



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Office of Public Affairs

Sept. 26, 2019

USCIS Awards FY 2019 Citizenship and Assimilation Grants *Nearly \$10 Million Will Expand Citizenship Preparation Services in 24 States*

Introduction

On Sept. 26, 2019, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the award of nearly \$10 million in grants to 41 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 24 states, these organizations will receive federal funding to support citizenship preparation services for LPRs through September 2021.

Background

Since it began in 2009, the [Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program](#) has awarded more than \$92 million through 434 competitive grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Now in its 11th year, the program has helped more than 245,000 LPRs prepare for citizenship.

USCIS anticipates that approximately 25,000 LPRs will receive citizenship preparation services by Sept. 30, 2021, as a result of the fiscal year (FY) 2019 awards issued through the grant program. An additional 12,500 LPRs will be served by the ongoing FY 2018 program, which continues through Sept. 30, 2020.

USCIS awarded the grants through the Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services grant opportunity, which supports organizations that provide citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance to LPRs.

In making final award decisions, USCIS took into account various program and organizational factors, including past grantee performance.

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-19-002](#), 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.

FY 2019 recipient organizations serve both traditional immigrant population centers and emerging immigrant population centers in 24 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 2015 and 2017, including California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Virginia; and
- Five out of the top 10 metropolitan areas with the most naturalizations between FY 2015 and 2017, including Newark, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, and San Francisco.

FY 2019 Grant Recipients

Grant recipients (in alphabetical order):

Organization	Location	Award
1199SEIU League Training and Upgrading Fund	New York, NY	\$250,000
Access California Services	Anaheim, CA	\$250,000
Asian Counseling and Referral Service	Seattle, WA	\$250,000
BakerRipley	Houston, TX	\$250,000
BPSOS Center for Community Advancement	Westminster, CA	\$250,000
Burmese American Community Institute, Inc.	Indianapolis, IN	\$225,000
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans	New Orleans, LA	\$225,000
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc.	Overland Park, KS	\$250,000
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada	Reno, NV	\$250,000
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa	Santa Rosa, CA	\$237,500
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.	Fort Worth, TX	\$250,000
Church World Service, Inc.	Durham, NC	\$237,500
Emerald Isle Immigration Center	Woodside, NY	\$250,000
English Skills Learning Center	Salt Lake City, UT	\$250,000
Fresno Unified School District	Fresno, CA	\$250,000
Hartford Public Library	Hartford, CT	\$225,000
HIAS and Council Migration Services of Philadelphia, Inc.	Philadelphia, PA	\$250,000
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota	Saint Paul, MN	\$250,000
Instituto del Progreso Latino	Chicago, IL	\$225,000
International Institute of New England, Inc.	Boston, MA	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	San Diego, CA	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Baltimore, MD	\$250,000
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Turlock, CA	\$237,500
International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Seattle, WA	\$250,000
Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County, Inc.	Milltown, NJ	\$250,000
Jewish Family Service of San Diego	San Diego, CA	\$225,000
Jewish Family Services of Western Massachusetts, Inc.	Springfield, MA	\$250,000
Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.	Louisville, KY	\$250,000
Literacy New Jersey	Edison, NJ	\$250,000
Lutheran Community Services Northwest	Portland, OR	\$250,000
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	Denver, CO	\$250,000
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid	Minneapolis, MN	\$237,500
Montgomery College	Rockville, MD	\$250,000
Pars Equality Center	Sherman Oaks, CA	\$225,000

Progreso Latino, Inc.	Central Falls, RI	\$250,000
School Board of Miami-Dade, FL	Miami, FL	\$225,000
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach, Inc.	Brooklyn, NY	\$250,000
Skyline Literacy	Harrisonburg, VA	\$250,000
The International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis	St. Louis, MO	\$225,000
United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast, Inc.	Largo, FL	\$237,500
Women for Afghan Women, Inc.	Fresh Meadows, NY	\$250,000

Review Process

As part of the grant review process, USCIS reviewed more than 60 applications using two-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 17-18 of the notice of [funding opportunity for CI-CET-19-002](#).

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 uscis.gov/news/news-releases/uscis-awards-fy-2019-citizenship-and-assimilation-grants.

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

-USCIS-