



**Local is Global Initiative:
Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Atlanta's Refugee and Immigrant Communities**

Goal

The Emory Global Health Institute (EGHI) seeks to establish and lead an Emory-based Local is Global Initiative focused on improving the health and wellbeing of Atlanta's refugee and immigrant communities. This initiative would enhance existing services and fill in current service gaps.

Background

Close to 3,000 refugees arrive in Georgia annually, which ranks the state in the top 10 states for refugee resettlement. Because of this and the distinct role Emory can play in this arena, addressing the needs of Atlanta's refugee and immigrant communities is both a much needed and an excellent way for the university to make a positive contribution to the local Atlanta community. Developing a comprehensive program focusing on the needs of Atlanta's refugee and immigrant communities and on the needs of the organizations working with these populations would have a significant, positive impact on the local Atlanta community. Additionally, it would provide numerous research, training, and partnership building opportunities for Emory faculty, students, and staff.

Initiative Overview

The proposed initiative would combine multidisciplinary and inter-disciplinary training for students, academic research for faculty, and enhanced support services for refugees, immigrants, and the organizations that serve them directly. It would create a platform for many educational and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, residents, and faculty members. It would also help foster Emory's relationships with local organizations and communities and would build on the university's reputation within the greater metropolitan Atlanta community.

Ideally, Emory's Local is Global Initiative would enhance multiple services including medical, psychosocial, legal, and cross-cultural guidance while creating an opportunity to research and develop best practices in a number of fields. Given the proposed initiative's multidisciplinary approach, it could potentially engage all Emory schools as well as numerous local external partners. This initiative could serve as a national model for best practices in integrated and comprehensive immigrant and refugee health services.

Potential Partners

Potential partners include Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the CDC's Immigrant Refugee and Migrant Health and Emergency Response and Recovery Branches, the DeKalb County Board of Health, Georgia State University, Spelman College, Morehouse College and Morehouse School of Medicine, Kaiser Permanente, the City of Clarkston, the Clarkston Community Health Center, the International Rescue Committee, the Task Force for Global Health, and many other local organizations serving refugees and immigrants. The International Rescue Committee has already expressed an interest in Emory conducting a demographic and needs assessment of the populations it serves. Attached is a list of organizations with whom EGHI staff has met or plans to meet to discuss community and organizational needs and potential collaborations.

Initial Planning Phase

The initial planning phase for this initiative would include the following activities:

- Secure internal Emory partners and external partners
- Establish a Local is Global Initiative working coalition of internal and external partners
- Work with organizational partners, conduct a needs assessment of communities and organizations to define specific areas Emory can contribute and improve
- Develop community educational tools as needed
- Develop multi-year budget and financial plan
- Develop and submit grant applications to external funding organizations (e.g., Kaiser Permanente Georgia)