



# Fact Sheet

September 17, 2015

## **USCIS Awards Fiscal Year 2015 Citizenship and Integration Grants**

*Nearly \$10 Million Will Expand Citizenship Preparation Services in 26 States*

### **Introduction**

On Sept. 17, 2015, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the award of nearly \$10 million in grants to 40 organizations to help permanent residents prepare and apply for U.S. citizenship. The organizations are located in 26 states and will receive funding through September 2017.

### **Background**

Since it began in 2009, the USCIS [Citizenship and Integration Grant Program](#) has awarded a total of \$53 million through 262 competitive grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 35 states and the District of Columbia. Now in its seventh year, the program has helped more than 122,000 permanent residents prepare for citizenship.

USCIS anticipates that approximately 25,000 permanent residents will receive citizenship preparation services by Sept. 30, 2017 as a result of the fiscal year (FY) 2015 awards issued through the grant program. An additional 12,000 permanent residents will be served under the ongoing FY 2014 program, which continues through Sept. 30, 2016.

Grant recipients will offer instruction to prepare permanent residents for the civics and English components of the naturalization test. They will also provide naturalization application services within the scope of the authorized practice of immigration law.

### **Grant Recipient Organizations**

Grant recipients are public or private nonprofit organizations with recent experience providing citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to permanent residents. The organizations include public school systems, community and faith-based groups, adult education organizations, and literacy organizations.

The fiscal year 2015 recipient organizations serve both traditional immigrant destinations and new immigrant gateways in 26 states. The grant recipients plan to provide citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to approximately 25,000 permanent residents from more than 50 countries. The recipients represent:

- Eighteen of the top 20 states with the largest permanent resident populations (California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Illinois, Virginia, Washington, Georgia, Arizona, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, Connecticut, Ohio Minnesota, and Colorado);

- Nine of the top 10 metropolitan areas with the most new permanent residents in the past 10 years (New York City; Los Angeles; Miami; Washington, D.C.; Chicago; San Francisco; Houston; Dallas-Fort Worth; and Atlanta); and
- Nine of the top 10 states with the most naturalizations over the last 10 years (California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Virginia, Washington and Georgia).

### **FY 2015 Grant Recipients**

Grant recipients (in alphabetical order):

#### **Organization**

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)  
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice  
 Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc.  
 Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, Inc.  
 Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.  
 Catholic Charities Diocese of Los Angeles, Inc.  
 Catholic Charities Diocese of Rochester, Inc.  
 Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton, Inc.  
 Catholic Charities of Orange County, Inc.  
 Central American Resource Center of California  
 Church World Service, Inc.  
 Church World Service, Inc.  
 Colorado African Organization  
 Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
 English Skills Learning Center  
 HANAC, Inc.  
 HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia  
 Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
 Instituto del Progreso Latino  
 International Institute of Akron  
 International Institute of the Bay Area  
 International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis  
 International Rescue Committee, Inc.  
 International Rescue Committee, Inc.  
 Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County, Inc.  
 Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
 Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.  
 Lutheran Community Services Northwest  
 Make the Road New York  
 Montgomery College  
 Neighborhood Centers, Inc.  
 Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic  
 New American Pathways, Inc.  
 Northside Independent School District  
 Progreso Latino, Inc.

#### **Location**

Detroit, Mich.  
 Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Hartford, Conn.  
 New Orleans, La.  
 Fort Worth, Texas  
 Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Rochester, N.Y.  
 Trenton, N.J.  
 Santa Ana, Calif.  
 Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Durham, N.C.  
 Harrisonburg, Va.  
 Denver, Colo.  
 New York, N.Y.  
 Salt Lake City, Utah  
 New York, N.Y.  
 Philadelphia, Pa.  
 St. Paul, Minn.  
 Chicago, Ill.  
 Akron, Ohio  
 San Francisco, Calif.  
 St. Louis, Mo.  
 Phoenix, Ariz.  
 San Diego, Calif.  
 Milltown, N.J.  
 San Diego, Calif.  
 Louisville, Ky.  
 Portland, Ore.  
 New York, N.Y.  
 Rockville, Md.  
 Bellaire, Texas  
 Indianapolis, Ind.  
 Atlanta, Ga.  
 San Antonio, Texas  
 Central Falls, R.I.

Refugee Women’s Alliance (ReWA)  
School Board of Miami-Dade County  
SEIU 1199 League Training and Upgrading Fund  
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach  
Young Women's Christian Association of Tulsa

Seattle, Wash.  
Miami, Fla.  
New York, N.Y.  
New York, N.Y.  
Tulsa, Okla.

### **Review Process**

USCIS reviewed more than 160 eligible applications. A three-member team of internal reviewers which included ESL and citizenship instruction subject matter experts and grant program officers evaluated each proposal. In total, 60 USCIS reviewers participated in this process. The reviewers scored applications numerically using [published evaluation criteria](#). USCIS rank ordered the applications by average score. A USCIS internal review panel determined the recipients based on the rank order and published strategic program priorities found on page 32 of the [notice of funding opportunity](#).

### **Contact Information**

For additional information on the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, please contact the USCIS Office of Citizenship at [citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov) or visit [uscis.gov/grants](https://uscis.gov/grants).

To learn more about applying for federal funding opportunities, visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) or call 800-518-4726.

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