

At least 10% of Oregon residents are immigrants. Immigrant entrepreneurs contribute to Oregon's economy with job creation and income generation. Immigrants make up almost 15% of essential workers in the state. Oregon has a history of treating its immigrants and refugees as a crisis to solve rather than developing strategies to engage the immigrants and refugees - socially, economically, and politically. States with a substantial immigrant population and have forward-looking leadership have established a dedicated office or position for optimizing immigrant participation in society as full human beings, not just as an economic resource to be exploited. It is time for our state to join the ranks of the other enlightened states and establish an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement.