

Developing America's Workforce

County Roles, Barriers and Solutions - County Case Studies



Durham County, North Carolina



2021 POPULATION: **326,126**
U.S. REGION: **SOUTH**
ARCHETYPE: **SMALLER
INDEPENDENT ECONOMIES**

Durham County includes an urban core from its county seat of Durham and rural areas in the county's north. As more than 14 percent of Durham County residents moved to the U.S. from another country, supporting immigrants and refugees is a major focus for county leaders. Many organizations in the county, ranging from county departments to nonprofits, are involved with workforce development services. Without coordination, the variety of stakeholders involved in workforce development can foster competition and a disjointed system of services.

Barriers



BARRIERS FOR IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND NEW AMERICANS

Solutions

CITY-COUNTY COLLABORATION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the county received community feedback on the need for more robust coordination of resources for immigrants and refugees. In response, Durham County and the City of Durham jointly established and funded a program director position for [City/County Immigrant & Refugee Affairs](#). This type of intergovernmental coordination directly addresses silos across government entities and community-based organizations responsible for serving immigrant populations in Durham. By reducing these silos, the program director has been able to successfully engage with resettlement agencies, services programs and immigrant community groups.



*Scan to access
the full report
and other
case studies*