



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WASHTENAW COUNTY CELEBRATES IMMIGRANT INCLUSION WITH “WELCOMING WEEK” EVENT

**Ann Arbor, MI** - On Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, between 1 and 3PM, Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor, in partnership with Jewish Family Services and the Ann Arbor District Library, are hosting a Welcoming Week event at the Bryant Community Center, complete with refreshments, crafts, and entertainment. Welcoming Week is a program of Welcoming America, a nonprofit organization that supports the many diverse communities and partners who are leading efforts to make their communities' more vibrant places for all.

In 2017, both the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County Government launched Welcoming America initiatives to create communities committed to welcoming new Americans through immigrant-friendly policies, practices, and programs. There are over 43,000 foreign born residents currently living in Washtenaw County and this event hopes to bring together these individuals and other members of the community in a spirit of unity to build strong connections and affirm the benefits of welcoming everyone.

In 2018, 400 communities hosted more than 2,000 Welcoming Week events with 80,000 people participating and 14 million social media impressions being made. By participating this year, Washtenaw County and Ann Arbor are joining a growing global movement that recognizes the importance and benefit of being a welcoming community. A full list of welcoming week events can be found at: <https://www.welcomingamerica.org/programs/welcoming-week>

**Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED)** is a government agency committed to stepping out of traditional government roles to drive long-term system changes that increase equity and opportunity for all residents. OCED currently leads the Welcoming America initiative for Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor.

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