



Fact Sheet

Sept. 28, 2017

USCIS Awards Fiscal Year 2017 Citizenship and Assimilation Grants

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

Introduction

On Sept. 28, 2017, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the award of nearly \$10 million in grants to 45 organizations to help permanent residents prepare for naturalization. The grants also help these organizations promote prospective citizens' assimilation into American civic life by funding educational programs designed to increase their knowledge of English, U.S. history, and civics. Located in 26 states, these organizations will receive federal funding to support citizenship preparation services for lawful permanent residents through September 2019.

Background

Since it began in 2009, the USCIS [Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program](#) has awarded a total of \$73 million through 353 competitive grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Now in its ninth year, the program has helped more than 190,000 permanent residents prepare for citizenship.

USCIS anticipates that approximately 25,000 permanent residents will receive citizenship preparation services by Sept. 30, 2019, as a result of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 awards issued through the grant program. An additional 12,000 permanent residents will be served under the ongoing FY 2016 program, which continues through Sept. 30, 2018.

USCIS awarded the grants through two competitive funding opportunities. The first funding opportunity supports organizations that provide citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance. The second funding opportunity either assists non-profit organizations that have not previously received a grant from USCIS to establish new citizenship instruction programs, or helps organizations expand the quality and reach of their existing citizenship instruction programs.

Organizations that receive grants under this program can only use grant funds to provide services to immigrants who have been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence.

Grant Recipient Organizations

Under the Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services funding opportunity, DHS-17-CIS-010-002, grant recipients are public or private nonprofit organizations with recent experience providing citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance to permanent residents. These organizations include community and faith-based groups, public libraries, and adult education and literacy organizations.

Under the Citizenship Instruction funding opportunity, DHS-17-CIS-010-001, grant recipients are local public or private nonprofit organizations that have at least one year of experience providing English as a second language instruction in a classroom setting that follows a curriculum. The organizations include faith-based groups, and community and literacy organizations.

The FY 2017 recipient organizations serve both traditional immigrant population centers and emerging immigrant population centers in 26 states nationwide. The grant recipients will provide citizenship preparation services to approximately 25,000 U.S. permanent residents originally from more than 50 countries. The grant recipients represent:

- Sixteen of the top 20 states with the largest permanent resident populations: California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Georgia, Washington, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Minnesota and Colorado.
- Nine of the top ten metropolitan areas with the most new permanent residents in the past ten years: New York City, Los Angeles, Miami, Washington, D.C., Chicago, San Francisco, Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Atlanta.
- Nine of the top ten states with the most naturalizations over the last ten years: California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Georgia.

FY 2017 Grant Recipients

Grant recipients (in alphabetical order):

DHS-17-CIS-010-002

Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services

Organization

Asian Americans Advancing Justice
 Asian Counseling and Referral Service
 Asian Services in Action, Inc.
 Association of Africans Living In Vermont
 Baker-Ripley
 Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, Inc.
 Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc.
 Catholic Charities of Orange County, Inc.
 Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.
 Center for Legal Immigration Assistance
 Central American Resource Center of California
 Church World Service, Inc.
 Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations
 Colorado African Organization
 Emerald Isle Immigration Center
 English Skills Learning Center
 Fresno Unified School District
 HIAS and Council Migration Services
 Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
 Instituto del Progreso Latino
 International Institute of the Bay Area
 International Institute of Metro Detroit
 International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis
 International Rescue Committee, Inc.

Location

Los Angeles, Calif.
 Seattle, Wash.
 Akron, Ohio
 Burlington, Vt.
 Bellaire, Texas
 New Orleans, La.
 Overland Park, Kan.
 Santa Ana, Calif.
 Fort Worth, Texas
 Lincoln, Neb.
 Los Angeles, Calif.
 Durham, N.C.
 Florida City, Fla.
 Denver, Colo.
 Woodside, N.Y.
 Salt Lake City, Utah
 Fresno, Calif.
 Philadelphia, Pa.
 Saint Paul, Minn.
 Chicago, Ill.
 San Francisco, Calif.
 Detroit, Mich.
 St. Louis, Mo.
 San Diego, Calif.

Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County, Inc.
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts
Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.
Latin American Association
Lutheran Community Services Northwest
Make the Road New York
Montgomery College
Progreso Latino, Inc.
Resurrection Project
School Board of Miami-Dade County
SEIU 1199 League Training and Upgrading Fund
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton Beach-Manhattan Beach

Milltown, N.J.
San Diego, Calif.
Springfield, Mass.
Louisville, Ky.
Atlanta, Ga.
Portland, Ore.
New York, N.Y.
Rockville, Md.
Central Falls, R.I.
Chicago, Ill.
Miami, FL
New York, N.Y.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

DHS-17-CIS-010-001
Citizenship Instruction

Organization

Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.
Interfaith Works of Central New York, Inc.
Keystone Opportunity Center, Inc.
Nashville International Center for Empowerment
Pars Equality Center
Project Learn of Summit County
North Bergen Free Public Library
YMCA of the University of Illinois

Location

Atlanta, Ga.
Syracuse, N.Y.
Souderton, Pa.
Nashville, Tenn.
Sherman Oaks, Calif.
Akron, Ohio
North Bergen, N.J.
Champaign, Ill.

Review Process

As part of the grant review process, USCIS reviewed more than 120 eligible applications using three-member teams to evaluate each proposal. The reviewers scored applications numerically using published evaluation criteria. USCIS ranked the applications under each funding opportunity based on their average scores. The USCIS internal review panel determined the final list of recipients based on the ranked order, as well as the published strategic program priorities found on page 33-34 of the [notice of funding opportunity for DHS-17-CIS-010-002](#) and on page 24-25 of the [notice of funding opportunity for DHS-17-CIS-010-001](#).

Contact Information

For additional information on the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program, please contact the USCIS Office of Citizenship at citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov or visit uscis.gov/grants.

To learn more about applying for federal funding opportunities, visit grants.gov or call 800-518-4726.