mike will lift the travel ban, including against [the six additional countries added in January 2020](#), and apply the rules for entry fairly—whether for tourism, study, work or family unification.
- **End family separation and establish rigorous safeguards for children.** Mike will end family separation and the inhumane treatment and detention of children and ensure that they are properly cared for while in the custody of federal agencies. As mayor, Mike [led efforts to strengthen child safety](#) and protect all children—and he will do the same as President. A Bloomberg administration will:
 - **End the separation of families and promptly reunite those still separated.** The Trump administration's Zero Tolerance policy led to the [separation of more than 6,000 families](#).¹⁸ Mike will end Zero Tolerance and family separation, and provide the necessary resources and coordination to promptly identify and reunite families that are still separated.
 - **End prolonged child and family detention and promote humane and cost-effective alternatives.** A Bloomberg administration will observe the Flores agreement and end the prolonged detention of children, placing them in community-based alternatives to

¹⁸ Southern Poverty Law Center, [Family separation under the Trump administration – a timeline](#), September 2019

detention as quickly as possible. The administration will also prioritize placement for children aging out of Office of Refugee Resettlement custody, ensuring that they are placed in the least restrictive community-based settings, and not in ICE detention.

- **Support an increase in humanitarian resources at the border and require aggressive safeguards for children held temporarily in U.S. custody.** To ensure the safety and humane treatment of all children in U.S. custody, consistent with [recommendations made by organizations focused on child safety](#),¹⁹ Mike will increase humanitarian resources at the border and require the presence of state-licensed child welfare and health care professionals in all facilities that receive children; require timely medical and child welfare screenings; take meaningful steps to ensure communication with children in their native languages; and conduct regular reviews and inspections to ensure CBP compliance with minimum standards of care for children.
- **Guarantee counsel for minors** in immigration proceedings, ensuring that [toddlers are not forced to defend themselves in court](#),²⁰ and increase access to counsel for all immigrants in removal proceedings through additional support for legal service providers and the expansion of community-based alternatives to detention that will allow greater access to legal providers.
- **Protect Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status** for minors under the age of 21 who have been abandoned, abused or neglected, and ensure that children who are determined by USCIS to meet the standard for SIJ are protected from deportation.
- **Restore the Central American Minors (CAM) program**, reinstating in-country processing of children—and expanding the program to include immediate family members—residing in the Northern Triangle so that those who qualify for refugee status are not forced to travel to the U.S. border to seek asylum.
- **Ensure that children are never subjected to asylum metering** and other policies that block access to the asylum system, so that they are able to have their cases heard in a safe and timely fashion.
- **End for-profit detention, require all government-run detention facilities to meet civil detention standards, and invest in community-based alternatives to detention.** Detention of immigrants has reached an [all-time high under the Trump administration](#),²¹ costing taxpayers [more than \\$3 billion each year](#).²² Since 2017, there have been more than [400 allegations of sexual assault, 29 fatalities and 7 suicides in detention facilities overseen by ICE](#).²³ Mike will close for-profit detention centers, require all government-run detention centers to meet civil standards, and invest in cost-effective, community-based alternatives to detention and case

¹⁹ Women's Refugee Commission, Kids in Need of Defense and the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, [Recommendations for CBP standards when detaining children](#), March 2019

²⁰ Christina Jewett and Shefali Luthra, Kaiser Health News, [Immigrant toddlers ordered to appear in court alone](#), The Texas Tribune, June 2018

²¹ TRAC Immigration, [Growth in ICE detention fueled by immigrants with no criminal conviction](#), November 2019

²² Laurence Benenson, [The math of immigration detention, 2018 update: Costs continue to multiply](#), National Immigration Forum, May 2018

²³ USA Today, [Deaths in custody. Sexual violence. Hunger strikes. What we uncovered inside ICE facilities across the US](#), December 2019

management. And, consistent with Mike’s commitment to justice reform, as the population in detention declines, Mike will offer local economic development packages to offset costs of closing facilities and find employment for people who lose their jobs.

- **Restore America’s humanitarian leadership by rebuilding the refugee resettlement program.** President Trump has reduced the annual cap on refugee admissions from over 100,000 to just 18,000 for this year. During his first year in office, Mike will set the target for refugee admissions at 125,000, and—recognizing the changing conditions causing displacement—will also establish a precedent for people permanently displaced by climate change to qualify as refugees. He will also ensure sufficient resources and human capital needed to securely and efficiently process refugees prior to their entry into the U.S.
- **Increase cooperation with America’s allies and address the root causes of out-migration.** President Trump cut \$450 million in aid to combat corruption and violence in Northern Triangle countries, adding to the outflow of migrants and asylum seekers to the border. Mike will restore aid to these regions and will convene leaders in the hemisphere, including Mexico and other partners and allies in Central America, to improve cooperation and develop a regional approach to refugee resettlement. Mike will also restore Emergency Migration and Refugee Assistance funding.
- **Restore fairness and timeliness to the asylum process.** The Trump administration has repeatedly acted to limit access to the asylum system—through the “Remain in Mexico” policy, the asylum transit ban, asylum metering and other restrictions—preventing children and families fleeing persecution from having their cases heard, and incentivizing greater numbers of migrants to cross into the U.S. illegally rather than through secure ports of entry: Under Trump, [illegal crossings reached a 12 year high in 2019](#)²⁴ and immigration courts have become even more strained, reaching a [backlog of more than 1 million cases](#)²⁵ with [average wait times of close to two years](#).²⁶ As president, Mike will restore order to the asylum system. He will increase the number of asylum officers and have the Asylum Division of USCIS fully adjudicate cases where there are findings of credible fear, rather than add to the immigration court backlog. He will also increase the number of immigration court judges, court staff, and interpreters, with the goal of bringing wait times back to a crucial 6-month decision window, ensuring that cases are heard in a timely fashion and helping to deter meritless claims. And he will return independence and discretion to judges, reinstating administrative closure and allowing judges to manage their dockets effectively.
- **Affirm asylum protections for those fleeing systemic persecution—not for economic migrants.** Mike will reverse the Trump administration’s policies—like Remain in Mexico, asylum metering, and the asylum transit ban—that block asylum seekers from having their claims heard, and will affirm protections for individuals fleeing systemic, identity-based violence—including victims of gang and domestic violence and LGBTQ+ asylum seekers. Mike

²⁴ Brian Bennett, [Trump vowed to slow border crossings. Now they’ve hit a 12-year high](#), Time, April 2019

²⁵ American Immigration Council, [How the immigration court reached a record one million case backlog](#), September 2019

²⁶ TRAC Immigration, [Immigration court backlog tool](#), December 2019

will also preserve the integrity of the asylum system, ensuring that it is protected for legitimate claims, not for individuals only seeking economic opportunity.

- **Protect service members, veterans, and their families.** Mike will preserve the Parole in Place program to protect from deportation family members of deployed service members. He will also restore the Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (MAVNI) program, with appropriate screening and security measures in place, to help [enlist individuals with critical language and other skills](#) and expedite citizenship for immigrants who serve our country.

4. Give new Americans and their neighbors the tools they need to thrive together.

More than 110 years ago, [Ellis Island set a new record](#): The highest number of immigrants processed in the U.S. in a single day reached 11,747 on April 17, 1907. Those immigrants, [nearly half of whom spoke no English at all](#) when they arrived, went on to start families, open businesses and take part in the American dream.²⁷ Today's immigrants are [more highly skilled and more likely to speak English](#), and they settle in a wider range of communities across the country—but we must still ensure that they have the tools to fully integrate, and that receiving communities have the resources they need to thrive. As mayor, Mike recognized that integration is a two-way street and worked to ensure the successful integration of newcomers into the economic, civic and cultural life of the city.

- **Encourage eligible immigrants to become U.S. citizens.** There are nearly [nine million legal permanent residents in the U.S. who are eligible for naturalization](#),²⁸ but have yet to take this step. Rather than encourage people to naturalize, the Trump administration has tried to make the process more difficult—proposing [increased naturalization fees](#), adding bureaucratic hurdles, and allowing a [backlog of more than 700,000 applications](#) to sit in waiting. Meanwhile, immigrants who do become U.S. citizens [see their wages rise](#), increasing tax revenue and generating economic growth in their communities.²⁹ As mayor, Mike championed naturalization, [launching innovative programs to help eligible New Yorkers, especially parents of New York City public school children, apply for citizenship](#). A Bloomberg administration will:
 - **Clear the naturalization application backlog.** Mike will direct sufficient resources and staffing to USCIS to clear the backlog of 700,000 applications and reduce wait times for individuals applying for citizenship.
 - **Reduce the naturalization application fee.** The Trump administration has proposed an 83 percent fee increase for naturalization, which will create additional barriers for qualified immigrants to apply. Mike will reduce the naturalization fee, setting it at a reasonable level to ensure that it is not a barrier to applying for citizenship.
 - **Protect the fee waiver.** The Trump administration [has attempted to limit access to the fee waiver for naturalization](#) for low-income immigrant households. Mike will protect the fee waiver to ensure that the cost is not a barrier to naturalization for immigrant families.

²⁷ New American Economy, [Remembering Ellis Island's busiest day: How has immigration changed since 1907?](#), April 2019

²⁸ Migration Policy Institute, [Naturalization trends in the United States](#), July 2019

²⁹ Manuel Pastor and Justin Scoggins, [Citizen gain: The economic benefits of naturalization for immigrants and the economy](#), USC Dornsife, December 2012

- **Support national and local naturalization campaigns.** As mayor, [Mike launched NYCitizenship](#) to promote naturalization among eligible New Yorkers. As president, Mike will direct federal resources to support national and local campaigns that help eligible immigrants and families become U.S. citizens.
- **Promote English language acquisition and U.S. civics.** Learning English is one of the best ways for newcomers to integrate into the economic, civic and cultural fabric of their communities, but English language courses are often oversubscribed. A Bloomberg administration will expand the availability of English language and civics courses.
- **Expand the availability of immigration legal services.** In order to ensure that qualified immigrants are able to take part in legalization and the path to citizenship, Mike will expand immigration legal services. A Bloomberg administration will also guarantee counsel for children in immigration proceedings, and work with localities, community-based legal service providers and the private sector to increase access to counsel.
- **Create a federal Office of New Americans.** Under Mayor Bloomberg, New York City’s Office of Immigrant Affairs [became a global model](#) for promoting the successful integration of newcomers. A federal Office of New Americans will work across federal government agencies to promote the economic, civic and cultural integration of newcomers, ensure access to services for all Americans, including immigrants, and direct funding to receiving communities to support the process of integration.
- **Allocate Community Development Block Grants to communities undergoing demographic change, to promote cohesion, community-building and unity.** Many communities that have historically had small shares of immigrants and refugees are [beginning to see faster growth](#) in their foreign-born populations.³⁰ To support local communities in the process of managing this change, Mike will award Community Development Block Grant funding for projects that promote cohesion, community-building, and unity in places experiencing demographic change.
- **Reverse the public charge rule and other barriers that discourage access to public services.** Mike will reverse the Trump administration’s public charge rule, which [could affect as many as 3.9 million immigrants](#) and block them from admission to the U.S. or from the opportunity to gain permanent residency.³¹ As mayor, Mike worked to ensure that all residents, including immigrants, were able to access necessary services to promote public health and safety.
- **Support job-creating innovators and entrepreneurs.** Immigrants play an outsize role in starting small businesses that make neighborhoods more attractive places for everyone to live. [More than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children](#),³² as well as [more than a quarter of main street businesses](#) like grocery stores, restaurants and other small businesses that promote neighborhood vitality. As mayor, Mike launched multiple

³⁰ Kim Hart, [Exclusive: immigrants are moving to smaller cities](#), Axios, July 2019

³¹ New American Economy, [The new “public charge” rule and its negative impact on the U.S. economy](#), October 2019

³² New American Economy, [New American Fortune 500: The legacy of immigrants and their children](#), October 2018

successful programs to support Latino and immigrant business owners, helping to create jobs and grow the local economy.

- **Launch a national competition to support entrepreneurs.** Modeled on a successful local model, [Competition THRIVE](#), Mike will launch a competition to support local governments, chambers of commerce, and community-based organizations to pilot and scale successful models for supporting local enterprises, including immigrant-owned businesses.
- **Address underemployment and promote opportunities for existing workers.** There are [close to two million immigrants living in the U.S.](#) who already have work authorization and college or advanced degrees, but who are underemployed.³³ These individuals have education and training in key industries like healthcare, but, due to a variety of barriers, are often working in low-wage jobs. As mayor, Mike launched [Immigrant BRIDGE](#), an innovative program designed to help lawfully present, work-authorized individuals gain the necessary training and certification to move back into their fields of expertise. As president, Mike will expand programs for underemployed workers and address barriers such as vocational language training, credentialing and access to apprenticeships and professional networks.
- **Create a pre-arrival, online integration course to prepare newcomers to integrate more quickly into U.S. society.** The integration process should begin before new immigrant arrive. Adapting a [successful Canadian model](#) for the U.S. context, Mike would create the first-ever pre-arrival, online integration course for newcomers who have been approved for green cards, helping individuals prepare for success in the workplace and their communities before they arrive in the U.S.

³³ New American Economy, [Untapped talent: The costs of brain waste among highly skilled immigrants in the United States](#), December 2016