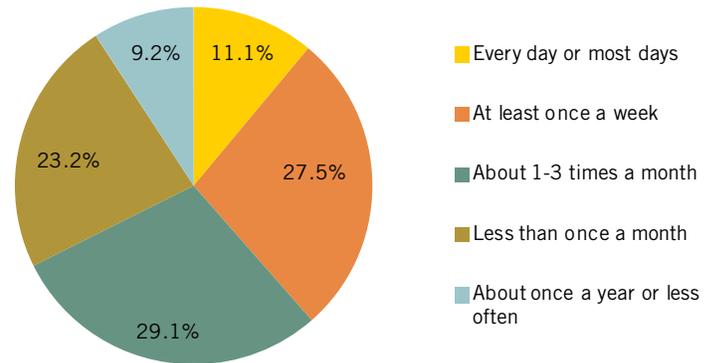


By the Numbers

- **More than 55%** of new Americans* use the public library at least once a week.
- LSTA Grants to States funds that support English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Spanish-speaking programs: **\$482,773**
- Number of persons served by LSTA Grants to States-supported ESOL and Spanish-speaking programs: **1,134,367**

Frequency of Public Library or Bookmobile Visits for New Americans,* 2009



Source: IMLS analysis of U.S. Impact Study survey data.

Benefits of Library Programs for New Americans

- Libraries foster an atmosphere of cultural understanding and offer learning opportunities in a trusted environment.
- Libraries serve as a gateway to the workforce by providing access to critical employment and education skills for New Americans.
- Libraries help new Americans to overcome the barriers to becoming more engaged members of their communities.
- Libraries provide access to a broad array of critical multilingual, multicultural information in one central location.

Recent IMLS Grant Activities

Learning

- Provide on-site digital literacy courses
- Convene conversation circles and story times to provide practice for individuals with limited English-speaking skills
- Train library staff

Content

- Provide materials specifically for new American populations
- Provide key resources in multiple languages
- Provide hardware and software that allow new Americans to practice speaking and writing English

Community

- Work with new Americans to identify needs and service priorities
- Recruit teachers, workforce professionals, community service providers, and local volunteers to offer services in the library
- Build relationships among the library, the community, and new American populations

Examples of Model Projects

Hartford Public Library – “The American Place” Project

- Provided library resources and services to help immigrants understand the naturalization process and start their journey toward U.S. citizenship
- Components included the following:
 - Citizenship application workshop
 - Onsite immigration counseling
 - Pilot Citizenship & Civic Engagement class
 - Citizenship classes taught in English and Spanish
 - Immigrant resource packets
- Trained library staff to better guide citizenship applicants

Providence Public Library

- Managed a literacy instruction program for immigrants that helped learners better navigate educational and economic systems and increase their confidence in being active community members
- Offered intermediate and advanced ESOL classes
- Provided library computer classes and conversation groups
- Results:
 - 31% of unemployed students went on job interviews.
 - 19% obtained employment.
 - Parents of school-aged children all reported they were better able to help their children with homework .



Naturalization ceremony at the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago, IL.

years and reported speaking a language other than English in the home.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, we help communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning. To learn more about IMLS, please visit www.imls.gov.

* For the sake of this analysis, New American’s were defined as persons who reported emigrating to the US within the last 15