Attendees: Keep Washington Working Work Group Members
Rich Stolz, Kristin Kershaw, Eric González Alfaro, Julia Gorton, and Tim Warden-Hertz Commerce:
Tammy Deets, Rick Anderson, Carolyn Busch

Objective
Review 2021 work and look ahead in 2022

Introduction
Reviewed the highlights of the 2021-2022 Keep Washington Working Report
- Fragmented immigrant services and the recommendation of creating an inter-agency hub
- Need to develop better strategies in immigrant workforce development
- Immigrants are not homogeneous. Disaggregate workforce by race, ethnicity, geographic region, and social-economic profiles through data.
- Continue to support agricultural workforce advancement and entrepreneurship

Work Group Structure
- Discussed recruitment of new members by setting up a shared file for suggested candidates
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1B65hXNrLKxkc0SAuU_V91szz8qe2xvRFNo2kTYjs2Tg/edit?usp=sharing
- The Work Group will have a fulltime person to support its work. Members are welcome to weigh in on the qualifications of the candidates.

Priorities for 2022
- Small Business Support to Immigrants – shared the Small Business Assistance Grants administered by the Dept. of Commerce. (see attached)
- Workforce Development – Introduced Carolyn Busch, new Governor’s Sector Lead – Workforce & Innovations.
- New priorities – Washington State takes in a higher proportion of refugees than other states. The Afghan crisis gave us a glimpse of the needs. The Russian invasion of Ukraine could open another wave of refugees. Are we ready? If not, where are the gaps?

Next Steps
With much still to be decided, it was agreed that the next meeting should be in held in about a month.