



## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

# USCIS Reminds Grant Applicants of April 1 Deadline

*Applicants for Citizenship Preparation and Integration Funds Must File Electronically*

March 30, 2011

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today reminded potential applicants of the April 1 deadline to apply for funding under the fiscal year (FY) 2011 Citizenship and Integration Grants Program. Organizations must apply electronically by 11:59 p.m. EDT on April 1 using the application package and instructions available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

For more information on the FY 2011 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, visit [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants), or contact the USCIS Office of Citizenship by phone at 202-272-1280 or by email at [citizenshipgrantprogram@dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@dhs.gov).

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or follow us on Twitter ([@uscis](https://twitter.com/uscis)), YouTube ([/uscis](https://www.youtube.com/user/uscis)) and the USCIS blog [The Beacon](http://www.uscis.gov/thebeacon).

Last updated:03/30/2011

[Plug-ins](#)



# News Release

Jan. 20, 2011

## **USCIS Announces Citizenship and Integration Grant Opportunities**

*Funding Will Expand Local Capacity to Prepare Lawful Permanent Residents for Citizenship*

**WASHINGTON**— U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today the availability of three congressionally appropriated competitive grant opportunities designed to help prepare lawful permanent residents (LPRs) for citizenship and promote immigrant integration in the United States. This year’s program will offer approximately \$8.5 million for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country.

“For more than two centuries, our nation has been a beacon of hope and opportunity for people from around the world,” said USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas. “These grants will assist immigrants from coast to coast on their path to U.S. citizenship.”

Two of the grant opportunities will strengthen citizenship preparation programs that provide direct services in communities across the country. The third will increase the capacity of members or affiliates of national, regional or statewide organizations to offer citizenship services in underserved communities. USCIS expects to announce an estimated 35 award recipients in September 2011.

To apply for these funding opportunities, interested parties may visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Applications are due by April 1, 2011. USCIS strongly encourages applicants to visit the website well in advance of the deadline in order to obtain registration information needed to complete the application process.

Fiscal year (FY) 2011 marks the third consecutive year of this competitive grant program. In 2010, USCIS awarded a total of \$8.1 million in grants to 56 immigrant-serving organizations in 78 sites across the country.

For additional information on the FY 2011 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, visit [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants) or contact the USCIS Office of Citizenship by phone at 202-272-1280 or by e-mail at [citizenshipgrantprogram@dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@dhs.gov).

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or follow us on Twitter ([@uscis](https://twitter.com/uscis)), YouTube ([/uscis](https://www.youtube.com/uscis)) and the USCIS blog, [The Beacon](http://www.uscis.gov/thebeacon).

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# Fact Sheet

Jan. 20, 2011

## **FY 2011 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program**

### **Introduction**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today the availability of three competitive grant funding opportunities designed to help prepare lawful permanent residents (LPRs) for citizenship and promote immigrant integration in the United States. USCIS will offer approximately \$8.5 million for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country.

### **Background**

Under the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, Congress authorized \$11 million to enhance immigrant integration initiatives within USCIS, the majority of which will support the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program. The fiscal year (FY) 2011 program will include three competitive funding opportunities and approximately \$8.5 million to support citizenship preparation services for LPRs.

Two of the grant opportunities will strengthen citizenship preparation programs that provide direct services in communities across the country. The third grant opportunity will increase the capacity of members or affiliates of national, regional or statewide organizations to offer citizenship services in underserved communities. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and USCIS's Office of Citizenship anticipate offering 35 awards, subject to the availability of funds. Grant recipients will be announced in September 2011.

Through these competitive grant programs, USCIS seeks to expand citizenship preparation programs for LPRs to ensure that those who are committed to the goal of U.S. citizenship have access to the support they need to be successful. Grant funding may only be used to provide direct citizenship preparation services to LPRs. Increased learning opportunities and additional citizenship education resources in communities will help LPRs improve their English language skills and increase their knowledge of U.S. history and government as they prepare for citizenship.

### **Citizenship and Integration Direct Services Grant Program – Citizenship Instruction Only**

This funding opportunity will focus on organizations providing **citizenship instruction** to prepare LPRs for the civics and English (reading, writing and speaking) components of the naturalization test.

Citizenship instruction **must** include:

- U.S. history and government (i.e., civics) instruction; and
- Civics-focused English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction.

Grant funds may also be used for:

- Outreach to inform LPRs of services offered through this grant-funded program;
- Staff professional development;
- Educational resources; and
- Volunteer training.

Eligible applicants are organizations with public or non-profit status that can demonstrate recent experience providing citizenship instruction to immigrants. This includes, but is not limited to: public or private non-profit organizations; public school systems, universities and community colleges; civic, community and faith-based organizations; adult-education organizations; public libraries; volunteer and literacy organizations; and state and local governments.

**Funding Opportunity:** DHS-11-CIS-010-001  
**Application Deadline:** April 1, 2011 (No extensions)  
**Estimated Number of Awards:** 10  
**Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$1,500,000  
**Performance Period:** Two years (comprising two one-year budget periods)  
**Anticipated Award Date:** September 2011  
**Maximum Grant Award:** \$150,000 (\$75,000 for the first year budget period and \$75,000 for the second year budget period)

**Citizenship and Integration Direct Services Grant Program – Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services**

This funding opportunity will focus on organizations who prepare LPRs for citizenship by offering both citizenship instruction **and** naturalization application services. Proposed activities **must** include the following two components:

- **Citizenship instruction** (as described above); and
- **Naturalization application services**, within the scope of authorized practice of immigration law, to support the naturalization application and interview process.

Grant funds may also be used for:

- Outreach to inform LPRs of services offered through this grant-funded program;
- Staff professional development;
- Educational resources; and
- Volunteer training.

Eligible applicants are organizations with public or non-profit status with demonstrated recent experience providing direct citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to immigrants. This includes, but is not limited to: public or private non-profit organizations; public school systems, universities and community colleges; civic, community and faith-based organizations; adult-education organizations; public libraries; volunteer and literacy organizations; and state and local governments.

Eligible organizations must be recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) and have a BIA accredited representative, or have an attorney, either on-site or off-site, who provides or supervises the naturalization application services.

**Funding Opportunity:** DHS-11-CIS-010-002  
**Application Deadline:** April 1, 2011 (No extensions)  
**Estimated Number of Awards:** 20  
**Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$4,000,000  
**Performance Period:** Two years (comprising two one-year budget periods)  
**Anticipated Award Date:** September 2011  
**Maximum Grant Award:** \$200,000 (\$100,000 for the first year budget period and \$100,000 for the second year budget period)

## **Citizenship and Integration National Capacity Building Grant Program**

This funding opportunity will provide grants to national, regional or statewide organizations for costs associated with program management, organizational capacity building and technical assistance, as well as costs for affiliates or members to develop and implement sustainable local citizenship preparation programs.

Principal applicants must propose four sub-applicants within the grant application. The principal applicant should select the sub-applicants based on the sub-applicants need for, and potential to benefit from, the capacity building and technical assistance services provided by the principal applicant. The objective of this funding opportunity is to build the sub-applicants' long-term capacity to provide direct citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to LPRs. The four sub-applicants may not be located in the same city or locality.

Eligible principal applicants are national, regional or statewide organizations that can demonstrate recent experience providing capacity building and technical assistance to organizations to develop direct citizenship preparation programs. Eligible principal applicants must have proven subject-matter expertise in citizenship instruction and naturalization application services. Principal applicants must be public or private non-profit organizations with an established multi-site network of affiliates or members to serve as sub-applicants. Sub-applicants included by the principal applicant in this funding announcement are not eligible to apply for either of the FY 2011 Citizenship and Integration Direct Services Grant Programs (DHS-11-CIS-010-001 and DHS-11-CIS-010-002).

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b>	DHS-11-CIS-010-003
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	April 1, 2011 (No extensions)
<b>Estimated Number of Awards:</b>	Five
<b>Anticipated Funding Amount:</b>	\$3,000,000
<b>Performance Period:</b>	A mandatory two-year performance period from Oct. 1, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2013
<b>Anticipated Award Date:</b>	September 2011
<b>Maximum Grant Award:</b>	\$600,000

### **Application Information**

Organizations must apply electronically for these grants using the application package and instructions available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Detailed application instructions can be found in the FOAs and on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

All applicants and sub-applicants applying for federal funding must have a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Data Numbering System (DUNS) number. Instructions for obtaining a DUNS number can be found at [www.grants.gov/GetStarted](http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted).

Once your organization has a DUNS number, applicants must next register with the Central Contractor Registry. The Grants.gov website at [www.grants.gov/GetStarted](http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted) provides step-by-step instructions for registering with the Central Contractor Registry. DHS strongly encourages applicants to obtain or update all registrations related to Grants.gov **well in advance of the April 1, 2011 deadline**.

### **Contact Information**

For additional information and updates on the FY 2011 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, visit [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants) or contact the USCIS Office of Citizenship by phone at 202-272-1280 or by e-mail at [citizenshipgrantprogram@dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@dhs.gov).

A stakeholder engagement will be held for those with questions regarding the grant program. For more information on this engagement, visit [www.uscis.gov/nationalevents](http://www.uscis.gov/nationalevents).

To learn more about applying for federal funding opportunities, visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) or contact the Grants.gov support line at 1-800-518-4726.

Media inquiries should be directed to USCIS Office of Communications at 202-272-1200.

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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

# Meeting Invitation

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USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program  
**Thursday, February 3, 2011 @ 1:00 pm (EST)**

The USCIS Office of Citizenship and Office of Public Engagement invite any interested individuals to participate in a meeting on **Thursday, February 3, 2011 from 1:00 to 3:00pm(EST)** regarding the Fiscal Year 2011 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program. The grant funding opportunities were posted on January 20, 2011 and have an application deadline of April 1, 2011. The purpose of this meeting is to collect questions and make clarifications, where possible, regarding the grant program application requirements and application process.

## **To Participate in the Session –**

Individuals may participate in this session by phone or in person. If you plan to participate, please email the Office of Public Engagement no later than Wednesday, February 2, 2011. Emails can be sent to [public.engagement@dhs.gov](mailto:public.engagement@dhs.gov). Please reference the following in the subject line of your email:

- If you plan to attend in person, please reference “Grants – In Person”
- If you plan to attend by phone, please reference “Grants – Phone”

Please also include your full name and the organization you represent in the body of the email.

We look forward to engaging with you!