



Moving Toward Immigrant Integration...

A Framework for Improving Immigrant Health & Well Being

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What Is Immigrant Integration?

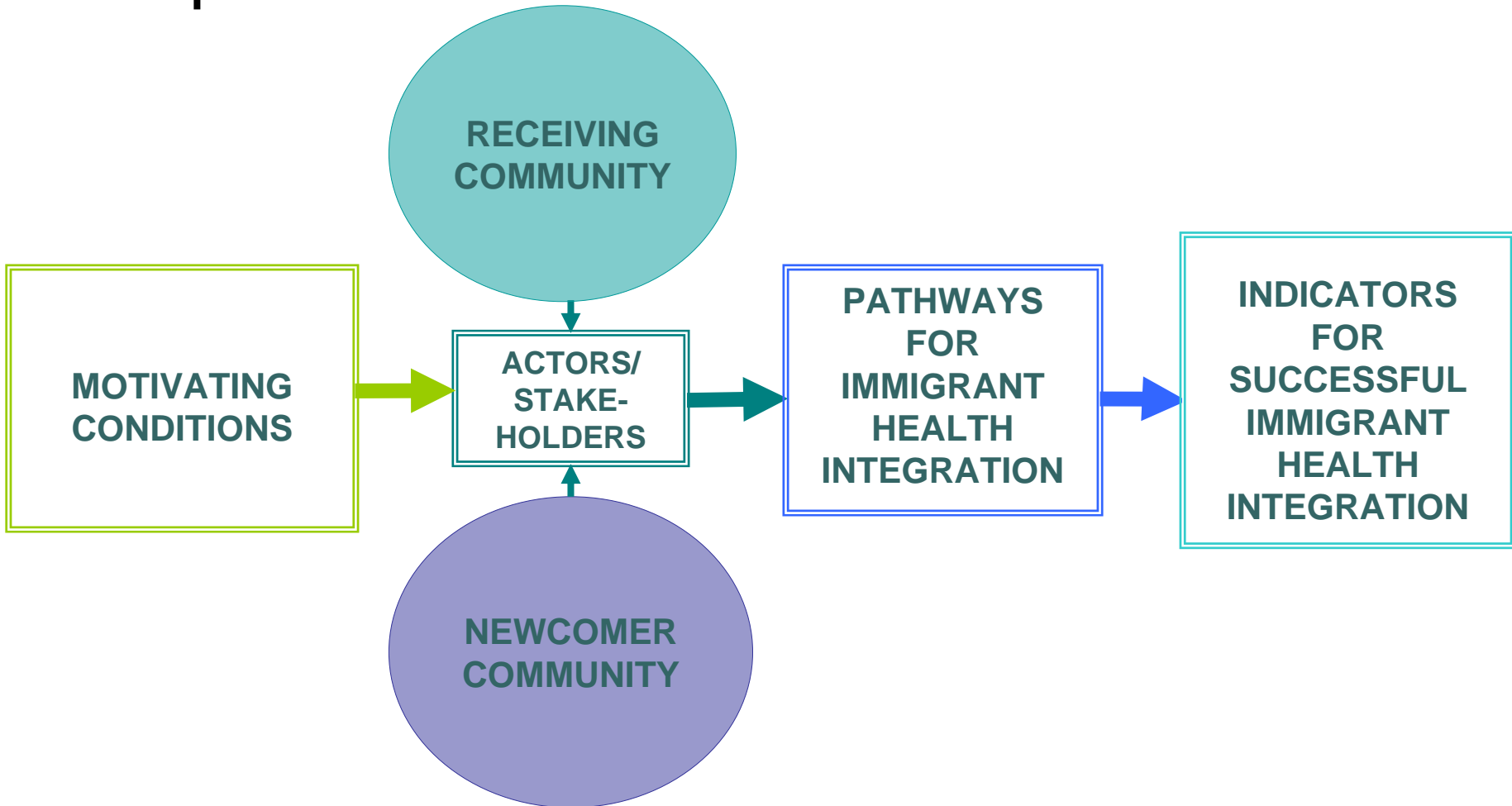
- **The weaving of newcomers** into the social, economic, cultural, and political fabric of the receiving community.
- **A two-way process of mutual responsibility** for the immigrant community and the receiving community.



Integration in the Health Context

- **An improved healthcare system that taps into the skills, talents, and expertise of newcomers in the health professions and that provides culturally competent and linguistically accessible health services to immigrants, refugees, and other non-English speakers**

A Working Framework





Motivating Conditions

- **Growing immigrant and refugee populations across the United States**
- **High percentage of immigrant families with U.S.-citizen children**
- **Concentration of immigrants in low-wage jobs with unhealthy working conditions and no health benefits**
- **Increasing number of uninsured among the newcomer population**
- **The need to shore up health and mental health services for these growing populations**



Motivating Conditions

The prospect of...

- **Increasing diversity and expanding cultural and linguistic competence within the health professions**
- **Addressing persistent, systemic health issues**—from access to quality to affordability
- **Creating a strong and viable healthcare system** that effectively promotes the health and well being for all community members



Key Actors in Integration

○ Receiving Community

- Government agencies
- Elected officials
- Community institutions: schools, hospitals, community clinics, churches, businesses, foundations, unions, CBOs
- Native-born residents

○ Newcomer Community

- Immigrant and refugee individuals and families
- Immigrant-based organizations
- Immigrant civic, religious, and political leaders



Pathways for Immigrant Health Integration

- English-language acquisition
- Access to the basics
- Equal treatment under the law
- Legal status and citizenship
- Community support and engagement
- Interchange among newcomers and between newcomer and receiving community
- Opportunity to work together toward common goals



Indicators of Success

RECEIVING COMMUNITY

- Provides culturally competent and linguistically accessible health services
- Builds community capacity to address health issues facing newcomers
- Institutes systems and policies to meet newcomers' needs and tap their assets
- Provides opportunities for newcomers to voice their concerns and participate in decisions that affect their families
- Learns about and values skills, languages, cultures, and transnational ties that newcomers bring
- Works to build a strong, viable healthcare system and an environment that promotes health and well being for all



Indicators of Success

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

- Learns English and American culture/values, while maintaining native language and culture/values
- Promotes family well being through healthy practices
- Builds strong individual and organizational leaders
- Fully participates in and contributes to strengthening community life
- Promotes understanding of diverse newcomer needs and contributions
- Reaches out to other newcomer populations and to native-born neighbors to work together around common health concerns

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