

Welcoming Communities Expression of Interest

Council name(s):

Name of community:

**Contact name for
this application:**

Contact phone number:

Contact email address:

Year of entry applied for:

Introduction

In 2019, Cabinet agreed to expand [Welcoming Communities – Te Waharoa ki ngā Hapori](#). Over the next three years up to 30 local government councils will join the councils already in the programme.

Immigration New Zealand invites councils wishing to join the programme in 2021/22 to submit a completed expression of interest form (EOI form). Applications will be accepted at any time.

We also invite councils considering joining in 2022/23 to submit an EOI form.

Some councils may wish to partner with local iwi to deliver the programme in their community. The Welcoming Communities model allows for and welcomes this approach. In this situation, you can submit a joint EOI form.

Before you apply

Please contact Immigration New Zealand if you have any questions about Welcoming Communities before you complete your EOI form. Email: welcomingcommunities@mbie.govt.nz.

Factors to consider

Depending on the level of demand, we may need to manage the number and order in which new councils come on board. To do this, the Welcoming Communities EOI Panel will consider the following factors:

- › Is the council clear about its reasons for wanting to join Welcoming Communities and the benefits it sees for itself and its community?
- › Can the council and community show that council staff, elected members and the community are **all** committed to participating in the programme? For example, are there existing strategies, speeches from senior council staff or the Mayor, examples of welcoming activities already underway?
- › Can the council describe how it works with the community to engage with and support newcomers: recent migrants, former refugees and international students?
- › Can the council demonstrate how it is partnering with mana whenua on other council and community matters?
- › Does the council have a successful track record in working with local and national partners to implement other initiatives and programmes?
- › Does the council understand the programme's objectives and its role and responsibilities in implementing the programme in collaboration with the community?
- › If the community is an existing or new refugee resettlement location, what engagement has the council had in supporting refugee settlement?
- › If applying as a group of councils, is there a clear rationale for this and a proven track record of the councils successfully working together?

What to do next

If you wish to join the programme in 2021/22 or 2022/23, contact Immigration New Zealand. When you are ready, please complete the EOI form. Please provide answers to the questions below, and return the EOI form to: welcomingcommunities@mbie.govt.nz.

You may also submit letters of support with the EOI form.

Please keep your responses to approximately 400 words.

- 1. Why does the council and community wish to participate in Welcoming Communities? What benefits do you see from joining the programme?**



2. What evidence do you have to demonstrate a commitment from council staff (including the CEO), elected members (including the Mayor) and the community to be part of the programme?



3. What is the council, with the community, currently doing to support newcomers (recent migrants, former refugees and international students)?



4. How does the council currently work with local iwi on council matters?



5. Please describe the engagement the council has had with local iwi about Welcoming Communities.



6. What do you understand the council's role to be in implementing Welcoming Communities?



7. What local or national partners do you anticipate working with to help implement the programme and deliver Welcoming Plan activities?



8. Briefly describe other programmes or initiatives which you have successfully collaborated with others on.



9. If the community is an existing or new refugee settlement location, briefly describe what the council is doing to support refugee settlement.



Councils wishing to join the programme in 2022/23 only:

10. What actions do you intend to take to get the council and community ready to be part of Welcoming Communities?



For councils planning to implement the programme in their district or region as a group:

11. Why do you want to work as a group of councils to implement Welcoming Communities?



12. Please give examples of where the councils have successfully worked together on other joint programmes or initiatives.



Signatures

Note: You may also include partners who will work with the council and community to implement Welcoming Communities on this EOI form.

Council Mayor (type name):

Date:

Council CEO (type name):

Date:

Other (type name):

Date:

More information

For more information on Welcoming Communities contact: welcomingcommunities@mbie.govt.nz and view the Welcoming Communities pages on INZ's website: www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/welcoming-communities

