



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2021

Contact: Jackie Rodriguez, Marketing & Communications Manager
574-855-7103 | jrodriguez@immigrantwelcomecenter.org

Lilly Endowment Inc. awards Immigrant Welcome Center \$1 million grant to support English Language Literacy program

Indianapolis, IN | April 1, 2021 —The Immigrant Welcome Center (IWC) has received a grant in the amount of \$1,054,674 from Lilly Endowment Inc. This funding will support the Immigrant Welcome Center’s Building English Literacy and Learning Project.

The Immigrant Welcome Center is one of 28 organizations being supported through Enhancing Opportunity in Indianapolis, a Lilly Endowment initiative designed to improve the livelihoods of individuals and families facing complex and varied challenges associated with poverty and financial insecurity.

The Building English Literacy and Learning Project at the Immigrant Welcome Center will consist of two intertwined programs to address English language literacy deficits in the Marion County immigrant population: *Literacy Foundations* and *English@Work*. Literacy Foundations will serve individuals with no, or very limited, English language skills. English@Work will create and deploy courses in workplace English learning that incorporate employer-specific vocabulary skills required for career progression.

“This grant from Lilly Endowment will be truly transformational in our work at the Immigrant Welcome Center,” said Gurinder Hohl, Immigrant Welcome Center’s Chief Executive Officer. “We are very excited about this new project. Together, the *Literacy Foundations* and *English@Work* initiatives stand to increase significantly the overall English literacy and fluency of immigrants and refugees in Indianapolis, which in turn improves our workforce, builds our economy, invites new immigrants and refugees to come to Indianapolis, and promotes better learning trajectories for immigrant and refugee children.”

###

About Immigrant Welcome Center

Immigrant Welcome Center is a nonprofit organization on a mission to connect immigrants to the people places and resources they need to thrive and successfully integrate into our community.

901 Shelby Street, Suite B300
Indianapolis, IN 46203
Immigrantwelcomecenter.org