



# U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

## An Overview of the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

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# Today's Speakers

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# Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

- Began in 2009
- Goal is to expand the availability of high-quality citizenship preparation services in communities across the nation



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# Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

## Types of organizations:

- Public school systems
- Public libraries
- Community and faith-based organizations
- Adult education institutions
- Literacy organizations



*Courtesy of the Central American Resource Center*



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# Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

## Two components:

1. Citizenship instruction to help permanent residents improve their English language proficiency, increase their knowledge of U.S. history and civics, and understand the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship
2. Naturalization application services to support permanent residents in the naturalization application and interview process



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# Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

## *Citizenship Instruction Requirements:*

- Structured class setting
- Curriculum
- Qualified teachers
- Standardized testing
- Minimum of 200 students enrolled
- Minimum instructional hour requirements



*Courtesy of Emerald Isle Immigration Center*



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# Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

## *Naturalization Application Services Requirements:*

- Eligibility screening
- Preparation and submission of Form N-400, Application for Naturalization
- Minimum of 200 Form N-400 applications
- Ongoing case management
- Interview preparation
- Must use a Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited representative or an attorney employee



*Courtesy of Emerald Isle Immigration Center*



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# Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

## *Naturalization Application Services Component*

### BIA recognition and accreditation:

- Allows an employee at your organization to represent immigration applicants before DHS
- Can take 6 months to a year to complete the process
- <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-and-accreditation-program>



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## *Naturalization Application Services Component*

To be eligible, you must have:

- A BIA accredited representative at application time, OR
- An attorney employee at application time, OR
- A partner organization that has either one



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# Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

*Experience requirement for both components:*

- Must have several years of recent experience providing services at application time
- Not intended to support brand new programs
- Partnerships encouraged



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# Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

How to find out about grant opportunities:

- Sign up for updates:
  - <http://www.uscis.gov/tools/get-email-updates>
  - Select “Citizenship” topic
- Check [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants)
- Email box: [citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov)



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