

**OBJECTIVE:** Attract, retain and integrate immigrants as part of an economic growth strategy.

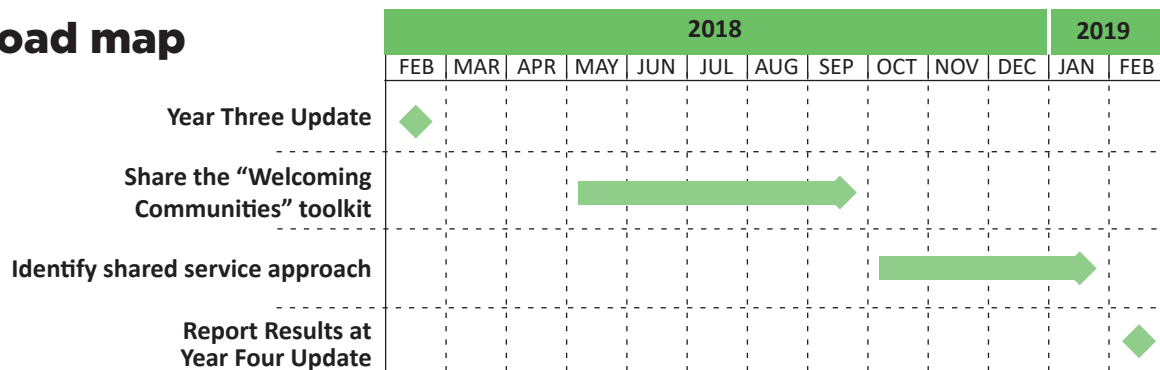
**OWNER:** Mid-America Regional Council —  
 Community and Economic Development

**QUARTERLY UPDATE | SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Gateways KC**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	NEXT STEPS	SUSTAINABILITY
<p>A local government toolkit has been created. The toolkit is available online at: <a href="http://www.marc.org/Data-Economy/Workforce-Development/GradForce-KC/Gateways-for-Growth/Assets/GatewaysKC_ToolkitforLocalCommunities.aspx">http://www.marc.org/Data-Economy/Workforce-Development/GradForce-KC/Gateways-for-Growth/Assets/GatewaysKC_ToolkitforLocalCommunities.aspx</a></p> <p>The toolkit was sent to area city and county managers and assistant managers, and shared with the MARC board of directors.</p> <p>The toolkit was shared at the manager’s roundtable in August, accompanied by a presentation from a KU researcher with a specialty in diversity. Following that meeting, Grandview, Kansas City, Missouri, and Unified Government/KCK expressed interest in pursuing the welcoming community designation.</p> <p>The toolkit has also been shared with the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to be included, as appropriate, as part of their diversity and inclusion efforts.</p>	<p>Identify a partner in order to establish a regional business council (shared service) to help with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice to employers around hiring international students for internships and increase understanding of work visas and sponsorship alternatives.</li> <li>• A shared service for legal advice around visa options.</li> <li>• Increase understanding of the importance of international talent from an economic development perspective.</li> </ul>	<p>Some funds remain from a small grant as part of the Gateways for Growth initiative.</p> <p>Seek extended technical assistance from New American Economy and Welcoming America.</p>

**Road map**



**Metrics**

- Ranked 26th, down from 24th, in percent of population (25+) that is foreign born with a bachelor’s degree.
- Ranked 28th, down from 26th, in percent of bachelor’s degrees earned in STEM fields.