



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Office of Public Affairs

Fact Sheet

Sept. 24, 2018

USCIS Awards FY 2018 Citizenship and Assimilation Grants *More than \$9 Million Will Expand Citizenship Preparation Services in 19 States*

Introduction

On Sept. 24, 2018, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the award of \$9.425 million in grants to 40 organizations that prepare lawful permanent residents (LPRs) for naturalization. The grants also aim to 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 19 states, these organizations will receive federal funding to support citizenship preparation services for LPRs through September 2020.

Background

Since it began in 2009, the [Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program](#) has awarded more than \$82 million through 393 competitive grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 38 states and the District of Columbia. Now in its 10th year, the program has helped more than 200,000 LPRs prepare for citizenship.

USCIS anticipates that approximately 25,000 LPRs will receive citizenship preparation services by Sept. 30, 2020, as a result of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 awards issued through the grant program. An additional 12,500 LPRs will be served under the ongoing FY 2017 program, which continues through Sept. 30, 2019.

USCIS awarded the grants through two competitive funding opportunities. The first funding opportunity supports organizations that provide citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance to LPRs. The second funding opportunity supports organizations that provide extended assimilation services to LPRs who have entered the U.S. as refugees or asylees. These organizations provide critical services to help LPRs obtain the skills and knowledge they need to prepare for the naturalization interview and test, while simultaneously fostering a sense of belonging and attachment to the United States.

In making final award decisions, USCIS took into account various program and organizational factors, including past grantee performance and whether an applicant and any sub-awardees are enrolled in E-Verify.

Organizations that receive awards 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,

CI-CET-18-002, grant recipients are public or private nonprofit organizations with recent experience providing citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance to LPRs. These organizations include community and faith-based groups, public libraries, and adult education and literacy organizations.

Under the Refugee and Asylee Assimilation Program funding opportunity, CI-CET-18-003, grant recipients are also public or private nonprofit organizations with recent experience providing citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance LPRs. These organizations must also have extensive experience providing ongoing assimilation services to LPRs who have entered the U.S. as refugees or asylees and have a robust network of local service providers to refer clients to as needed. The organizations include faith-based groups and community organizations.

FY 2018 recipient organizations serve both traditional immigrant population centers and emerging immigrant population centers in 19 states. Grant recipients will provide citizenship preparation services to approximately 25,000 LPRs originally from more than 50 countries. Grant recipients represent:

- Eight out of the top 10 states with the greatest increase in their LPR population and the most naturalizations between FY 2014 and 2016 including California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Washington;
- Six out of the top 10 metropolitan areas with the most naturalizations between FY 2014 and 2016 including Newark, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Houston, and Seattle; and
- The top 10 states with the most refugee arrivals in FY 2016 including California, Texas, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Arizona, North Carolina, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

FY 2018 Grant Recipients

Grant recipients (in alphabetical order):

Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services

Organization	Location	Award
Ansob Center for Refugees	Astoria, New York	\$250,000
Boat People SOS	Houston, Texas	\$225,000
Catholic Charities Diocese of Rochester	Rochester, New York	\$225,000
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Austin, Texas	\$250,000
Catholic Charities of Los Angeles	Los Angeles, California	\$225,000
Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston	Houston, Texas	\$225,000
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton	Stockton, California	\$250,000
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester	Worcester, Massachusetts	\$225,000
Catholic Charities San Bernardino & Riverside	San Bernardino, California	\$225,000
Catholic Migration Services	Brooklyn, New York	\$250,000
Chinese American Service League	Chicago, Illinois	\$250,000
Coptic Orthodox Charities	Clearwater, Florida	\$225,000
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Portland, Oregon	\$250,000
Friendly House	Phoenix, Arizona	\$225,000

Greater Bergen Community Action	Hackensack, New Jersey	\$225,000
Hispanic Unity of Florida	Hollywood, Florida	\$225,000
Hope CommUnity Center	Apopka, Florida	\$225,000
InStepp	Durham, North Carolina	\$225,000
International Rescue Committee of Los Angeles	Los Angeles, California	\$225,000
International Rescue Committee	Phoenix, Arizona	\$225,000
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	\$225,000
Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest	East Orange, New Jersey	\$250,000
La Casa de Don Pedro	Newark, New Jersey	\$225,000
Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13	Lancaster, Pennsylvania	\$250,000
Lutheran Services in Iowa	Des Moines, Iowa	\$250,000
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota	Sioux Falls, South Dakota	\$250,000
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition	Boston, Massachusetts	\$225,000
New American Association of Massachusetts	Lynn, Massachusetts	\$250,000
Oklahoma City University	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	\$225,000
Opening Doors	Sacramento, California	\$225,000
Polish American Association	Chicago, Illinois	\$250,000
Sea-Mar Community Health Center	Seattle, Washington	\$225,000
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services	Rochester, Minnesota	\$225,000
Tacoma Community House	Tacoma, Washington	\$250,000
US Together	Columbus, Ohio	\$225,000
York County Literacy Council	York, Pennsylvania	\$225,000

Refugee and Asylee Assimilation Program

Organization	Location	Award
Chaldean Community Foundation	Sterling Heights, Michigan	\$250,000
Catholic Charities of Syracuse	Syracuse, New York	\$250,000
Youth Co-Op	Miami, Florida	\$250,000
Young Women's Christian Association Tulsa	Tulsa, Oklahoma	\$250,000

Review Process

As part of the grant review process, USCIS reviewed more than 90 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 pages 21-22 of the [notice of funding opportunity for CI-CET-18-002](#) and on pages 25-26 of the [notice of funding opportunity for CI-CET-18-003](#).

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.

For the news release, visit <https://www.uscis.gov/news/news-releases/uscis-awards-fy-2018-citizenship-and-assimilation-grants>.

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

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