



Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities

Shuttered storefronts, empty houses, and dwindling government funding —

changes made to shift away from industrial manufacturing in the late 1900s hit the U.S. Rust Belt hard. Once flourishing industry hubs — like Buffalo, New York, and Detroit, Michigan — faced significant population and economic decline. Where many saw a region past its prime, recently arrived immigrants, refugees, and asylees saw potential. They would be the ones to reinvest and revitalize the local communities, bringing Main Street back to life.

Immigrants in the U.S. are expected to add **\$7 trillion** to the economy over the next decade through their contributions in the workforce.*

*Source: Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

To date, Upwardly Global has helped over **10,000** job seekers obtain thriving-wage careers that contribute more than **\$74 million** annually to the U.S. economy.

As the U.S. grapples with an aging population, a decline in birth rates, and labor shortages, all growth in the U.S. workforce is projected to come from immigrants and their children by 2035. Over the next decade, immigrants are expected to add \$7 trillion to the U.S. economy through their contributions. When provided the opportunity to fully contribute and enter the workforce at their skill level, immigrant, refugee, and asylee professionals help ensure the vibrancy and stability of local communities.

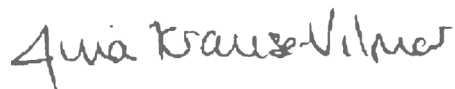
Upwardly Global works to dismantle employment barriers for work-authorized immigrant job seekers. The inclusion of their talents and skills in the U.S. drives local economic growth that leads to greater community resilience. Upwardly Global's tailored programming and career coaching address the specific needs of job seekers with international degrees and professional experience to help them rebuild their lives and restart their careers in the U.S.

With a goal to serve 25,000 job seekers in 2025, Upwardly Global is focused on expanding our reach through workforce partners, packaging our career-coaching model and online tools and resources to augment ca-

capacity in local organizations. Our work with partners, like the International Institute of Buffalo (IIB) and Global Detroit, to deliver support to immigrant professionals highlights the revitalizing power job seekers have when they are welcomed into their new communities — they counteract population decline, pay taxes, start small businesses, and bring cultural richness that can rejuvenate cities and towns.

Upwardly Global is committed to building a sustainable ecosystem of partners with government agencies, community colleges, refugee resettlement agencies, workforce organizations, and employers to reach even more job seekers and help them secure skill-aligned jobs so they can thrive. By investing in key infrastructure to support partners, we unlock opportunities for immigrants and refugees to fully contribute and help revitalize our communities.

Thank you for joining us in this effort,



Jina Krause-Vilmar
CEO and President



By 2000, the industrial boom had ended, leaving many U.S. cities and towns in the Northeast and Midwest in economic distress. As key industries left and jobs became scarce, many residents moved away. The once shiny region had rusted in the eyes of many Americans, but soon, the arrival of new immigrants, refugees, and asylees would offer an opportunity for revitalization.

Efforts by local organizations and government agencies to promote resettlement in their region, along with low housing costs, encouraged many newcomers to put down roots in the Rust Belt. Feeling welcomed and supported, immigrants and refugees were able to build solid foundations and invest in their new communities. They helped revive local areas through their contributions to population growth, high rates of workforce participation, large tax contributions, spending power, and cultural diversity. We



have seen firsthand that the meaningful inclusion of newcomers results in long-term benefits for communities as a whole — new local businesses pop up, social services infrastructure is better funded, and jobs stay in the community.

To support revitalization in communities across the U.S., **Upwardly Global is focused on scaling our work to reach more immigrant, refugee, and asylee professionals and identifying partners to help build long-term local capacity** to better serve these newcomers.

“Upwardly Global is the national leader in software services and support on the ground for job seekers who have college degrees, who come and are foreign trained and educated.”

—Steve Tobocman, Global Detroit Executive Director

BY THE NUMBERS

Upwardly Global’s Impact



350+

**IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE
JOB SEEKERS SERVED**

in New York State and southeastern Michigan through Upwardly Global partnerships with ONA and Global Detroit since 2022



1,400+

**IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE
JOB SEEKERS SERVED**

all-time through Upwardly Global partnerships with immigrant-serving organizations



\$74 million
**DOLLARS CONTRIBUTED
ANNUALLY**

to the U.S. economy by immigrants and refugees who have completed Upwardly Global’s Career Coaching Program and have been placed in skill-aligned, thriving-wage jobs



\$50,500

**AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY
GAIN OF JOB SEEKERS**

who have completed Upwardly Global’s Career Coaching Program and have been placed in skill-aligned, thriving-wage jobs

CASE STUDY

Upstate New York's Path to Revitalization

The economic power and revitalizing influence of immigrants and refugees in the U.S. is well documented. In **Syracuse and Buffalo**, immigrants and refugees have offset the decades-long population decline, helped create or preserve over 5,000 local manufacturing jobs, and boosted housing values by hundreds of millions of dollars. And this positive impact on the economy and broader community has only grown over the years.

Since 2022, **Upwardly Global has served as a lead partner in New York State's Office of New Americans (ONA) Professional Pathways Program**, collaborating closely with ONA to support immigrant-serving organizations statewide. First launched in 2021, New York State's Professional Pathways program helps immigrant job seekers access professional development and identify

skill-aligned job opportunities for low-income immigrants in high-need regions across the state.

Drawing from our nearly 25 years of experience, Upwardly Global curated e-learning pathways on the U.S. career search for newcomers settling across

New York State. Our online portal serves as a knowledge base for job seekers to access resources related to career navigation, processes for licensing and credentialing, resume and interview preparation, and industry-specific content tailored to their professional needs. Upwardly Global also shared expertise and best practices from our own Career Coaching Program, training and mentoring job coaches employed by ONA and other local organizations to ensure immigrant job seekers receive meaningful, culturally sensitive support.

The International Institute of Buffalo (IIB), a refugee resettlement agency serving Buffalo and Western New York, is a local partner organization participating in the ONA Professional Pathways program. To learn more about how Upwardly Global helped enhance IIB's job coaching services for immigrant, refugee, and asylee professionals, watch this video: [International Institute of Buffalo | Upwardly Global Partners](#).



Recently, **Upwardly Global announced a partnership in Michigan, supporting the state's new Michigan Skilled Immigrant Integration Program**. Working alongside local organizations like Global Detroit, who are recognized and trusted institutions within the community, we are building capacity and creating sustainable career pathways for

“The partnership with Upwardly Global is amazing. The client starts their training through the portal that Upwardly Global is providing us. Through this portal I can offer them lots of online services that make them more familiar with the U.S. work environment here.”

—Mirvet Al Bassam, ONA Professional Pathways Job Coach

immigrant and refugee professionals in the area to enter the workforce at their skill level.

Upwardly Global's work in New York and in Michigan demonstrate the importance and value of **expanding the ecosystem of institutions and organizations committed to supporting immigrant, refugee, and asylee professionals**. By partnering with local organizations who have long-standing, trusted relationships within their communities and deep knowledge of local needs, we are able to encourage equitable and inclusive growth in regions across the U.S. With the proper support to guide immigrant and refugee job professionals along skill-aligned career paths, our partners can help unleash the potential of these newcomers who, when provided the opportunity to fully contribute, can fulfill unmet talent needs, strengthen the economy, and revitalize our communities.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Upwardly Global works in collaboration with policymakers and coalition partners to champion legislation that dismantles barriers for immigrant professionals and creates legal and accessible pathways for newcomers to secure skill-aligned careers. Serving as a thought leader and partner in a number of federal initiatives, we have been proactive in identifying and centering the needs of immigrant and refugee job seekers to advance policies and narratives that foster thriving communities and promote economic growth.

As a member of the White House Task Force on New Americans, Upwardly Global provided policy recommendations to the Workforce Training and Development Subcommittee. We proposed investment in quality programs and differentiated services for newcomers with professional experience and international degrees. For newcomers to move beyond survival-wage jobs, they need access to robust career-navigator programs with targeted career pathways, job-readiness training and mentorship opportunities, and affordable English language programs. When implemented at the federal level, these action-oriented policies can increase economic outcomes for job seekers across the country, resulting in the revitalization of more areas like we have seen in Buffalo and Detroit.



Upwardly Global Partners With the New York State Office for New Americans in Expansion of Statewide Program To Help High-Skilled Immigrants Find Jobs

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Watch this video: International Institute of Buffalo | Upwardly Global Partners

[WATCH](#)

Upwardly Global's Recommendations to the White House Task Force on New Americans

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Watch Upwardly Global Public Board Meeting: Revitalizing Communities Through Workforce Partnerships

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Unlocking Potential: Enhancing Community College Services for Immigrant and Refugee Students

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