An Overview of the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

January 19, 2016
Today’s Speakers

• Katie McGuire, USCIS Office of Citizenship
• Petula McShiras, Littleton Immigrant Resources Center
• Homa Naficy, Hartford Public Library
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
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
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
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
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
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
Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

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
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
Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

How to find out about grant opportunities:

• Sign up for updates:
  ➢ Select “Citizenship” topic

• Check [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants)

• Email box: citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov
About this Presentation

• Date of last revision: January 21, 2016. This presentation is current only as of the date of last revision.
• This presentation contains no sensitive personally identifiable information.
• Any references in documents or text, with the exception of case law, relate to fictitious individuals.
• All images in this presentation that are not otherwise attributed are images created and owned by USCIS.
Disclaimer

This presentation is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create or confer any right(s) or benefit(s), substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any individual or other party in benefit applications before USCIS, in removal proceedings, in litigation with the United States, or in any other form or manner. This presentation does not have the force of law, or of a DHS directive.

USCIS is responsible only for the slides in this presentation that have the Department of Homeland Security Seal. This slide is the final slide in the USCIS portion of the presentation.