

New American Dreams Platform | One Year Report

August 29, 2016

The American Dream is part of our nation's narrative— it's the story we've told ourselves that explains why we're here and what we're trying to achieve. But for too many new Americans, the American Dream is not their reality. Reaching back to America's earliest days, the American Dream has been denied to those whose work made it possible. Indigenous people, slaves, and their descendants have been especially disenfranchised. New Americans, too, are often shut out from the Dream.

As we took stock of the policy proposals on immigration and immigrant integration last summer, we were disappointed. Candidates pandered with a few talking points but no substantial commitments. It was not enough to criticize. We launched the first ever federal immigrant integration agenda created by our communities. The Platform was born from the notion that our success as a nation is rooted in our ongoing commitment to welcoming and integrating newcomers into our society, and to upholding equality, opportunity, and justice as fundamental American values. Immigrant integration is—and will continue to be—critical to the nation's civic, cultural, and economic vibrancy.

NPNA launched the [New American Dreams Platform](#) at the National Immigrant Integration Conference 2015 after six months of surveying the field and drafting policy papers with the support of the field's leading experts. The New American Dreams Platform seeks to broaden and deepen current political discourse about immigration so that candidates and policymakers must acknowledge that immigrants are not numbers but humans, not burdens but contributors, and not criminals but mothers, fathers, laborers, taxpayers, and business owners.

The Platform is comprised of six planks. These policy areas are aligned to the immigrant integration pillars—civic, economic, and linguistic—and to the needs of various New American constituencies—undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents, naturalized citizens, children of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and people of various countries of origin, skill, and education levels. The Platform is NPNA's federal policy agenda for 2016 and serves as the blueprint for the non-partisan candidate engagement that began in October 2015 and will continue through the general election cycle.

New American Dreams Platform



A Nation of Citizens

- Pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes an earned path to citizenship
- Curtail enforcement of broken immigration laws
- Promote citizenship and eliminate barriers to naturalization

English as a Gateway

- Guarantee all New Americans 300 hours of ESL instruction
- Invest in technologies and programs to innovate ESL instruction

Quality Education & Care

- Expand access, affordability, and quality to New American children for early childhood education and care
- Increase investment in outreach and training to address New Americans' education needs
- Introduce proactive structures to make schools centers for integration

A Vibrant & Vital Economy

- Ensure access to a living wage and protect workers' right to organize
- Increase New Americans' access to workforce development programs
- Support New American asset building
- Develop a streamlined program for immigrant and refugee professional integration
- Address temporary and skilled worker visa needs

A Healthy America

- Expand coverage for all
- Implement linguistically and culturally competent services in all health programs and activities
- Support New American health professionals

A Welcoming & Inclusive Society

- Establish a Federal Office of New Americans and National Immigrant Integration Policy Council
- Support local communities in developing plans to institutionalize integration
- Prioritize social integration through direct service

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Timeline of Activities and Victories

2015

- June | NPNA Board meeting in NOLA, vote to create Platform
- July | Platform planning meeting in NYC with partners, prioritize issues
- August-November | Field surveys through NPNA policy calls, partner meetings
- September | Josh Hoyt and Eva Millona, Chicago Tribune, [A Deeper Debate on Immigration is Welcome](#)
- November | NPNA drafts white papers, partners edit
- November 19 | First candidate engagement session, O'Malley
- December 13-15 | NIIC in Brooklyn, launch of New American Dreams Platform
- December 14 | [O'Malley launches immigrant integration agenda](#), Clinton and Sanders make verbal commitments to Platform planks on citizenship, English, workforce

2016

- March 14 | Clinton visits NPNA Community Navigators in Chicago
- March | All candidates invited to non partisan engagement sessions
- April | Candidate engagement sessions, Clinton
- April 13 | [Clinton commits to immigrant integration agenda](#) with New York State Immigration Action Fund, commits to Office for Immigrant Affairs, substantial increase in funding for English and citizenship, \$15 million for Community Navigators
- May 10 | Candidate engagement session on health and English, Clinton
- June 21 | Candidate engagement session on refugee resettlement and advocacy, Clinton
- July | NPNA, NILC, NYIC, CHIRLA draft health op-ed for Mayors

Next Steps

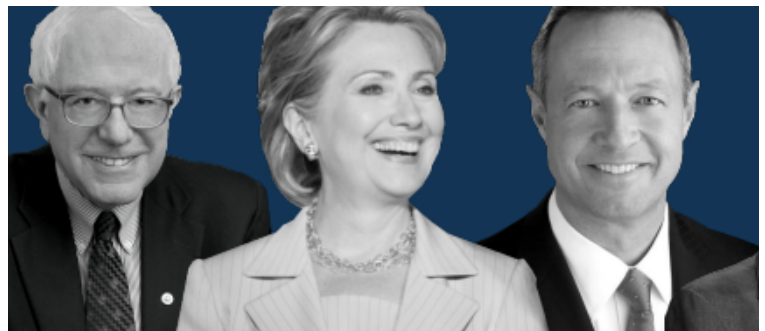
- Sustained non partisan candidate engagement
- Key positions power analysis and suggestions
- Transition, governing engagement sessions
- New American Dreams Campaign to turn the blueprint for organizing into prioritized campaigns at federal, state, local levels



"The New American Dreams Platform builds from NPNA's history of moving federal policy on immigrant integration. It is a critical and unprecedented step forward for our integration field. The Platform puts new Americans at the center of the conversation by empowering our communities to shape it."

**-- Eva Millona
NPNA Co-Chair**

Executive Director, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)



Senator Bernie

Sanders committed to fixing our broken immigration system through comprehensive reform and to investing in immigrant health, civic integration, and English.

Secretary Hillary

Clinton promised to invest in English programs, reduce the naturalization fee, pass comprehensive immigration reform, and end private detention.

Governor Martin

O'Malley endorsed our Platform and launched an immigrant integration platform of his own, an unprecedented victory for the immigration policy field.

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Press

[Vox](#), December 18, 2015, What immigration activists want from Hillary Clinton

[NowThis](#), December 18, 2015, This is what candidates should be doing to support immigrants

[Newsday](#), December 15, 2016, Hillary Clinton spells out immigration plans in Brooklyn speech

Univision, December 15, 2015, Nueva York destinará casi 8 millones para brindar asistencia legal a inmigrantes

[Wall Street Journal](#), December 14, 2015, Hillary Clinton Meets With an Undocumented Immigrant and His Family

[Wall Street Journal](#), April 13, 2016, If Elected, Clinton Would Create Special Office on Immigration

[Foreign Policy](#), April 13, 2016, Clinton Announces First Federal Office of Immigrant Affairs Amid Heated New York Primary

[Mic](#), April 13, 2016, Hillary Clinton Releases One of 2016's Biggest Immigration Proposals Yet

[CBS News](#), April 13, 2016, Dueling endorsements for Democrats as New York contest escalates

[Latin Post](#), April 13, 2016, Hillary Clinton Pledges to Create National Office of Immigrant Affairs, Wins New York State Immigrant Action Fund Endorsement

[Politico](#), April 13, 2016, Clinton to push new Office of Immigrant Affairs

[The Hill](#), April 13, 2016, Clinton to propose national Immigrant Affairs office

[CNN](#), April 13, 2016, Clinton to propose opening an Office of Immigrant Affairs

[Reuters](#), April 13, 2016, Clinton to propose creation of immigrant affairs office

Note: NPNA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan organization. We do not endorse candidates or parties. Our New American Dreams Platform and invitations to our national conference were distributed to every candidate for President who polled above 1% as of November 2015, regardless of party affiliation. All remaining candidates were invited to candidate education sessions, regardless of party affiliation. We do not receive any money from the Federal government, nor from any candidates for political office.

