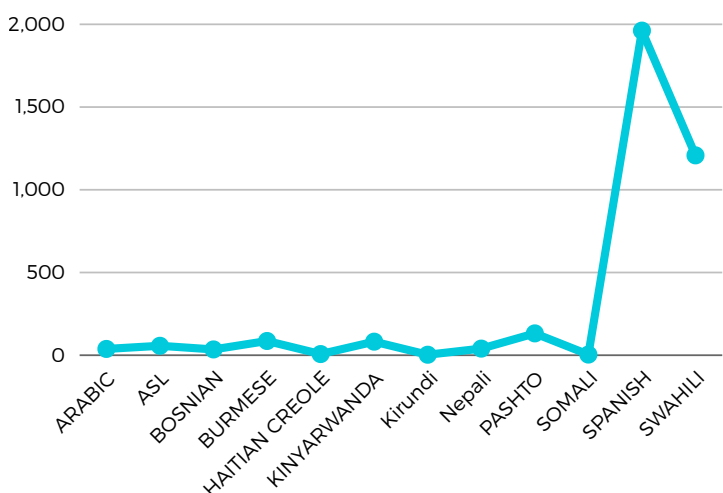


Numbers at a glance:

- Mailers sent for community engagement events: **133 postcards/letters**
- **(3)** E-newsletters & social media reach: 1,367 **subscribers w/ 412 opens & 919 engagements/reach**
- Information, assistance and referrals cases: **84 assist cases**
- Special Events Permitted: **2**
- Road Closures/No Parking Signs: **0**
- Noise Variances Issued & Film Permits Processed: **2**
- **(0)** Training in Cultural Comp./Language Access Training with **employees**
- Participants in Community Engagement activities: **~250+**

Language Access Provided to Residents with Limited English Proficiency February 2026



3,654 Total Minutes of Language Interpretation Used

3,491 minutes from 911 Dispatch/BGPD VRI

159 minutes all other City Depts.

122 minutes of Video Remote Interpreting

12 different languages requested

Community Engagement Team shares new Mission & Vision

The Community Engagement Division for Neighbors and New Americans celebrates its first year as a brand new Division under the Neighborhood and Community Services Department. Our team now has its own unified voice, with a brand new vision and mission statement:

Our vision is to have a city where everyone belongs, understands how to access resources, and has equal opportunity to engage and thrive.

Our mission is to help people find information, access services, and connect with their community by meeting them where they are and making city services easier to understand.

We are also working on a new promo video to introduce staff, roles, and function of the team. The script is prepared and recording will take place in early March.

2026 ACADEMY FOR NEW AMERICANS

The City of Bowling Green kicked off its annual Academy for New Americans on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the WKU Innovation Campus

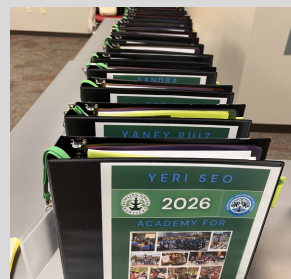
Bowling Green Mayor Todd Alcott welcomed the program's eighth cohort, marking the 10th anniversary of the Academy and sharing the vision and purpose behind this initiative.

Thirty-one participants were selected for the 2026 cohort, representing 13 countries and ethnic backgrounds and collectively speaking 14 languages. Twenty-two (22) participants attended the Academy's kickoff session.

Session 1 focuses on team-building and leadership development. The session is led by Michael Trivizadakis with Leadership Strategies, who has facilitated this first session since the programs inception in 2016. This is the first year that the first session has been held at the WKU Innovation Campus, as they extended a warm invitation for the Academy to tour and learn about the space.

A lot of planning and preparation went into the launch of this newest class. Leyda Becker led the planning and logistics efforts, while Emily Gentry supported the administrative tasks which included: preparing mailings, preparing binders, t-shirt design and orders, catering, purchases, room set-up and much more!

Launched as a pilot program in February 2016 with seventeen participants, the Academy for New Americans is the first program of its kind in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Since its inception, seven cohorts have completed the program, totaling 176 graduates. Classes were paused from 2020 through 2022 due to COVID-19 and the devastating 2021 tornadoes.



The City opened the spring cycle for the newly revamped **Strategic Neighborhood Grant Funds (SNGF)**, on January 1, 2026.

This current cycle we had an additional \$39,420, which includes the \$30,000 budgeted allocation plus \$9,420 surplus from prior years.

We received thirty-one (31) applications with \$245,865.00 in request. The review committee is recommended approval for eleven grant applications (11):



House on the Hill Celebrates 5th Birthday

CED Staff was invited to the 5th Year Birthday celebration for “House on the Hill,” which took place on February 11th.

Our Community Navigators have an active partnership with this program, which gives them access to the facility to retrieve an emergency food box for a family in need of immediate food assistance. This is a brand new partnership made possible by the great work from our Community Navigators.



CHIN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 78TH NATIONAL DAY

The Chin Community of Bowling Green hosted their 78th National Day on Saturday, February 21 at WKU VanMeter. Leyda Becker was invited to be a guest speaker, alongside Sergeant Brad Hogue with BG Police Department, addressing an auditorium of over 200 attendees.

The event focused on the history of the Chin community, traditional dances performed by local youth, singing, food, and a great camaraderie and community pride.



Community Impact Awards

We are redefining our annual celebration of neighborhood successes with a brand new name and look. The Community Impact Awards will now be celebrated on March 24th, and it will include six separate awards and other recognitions.

Hannah Minton has led the planning effort with support from Emily G. Newly designed invitations and a curated mailing list has been put together. A brand new people's choice award category was designed called the **Legacy Impact Award**. Custom social media posts were designed by Hannah to promote this award. Eighteen (18) nominations were received by the Feb. 20th deadline.

We are working with all NCS Divisions to highlight the impact and celebrate yearlong successes.



At-a-glance Community Engagement



Dates	Event Name	Host Organization & Lead Staff
February 5th	Live United Awards Ceremony	United Way Leyda Becker
February 6th	Rotary Club Allen Co./Scottsville	Leyda Becker, Guest Speaker,
February 7th	Community Day at WKU Men's Basketball Game	WKU Athletics, Rahel Morfin Castillo, Hannah Minton
February 11th	House on the Hill Birthday	House on the Hill Leyda, Rahel, Hannah
February 19th	Fieldstone Farms HOA Meeting	Leyda Becker
February 21st	78 th National Chin Day	Chin Community of BG Leyda Becker, Guest speaker
February 26th	Academy for New Americans Session I	CED Team, led by Leyda Becker