

Welcoming Interactive

Gilchrist Center staff attended Welcoming Interactive, the annual conference organized by Welcoming America, a national nonprofit that promotes welcoming and inclusive community building, March 15-17. Monica Martin, Administrator of Linkages to Learning, Department of Health and Human Services and Kaori Hirakawa, Manager of the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center, presented a Montgomery County model of the two-generation approach to poverty in immigrant communities during the conference.

The two-generation approach is a model for addressing intergenerational poverty, incorporating programmatic elements for low-income children *and* adults from the same family, rather than serving only one generation. The model was recently studied and researched by institutions such as Migration Policy Institute and Urban Institute and has been proven to be very effective.

During the Welcoming Interactive, many immigrant integration practitioners presented their best practices and participants shared challenges and solutions with others. Some of the topics discussed were about 2020 Census, workforce development, and engaging hateful rhetoric in a charged political environment. The conference was held in Pittsburgh, PA this year, attended by over 400 practitioners.

For more information about Welcoming America, please visit their website at www.welcomingamerica.org. For those who are interested in learning about the two-generation approaches, the County's Office of Legislative Oversight recently published the study, which is available at <https://bit.ly/2HM9WKM>.