

**The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)  
FY 2020 Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program  
Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services**

**NOTE:** If you are going to apply for this funding opportunity and have **not** obtained a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and/or **are not** currently registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), please take immediate action to obtain a DUNS number, if applicable, and then register immediately in SAM. It may take 4 weeks or more after you submit your SAM registration before your registration is active in SAM, then an additional 24 hours for Grants.gov to recognize your information. Information on obtaining a DUNS number and registering in SAM is available from Grants.gov at:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. Detailed information regarding DUNS and SAM is also provided in Section D of this NOFO in the Content and Form of Application Submission subsection.

**A. Program Description**

**1. Issued By**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), External Affairs Directorate (EXA), Office of Citizenship (OoC)

**2. Assistance Listings (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number)**  
97.010

**3. Assistance Listings Title (formerly CFDA Title)**  
Citizenship Education and Training

**4. Funding Opportunity Title**  
FY 2020 Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program; Citizenship and Instruction Application Services

**5. Funding Opportunity Number**  
DHS-20-CIS-010-002

**6. Authorizing Authority for Program**  
H.R.1158 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. 116-93), Division D, Title IV

**7. Appropriation Authority for Program**  
H.R.1158 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. 116-93), Division D, Title IV

**8. Announcement Type**  
Initial

**9. Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities**

OoC is charged with promoting instruction and training on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. USCIS recognizes that naturalization is the most important milestone in the civic assimilation of immigrants.

Naturalization requirements, such as knowledge of English and of U.S. history and

government, encourage civic learning and build a strong foundation upon which immigrants can fully assimilate into society. Through preparing for naturalization, immigrants will gain the tools to become successful citizens and meet their responsibilities as United States citizens.

The goal of the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program is to expand the availability of high-quality citizenship preparation services for lawful permanent residents across the nation and to provide opportunities for lawful permanent residents to gain the knowledge and training necessary to assimilate into the fabric of American society.

Additional activities that support this goal include developing, identifying, and sharing best practices in citizenship preparation; increasing the use of and access to technology in citizenship preparation programs; working with local libraries and museums, which serve as vital resources for immigrant communities; and incorporating strategies to foster welcoming communities as part of the citizenship and civic assimilation process.

Furthermore, the goals of the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program address the DHS mission to Enforce and Administer Our Immigration Laws as stated in the 2014 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review as the program provides lawful permanent residents instruction on the rights and responsibility of U.S. citizenship and information and support on how to apply for naturalization within the authorized practice of immigration law.

#### ***Participation in E-Verify***

As outlined in Appendix B and as a condition of receipt of funding under the award, grant recipients and sub-awardees must enroll (if not already enrolled) in E-Verify; use E-Verify to confirm employment eligibility of all new hires of the recipient who are working in the United States at hiring sites performing work under the program or activity funded in whole or in part under the award; and take steps as may be necessary to ensure award and sub award recipient compliance with the E-Verify requirements.

#### ***Certification under Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)***

To be eligible for this program, applicants and proposed sub-awardees that are SEVP-certified organizations must be in compliance with all SEVP requirements at the time of application. Furthermore, grant recipients and sub-awardees that are SEVP-certified organizations must be in compliance with all SEVP requirements as a condition of receipt of funding and must comply with all SEVP requirements during the performance period. For more information on SEVP, please visit <https://www.ice.gov/sevp>.

#### ***Request for Proposals***

In fiscal year (FY) 2020, a total of approximately \$8.2 million in federal funding is available for eligible organizations to provide direct citizenship preparation services to lawful permanent residents through this funding opportunity. USCIS anticipates awarding approximately 33 grants of up to \$250,000 each.

Proposed citizenship preparation activities **must** include the following two components:

1. **Citizenship instruction** to prepare lawful permanent residents for the naturalization test and interview. Program design must include:
  - a. Instruction in U.S. history and government for test preparation and the

- promotion of civic assimilation in English. Applications to provide instruction in languages other than English will be deemed ineligible;
- b. Activities that promote civic and linguistic assimilation;
  - c. English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction in reading, writing, and speaking;
  - d. Instruction on the naturalization process and eligibility interview;
  - e. The use of a nationally normed standardized test of English proficiency to place and assess progress of all students enrolled under this program. (Note: The Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) citizenship test may not be used for this purpose as it is not a test of English language proficiency.) At least 80% of post-tested students must demonstrate educational gains as evidenced by increased standardized test scores;
  - f. The use of a current adult citizenship textbook that aligns with the skill level of the students in the class (published textbooks only, compilations of worksheets or handouts will not be accepted); all students must be issued a textbook for their own personal use;
  - g. A sample curriculum that includes all of the components contained in the USCIS Sample Curriculum found on the Citizenship Resource Center at [www.uscis.gov/citizenship/educators/program-development](http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/educators/program-development) including:
    - (1) Instruction in U.S. history and government for test preparation and the promotion of civic assimilation;
    - (2) Activities that promote civic and linguistic assimilation;
    - (3) English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction in reading, writing, and speaking for the naturalization test, naturalization process, and to conduct required assimilation activities; and
    - (4) Instruction on the eligibility interview (N-400);
  - h. The provision of at least 40 hours of citizenship instruction over a 10-12 week class cycle with managed enrollment to at least 200 students at the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) low beginning to high intermediate levels; and
  - i. The use of citizenship teachers who have at least one year of experience teaching ESL to adults and who:
    - (1) Hold a degree in TESOL; and/or
    - (2) Hold TESOL certification from a state licensing agency; and/or
    - (3) Have a minimum of 2 years of experience in TESOL instruction in a classroom setting for a program that utilizes a textbook and a structured curriculum.

Classes offered at the NRS literacy level (1) or at the NRS advanced level (6) are not eligible for funding under this program. Classes offered in languages other than English are not eligible for funding under this program. Tutoring services do not count toward the minimum 40 hours of classroom instruction.

Grant-funded classes must integrate instruction in U.S. history and government; civics-based ESL instruction in reading, writing, and speaking; and instruction on the naturalization process and eligibility interview. For more detailed information on the content and competencies that applicants are required to address in grant-funded classes, please review the *Guide to the Adult Citizenship Education Content Standards and Foundation Skills* found at [www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office of Citizenship/Citizenship Resource Center Site/Publications/M-1121.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/M-1121.pdf).

Grant-funded programs must also incorporate a minimum of two civic assimilation learning activities into class curricula. The intent of this requirement is to encourage students to extend knowledge acquisition beyond traditional classroom instruction through opportunities to experience and navigate American civic life firsthand through in-depth learning activities. Applicants are encouraged to draw upon their local resources, venues and landmarks when conceptualizing and designing these civic assimilation learning activities. Suggested categories for the required assimilation activities include but are not limited to:

- a. **Site-based civic assimilation activities** – Local trips outside the classroom to sites and landmarks of historical and/or cultural significance, libraries, museums, other local public entities, and organizations that promote public safety, etc.;
  - b. **Classroom-based civic assimilation activities** – Activities that may involve guest speakers such as local civic leaders and public servants to provide the opportunity for student interaction and exchange, or the use of multimedia and/or materials-based methods that promote an enhanced understanding of key moments in U.S. history and/or the form and function of local, state and federal government;
  - c. **Civic participation** – Activities that encourage students to take participatory learning beyond the classroom by attending a public meeting, volunteering, or participating in local civic institutions; and
  - d. **Other assimilation activities** – Activities that promote in-depth understanding of the student’s role as a future citizen of the United States, including the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; our shared American history; government functions, structure and laws; geography; and traditions, symbols and holidays. These can be external or in-class.
2. **Naturalization application services**, within the scope of the authorized practice of immigration law, to support lawful permanent residents in the naturalization application and interview process. Services must include:
- a. The provision of naturalization eligibility screening;
  - b. The preparation and submission of Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, with Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative, over the two-year period of performance for at least 200 lawful permanent residents;
  - c. Ongoing immigration case management;
  - d. The use of a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Access Programs Accredited Representative (partial accreditation is acceptable) or an attorney who is an employee of the applicant organization or the sub-awardee organization. (Pro bono or volunteer attorneys may be used to supplement the program but may not serve as the applicant’s sole provider of immigration legal services, nor serve as a supervisor to staff members who are not accredited representatives and provide such services.) Attorneys and accredited representatives must sign Form N-400 as the preparer and submit Form G-28 with each Form N-400 filed under this grant, preferably using online filing through <https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>. Grantees are strongly encouraged to file forms electronically whenever possible. In the case that e-filing is not a viable option, the grantee’s legal service provider is required to mail the naturalization application package to USCIS on behalf of the client. Applications may not be given to the client to mail. The legal service provider is required to file the application on the client’s behalf. The applicant must demonstrate an established process in place to refer individuals with complex immigration matters beyond the scope of the services provided under this grant to a qualified

attorney.

Services may include interview preparation, a representative's appearance at the naturalization interview, responding to a Request for Evidence (RFE), and filing other forms or documents (such as Form N-648, Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions), if applicable.

### ***Partnerships***

Partnerships are encouraged. Applicants may include partnerships with other public or non-profit organizations in their proposal. The principal applicant must directly provide either citizenship instruction or naturalization application services, or both. A partner organization is considered a "sub-awardee" if the organization will receive a portion of the grant funding to provide additional or complementary direct citizenship instruction or naturalization application services.

The applicant must complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the prospective sub-awardee and submit it with the application. The applicant must clearly demonstrate how it will monitor the prospective sub-awardee's performance and ensure that the prospective sub-awardee complies with all grant award conditions and data reporting requirements. The MOU must state the minimum number of students/clients to whom the sub-awardee will provide services; how grant funding will be allocated to fund the services; and that as a condition of receipt of funding under the award, the sub-awardee must enroll (if not already enrolled) in E-Verify, use E-Verify to confirm employment eligibility of all new hires of the recipient who are working in the United States at hiring sites performing work under the program or activity funded in whole or in part under the award, and take steps as may be necessary to ensure its compliance with the E-Verify requirements. The MOU must require SEVP-certified sub-awardees to be in compliance with all SEVP requirements at the time of application and remain in compliance with all SEVP requirements during the performance period. Prospective sub-awardees must have their own individual DUNS number and will be responsible for financial and performance reporting. Sub-awardees must submit their reports to the primary applicant for submission to DHS.

## **10. Performance Metrics**

For this grant program, organizations will be evaluated based on the following performance metrics:

1. The number of newly enrolled non-duplicated lawful permanent residents in citizenship instruction classes (minimum of 200);
2. Percentage of enrolled students who post-test using nationally approved standardized tests of English language proficiency (minimum of 80%);
3. Percentage of post-tested students demonstrating measurable educational gains (minimum of 80%);
4. Number of lawful permanent residents for whom your organization will provide eligibility screenings (minimum of 200); and
5. Number of lawful permanent residents for whom your organization will prepare and submit Form N-400 and Form G-28 (minimum of 200).

## **B. Federal Award Information**

1. **Available Funding for the NOFO:** Approximately \$8,200,000
2. **Period of Performance:** 24 months (comprising two 1-year budget periods).

Applicants may request a no-cost extension in order to complete all project activities. The request must be submitted 60 days prior to the expiration of the performance period. Requests for extensions are subject to approval by DHS. See section H. Additional Information.

- 3. **Projected number of Awards (Optional):** Up to 33
- 4. **Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s):** 10/01/2020
- 5. **Projected Period of Performance End Date(s):** 09/30/2022
- 6. **Funding Instrument Type:** Grant

### **C. Eligibility Information**

#### **1. Eligible Applicants**

The following entities are eligible to apply to this announcement:

- a. City or township governments
- b. County governments
- c. Independent school districts
- d. Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- e. Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- f. Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status, other than institutions of higher education
- g. Private institutions of higher education
- h. Public & state-controlled institutions of higher education
- i. Special district governments
- j. State governments

#### **2. Applicant Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for this program, applicants and sub-awardees must meet the below requirements.

- 1. Applicants and any proposed sub-awardees must be organizations with public or non-profit status;
- 2. At the time of application, applicants and/or any sub-awardees that propose to provide citizenship instruction must have at least 1 year of experience in the past 3 years providing direct service citizenship instruction in a classroom setting that follows a curriculum and utilizes a citizenship textbook.
- 3. Applicants and/or any sub-awardees that propose to provide naturalization application services must have at least 1 year of experience in the past 3 years providing naturalization application services within the authorized practice of immigration law to clients, and must at the time of application:
  - a) Be recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP) and employ at least one DOJ accredited representative employee (partial accreditation is acceptable) with experience providing clients with naturalization representation; **OR**
  - b) Have at least one attorney on staff as a paid employee with experience providing clients with naturalization representation.
- 4. At the time of application applicants and any sub-awardees that are SEVP-certified organizations must be in compliance with all SEVP requirements.
- 5. To be eligible for this program, applicants and proposed sub-awardees that are SEVP-certified organizations must be in compliance with all SEVP requirements at the time of application.

## **Not Eligible**

For-profit law firms and attorneys in private practice are not eligible to receive funding under this funding opportunity. (See the Glossary for the definitions of “representation” and “employee.”)

Current awardees and sub-awardees under the FY 2019 Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program (funding opportunity CI-CET-19-002) are not eligible to receive funding under this funding opportunity. Applicants to the Refugee and Asylee Assimilation Program (DHS-20-CIS-010-003) are not eligible to apply to this program. Applicants may only submit one proposal in response to the FY 2020 Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program. **USCIS will not consider two applications submitted by the same organization in response to the two FY 2020 NOFOs. Failure to follow this directive may result in both applications being removed from consideration.**

If DHS determines at any point during the review process that an application does not meet these eligibility requirements, the application will be removed from further consideration.

## **Non-Responsive Applications**

Your application will be deemed non-responsive if:

1. Form SF-424 – *Application for Federal Assistance* is missing.
2. Form SF-424A – *Budget* is missing.
3. Form SF-424B – *Assurances - Non-Construction Programs* is missing.
4. The applicant’s Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is not registered in SAM.
5. The application does not include a Budget Narrative or Budget Table.
6. The application does not include a Project Narrative.

### **3. Maintenance of Effort (MOE) (If Applicable)**

There is no MOE requirement for this program. Requests for funds under this announcement must not be used to take the place of activities described in the application that are currently supported with other funding. Also, grant funds must not be used to support activities that are a normal part of the organization’s operations.

### **4. Cost Share or Match**

There is a **minimum cost share requirement for this program of 10%** of the total requested funding amount. Applicants should clearly identify which budget items are to be supported by federal grant funding and which are to be supported by in-kind contributions and/or other funding sources, along with an estimate of the value of these non-federal funding sources. All proposed cost share contributions must be clearly described in the budget portion of the proposal. Applicants will be scored on this during the technical review.

Acceptable forms of cost share items include:

- Volunteer services: Rates for volunteer services must be consistent with those paid for similar work.
- Employee time: Time Employee’s regular rate of pay.
- Supplies: Fair market value of the supplies at the time of donation.
- Cash contributions: Cash value.
- Equipment, building, or land: Fair market value or rental value at the time of

- application, as established by an independent appraisal.
- Project co-funding: Actual cost incurred.

## **D. Application and Submission Information**

### **1. Key Dates and Times**

- a. Application Start Date:** 07/30/2020
- b. Application Submission Deadline:** 08/31/2020 at 11:59:59 p.m.  
Eastern Daylight Time
- c. Anticipated Award Date:** **No later than 9/30/2020**

NOTE: The application must be received in Grants.gov by the date and time listed above. If an application is received after the deadline, it will not be considered. Applicants will receive a confirmation from Grants.gov once the application is successfully submitted.

All applications are time stamped by the Grants.gov system when submitted and recipients are notified accordingly. The federal office will download all applications that are received by the deadline date and time as indicated on the NOFO.

### **d. Other Key Dates (If applicable)**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Suggested Deadline for Completion</b>
Obtaining DUNS Number	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Obtaining a valid EIN	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Updating SAM registration	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Starting application in Grants.gov	One week before actual submission deadline

### **2. Agreeing to Terms and Conditions of the Award**

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of this NOFO and the terms and conditions of the award, should they receive an award.

### **3. Address to Request Application Package**

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), select “Applicants” then “Apply for Grants. In order to obtain the application package, select “Download a Grant Application Package.” Enter the CFDA and/or funding opportunity number located on the cover of this NOFO, select “Download Package,” and then follow the prompts to download the application package.

For a hard copy of the full NOFO, please write or fax a request to:

Jacqueline Greely  
Grants Officer  
[CISMailbox@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CISMailbox@hq.dhs.gov)  
Fax: 202-447-5600

If you use assistive technology and are unable to access any materials on Grants.gov, please email the Support Center at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

Applications will be processed through the Grants.gov portal. If you experience difficulties accessing information or have any questions, please call 1-800-518-4726.



#### **4. Steps Required to Submit an Application, Unique Entity Identifier, and System for Award Management (SAM)**

To apply for an award under this program, all applicants must:

- a. Apply for, update, or verify their DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet and Employer ID Number (EIN);
- b. In the application, provide a valid DUNS number, which is currently the unique entity identifier;
- c. Register for, update, or verify their SAM account and ensure it is active before submitting the application;
- d. Create a Grants.gov account;
- e. Add a profile to a Grants.gov account;
- f. Establish an AOR in Grants.gov;
- g. Submit an application in Grants.gov;
- h. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which the applicant has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

Applicants are advised that DHS may not make a federal award until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements. Therefore, an applicant's SAM registration must be active not only at the time of application, but also during the application review period and when DHS is ready to make a federal award. Further, as noted above, an applicant's or recipient's SAM registration must remain active for the duration of an active federal award. If an applicant's SAM registration is expired at the time of application, expires during application review, or expires any other time before award, DHS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

#### **5. Electronic Delivery**

DHS is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. For this funding opportunity, DHS requires applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

#### **6. How to Register to Apply through Grants.gov**

- a. *Instructions:* Registering in Grants.gov is a multi-step process. Read the instructions below about registering to apply for DHS funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

The registration process can take up to 4 weeks to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

Organizations must have a DUNS number, active SAM registration, and Grants.gov account to apply for grants. If individual applicants are eligible to apply for this grant funding opportunity, then you may begin with step 3, Create a Grants.gov Account, listed below.

Creating a Grants.gov account can be completed online in minutes, but DUNS and SAM registrations may take several weeks. Therefore, an organization's registration should be

done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the entity's ability to meet required application submission deadlines. Complete organization instructions can be found on Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>

- 1) *Obtain a DUNS Number:* All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet. Applicants must enter the DUNS number in the data entry field labeled "Organizational DUNS" on the SF-424 form.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a DUNS number, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

- 2) *Register with SAM:* All organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM at sam.gov. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>

- 3) *Create a Grants.gov Account:* The next step is to register an account with Grants.gov. Follow the on-screen instructions or refer to the detailed instructions here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>

- 4) *Add a Profile to a Grants.gov Account:* A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (that is, an applicant) or an individual applicant. If you work for or consult with multiple organizations and have a profile for each, you may log in to one Grants.gov account to access all of your grant applications. To add an organizational profile to your Grants.gov account, enter the DUNS number for the organization in the DUNS field while adding a profile.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html>

- 5) *EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles:* After you register with Grants.gov and create an Organization Applicant Profile, the organization applicant's request for Grants.gov roles and access is sent to the EBiz POC. The EBiz POC will then log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been assigned the AOR role.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html>

- 6) *Track Role Status:* To track your role request, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html>

- 7) *Electronic Signature:* When submitting applications through Grants.gov, insert the name of the organization applicant with the AOR role that submitted the application into the signature line of the application; this will serve as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC **must** authorize people who are able to make legally binding commitments

on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role; **this step is often missed, and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.**

## 7. How to Submit an Application to DHS via Grants.gov

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each NOFO, you can create individual instances of a workspace.

Below is an overview of the Grants.gov application process. For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities using Workspace, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>

- a. *Create a Workspace:* Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- b. *Complete a Workspace:* Add participants to the workspace to work on the application together, complete all the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submitting. The Workspace progress bar will display the state of your application process as you apply. As you apply using Workspace, you may click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page to access context-sensitive help.
- c. *Adobe Reader:* If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms, you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive, or external drive, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>

- d. *Mandatory Fields in Forms:* In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.
- e. *Complete SF-424 Fields First:* The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and DUNS number. To trigger this feature, an applicant must complete the SF-424 information first. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.
- f. *Submit a Workspace:* An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.
- g. *Track a Workspace Submission:* After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission. Using the tracking number, access the Track My Application page under the Applicants tab or the Details tab in the submitted workspace.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>

*Applicant Support:* Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist DHS with tracking your issue and understanding background information on the issue.

## **8. Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission**

All applications must be received by 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight time on the due date established for each program. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application will receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. This applicant with the AOR role will also receive the official date/time stamp and Grants.gov tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When DHS successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application. Again, proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application. Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and will not be considered for funding by DHS. Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role attempting to submit the application. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.

## **9. Content and Form of Application Submission**

See Appendix A for a list of required documents for this application, forms, and formats. No pre-applications or letters of intent are required to apply.

As discussed in the eligibility section of this NOFO, current awardees and sub-awardees under the FY 2019 Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program (funding opportunity CI-CET-19-2) are not eligible to receive funding under this funding opportunity. Applicants to the Refugee and Asylee Assimilation Program (DHS-20-CIS-010-003) are not eligible to apply to this program. Applicants may only submit one proposal in response to the FY 2020 Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program. USCIS will not consider two applications submitted by the same organization in response to the two FY 2020 NOFOs. Failure to follow this directive may result in both applications being removed from consideration.

## **10. Other Submission Requirements**

DHS is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. DHS requires applicants to submit their

applications online through Grants.gov. Applications that are not submitted through Grants.gov by the deadline will not be considered.

### **11. Intergovernmental Review** *(Include if applicable)*

An intergovernmental review may be required. Applicants must contact their state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372.

(See <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html>; <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPOC-February-2019.pdf>.)

### **12. Funding Restrictions**

#### ***Eligible Funding Purposes***

DHS grant funds may only be used for the purposes set forth in the agreement and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may be used for the following purposes:

1. Providing services to **lawful permanent residents only**, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
2. Resources to support citizenship instruction, including staff salaries, textbooks/materials, nationally normed standardized assessment tests, software, etc.
3. Professional development and training for staff and/or volunteers related to the provision of citizenship instruction and/or naturalization application services.
4. Facility rental costs **not** to exceed more than 20% of the total approved budget.
5. Resources to support naturalization application services including staff salaries, case management systems, costs associated with DOJ recognition of organizations and accreditation (or renewal) of staff. This includes training costs related to DOJ recognition and accreditation.
6. Transportation costs for students attending grant-funded classes.
  - a) Transportation funds provided to students must match the students' individual transportation costs.
  - b) Applicant must have a system to track how transportation funds are used.
7. Reimbursement of transportation costs for volunteers participating in grant-funded activities. Volunteers may **not** receive a general transportation stipend.
  - a) Transportation funds provided to volunteers must match the volunteers' individual transportation costs.
  - b) Applicants must have a system to track how transportation funds are used.
8. Childcare costs to assist eligible participants to attend grant-funded classes.
9. Travel costs for two staff members to attend a mandatory two-day grant recipient training in the Washington, D.C. area during the first year of the grant, and costs for one teacher or coordinator to attend a USCIS teacher training (or another professional development training with approval from USCIS) during the second year of the grant.
10. Equipment purchases directly related to the provision of services.
11. Costs associated with the use of computers for citizenship instruction (for example, computer equipment, internet access, electronic tablets, etc.).

#### ***Ineligible Funding Purposes***

Grant funds may **not** be used for the following purposes:

1. Cost-sharing or matching funds for other federal grants, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, federal funds may **not** be used to sue the federal government or any other

- government entity.
2. USCIS application fees.
  3. Costs of organized fundraising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred solely to raise capital or obtain contributions.
  4. Profit/Fee is not allowable except when subcontracting for routine goods and services with commercial organizations. (Note: Applicants may charge a nominal fee not to exceed \$50 for naturalization application services and not to exceed \$30 for citizenship instruction. If you propose to charge for services under the grant program, please present a justification for these fees in the budget narrative, including a detailed explanation of how they will be used to enhance the program. Program income generated from these fees must go back into the grant-funded program.)
  5. Foreign travel.
  6. Construction costs and purchase of real property under this funding opportunity.
  7. Pre-award costs.
  8. Funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development.
  9. Costs for food or refreshments.
  10. Incentive items or gift cards.
  11. General volunteer stipends.
  12. Living allowances for any national volunteer service program participants.
  13. Fees for conferences that are not considered training events.

### **13. Allowable Costs**

**a. Pre-Award Costs** *(if applicable)*

Pre-Award Costs are not allowed.

**b. Management and Administration (M&A) Costs** *(if applicable)*

Management and Administration Costs are allowable for the grantee and any proposed sub-awardee (if applicable). For more information on allowable costs, please see Funding Restrictions (above).

**c. Indirect Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs**

Indirect Costs are allowable for the grantee and any proposed sub-awardee (if applicable). **Indirect costs must not exceed 15%** even if an applicant has a higher negotiated indirect cost rate agreement. This requirement is not subject to negotiation if selected for an award. The applicant must **attach a copy of the latest indirect cost rate agreement** negotiated with a cognizant federal agency. Any non-federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate (except for those non-federal entities described in [Appendix VII to Part 200 States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals](#), paragraph D.1.b) will be subject to a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in [§200.403 Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs](#), costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all federal awards until such time as a non-federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-federal entity may apply to do at any time. For more information, see [2 CFR Part 200.414](#).

**d. Distance Learning**

Classes may use distance learning as a supplement to regular classroom instruction.

## **E. Application Review Information**

### **1. Application Evaluation Criteria**

Prior to making a federal award, the federal awarding agency is required by 31 U.S.C. 3321 and 41 U.S.C. 2313 to review information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information. Therefore, application evaluation criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant:

1. Financial stability;
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards;
3. History of performance in managing a federal award;
4. Reports and findings from audits; and
5. Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

#### **a. Programmatic Criteria**

DHS will use the following criteria to evaluate applications deemed eligible and responsive. Applicants can receive up to 100 points.

### **1. Capacity to Provide Comprehensive Citizenship Instruction (15 Points)**

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates:

- a) Recent (in the past 5 years) and extensive (a minimum of 2 years) experience providing citizenship instruction (6 points);
- b) Recent (in the past 5 years) and extensive (a minimum of 2 years) experience providing ESL instruction (6 points); and
- c) The need for citizenship instruction within the lawful permanent resident community that the applicant serves (3 points).

### **2. Quality of the Citizenship Instruction Program (30 Points)**

The extent to which the applicant proposes a high-quality citizenship instruction program to meet the citizenship education needs of the community, including:

- a) Attainable citizenship instruction program goals (3 points);
- b) Detailed outreach, orientation, intake, and student retention plans (3 points);
- c) Well-developed and appropriate curriculum and class structure, including the use of assimilation activities, and well-described student assessment strategy (12 points); and
- d) Qualified and experienced personnel (as described in the project narrative requirements) (12 points).<sup>1</sup>

**DHS requires that all applicants demonstrate experience providing naturalization application services within the authorized practice of immigration law. Applications that fail to demonstrate this will not be scored on criteria 3 and 4 and as a result will be deemed ineligible.**

### **3. Capacity to Provide Comprehensive Naturalization Application Services (15 Points)**

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates:

- a) Recent experience providing naturalization application services within the authorized practice of immigration law (10 points); and

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<sup>1</sup> Please see USCIS' [Professional Development Guide for Adult Citizenship Educators](#) for competencies USCIS would expect qualified and experienced personnel to demonstrate in the citizenship instruction classroom.

- b) The need for naturalization application services within the lawful permanent resident community that the applicant serves (5 points).

**4. Quality of the Naturalization Application Services Program (30 Points)**

The extent to which the applicant proposes a high-quality naturalization application services program, including:

- a) Attainable naturalization application services program goals (3 points);
- b) Detailed outreach and intake plans (3 points);
- c) High quality service delivery and case management (12 points); and
- d) Qualified and experienced personnel (as described in the project narrative requirements) (12 points).

**5. Integration of Services (5 Points)**

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a plan to provide integrated citizenship preparation services particularly in ensuring the accessibility of naturalization application services for enrolled citizenship instruction students. A well-defined referral plan that ensures priority access for enrolled students seeking legal services is required.

**6. Cost Effectiveness and Balance (5 Points)**

- a) The extent to which the applicant's proposed budget is tied to the delivery of programmatic services and demonstrates a programmatically supported balance between funding dedicated to citizenship instruction and naturalization application services (2 points); and
- b) The extent to which the applicant's budget demonstrates an effort to satisfy the 10% cost share requirement and adheres to the required 15% administrative cost cap (3 points).

**b. Supplemental Financial Integrity Criteria and Review**

Prior to making a federal award where the anticipated total federal share will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, currently \$250,000 (see Section 805 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-91, OMB Memorandum M-18-18 at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/M-18-18.pdf>):

- 1) DHS Grants and Financial Assistance Division is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM, which is currently the [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System](#) (FAPIS) and is accessible through the [SAM](#) website.
- 2) An applicant, at its option, may review information in FAPIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered.
- 3) DHS Grants and Financial Assistance Division will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.205.

**2. Review and Selection Process**

DHS will conduct an initial review of applications to determine the responsiveness of the



application. If an applicant is determined to be ineligible (see section C. Eligibility Information) or an application is determined to be non-responsive, DHS will notify the applicant. All responsive and eligible applications will be reviewed as described below:

1. DHS will assemble reviewers which may include both federal and non-federal reviewers to review the eligible applications. Reviews of submitted applications will be conducted either on site or by remote review.
2. Teams of technical reviewers will review each eligible application against the evaluation criteria. The reviewers will assign a score and provide summary comments based on the evaluation criteria identified above.
3. An application may be selected for post-review quality control and possible rescoring if it received significantly diverging scores and comments from reviewers.
4. An internal review panel consisting of DHS staff will review the highest ranked applications and make final funding recommendations. The internal review panel may take applications out of rank order in consideration of strategic program priorities, which are identified below.
5. DHS may perform an additional review of the applicant organization and any sub-awardees and/or its key personnel. This may include reviewing audit reports, publicly available materials, and/or government data which may have a bearing on award outcome. DHS may request additional materials from the applicant as part of this review, including:
  - a) The summary letter from the applicant's most recent audit report;
  - b) Documentation of previous grant award completion that includes the name of the grantor, amount awarded, and whether the grant recipient sufficiently completed the requirements of the grant award (for example, a final close-out report, certification of grant award completion, etc.);
  - c) A pre-award site visit or investigation to determine and validate current services and proposed activities; and
  - d) A site visit conducted in the case of a contingent award in order to evaluate the organization's ability to satisfy the programmatic and administrative requirements of the grant. DHS reserves the right to not pursue the completion of the award process if preliminary investigations and/or site visits do not provide sufficient evidence of organizational capacity to successfully administer the proposed grant.
6. After the technical review and before making final funding decisions, DHS will contact the highest ranking applicants to seek clarification and to negotiate technical and programmatic aspects of the application. This will include negotiations on the curriculum content, staffing, and activities. If an application includes a sub-awardee that will provide additional or complementary direct grant-funded services in partnership with the main applicant, DHS may request to speak with all parties included in the application to ensure sufficient planning and coordination has taken place prior to making an award.
7. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest. Technical and cost proposals submitted under this NOFO will be protected from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. DHS may use one or more support

contractors in the logistical processing of proposals; however, funding recommendations and final award decisions are solely the responsibility of DHS personnel.

DHS screens all technical reviewers for potential conflicts of interest. To determine possible conflicts of interest, DHS requires potential reviewers to complete and sign conflict of interest and nondisclosure forms. DHS will keep the names of submitting institutions and individuals as well as the substance of the applications confidential except to reviewers and DHS staff involved in the award process. DHS will destroy any unsuccessful applications after 3 years following the funding decision.

8. DHS strongly discourages, and will not consider, any supplementary materials submitted by or on behalf of the applicant (for example, letters of support) other than those materials specifically requested in this NOFO.
9. DHS will notify all applicants electronically of funding decisions. Unfunded applicants may send a written request to [citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov) to receive a written summary of comments related to the evaluation criteria, along with the points awarded to the application for each of the evaluation criteria. DHS will send the written summary to the applicant within 60 days of receipt of the request. Additional information beyond that described here will not be provided.

### **Strategic Program Priorities**

Based on the recommendations of the internal review panel, DHS may consider the following factors when making an award:

1. **Program Balance Factors**, including (in descending order of importance):
  - a) Whether an application, when balanced with other potential awards and with existing Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program recipients, represents a diverse geographic area;
  - b) Whether an application, when balanced with other potential awards and existing Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program recipients, represents a diverse population;
  - c) Whether an application, when balanced against other potential awards with similar scores, incorporates:
    - (1) E-filing of naturalization applications; and/or
    - (2) Use of technology in the citizenship instruction program that would help immigrant students to gain sufficient digital literacy skills to navigate USCIS' educational resources and online application system; and/or
    - (3) Cooperation with local libraries and museums.
2. **The past performance of a previous Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program recipient (if applicable)**, including:
  - a) Whether a previous grant recipient achieved their core program goals (number of students enrolled, number of eligibility screenings, number of Forms N-400 filed, percentage of students pre and post-tested, and percentage of student demonstrating educational gain). Failure to achieve at or above the following will be considered a failure to meet the goals related to testing and education gains:
    - (1) 60% of enrolled students are pre- and post-tested using an NRS-approved ESL assessments; and/or

- (2) 60% of pre- and post-tested students show a measurable gain on the NRS-approved ESL assessments.
- b) Whether a previous grant recipient had major findings during a monitoring visit and failed to resolve them in the prescribed time period;
- c) Whether a previous grant recipient was placed on restricted drawdown status for cause, and if so, whether they were able to meet the conditions to have this restriction removed; and
- d) Whether a previous grant recipient demonstrated an ability to file accurate and timely quarterly performance reports.

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **1. Notice of Award**

Before accepting the award, the AOR and recipient should carefully read the award package. The award package includes instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under federal awards. **Recipients must accept all conditions in this NOFO as well as any special terms and conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program.**

A grant award will be executed by a DHS Grants Officer authorized to obligate DHS funding. Organizations that are being funded for the first time under this grant program will be placed on restricted drawdown until quarterly performance goals are met. Unsuccessful applicants will be contacted as well and will be encouraged to apply for future grant award programs. Announcements for future grant opportunities will be listed on [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov).

### **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

All successful applicants for DHS grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, which are available online at: [DHS Standard Terms and Conditions](#).

The applicable DHS Standard Terms and Conditions will be for those in effect at the time the award was made, unless the application is for a continuation of award. In that event, the terms and conditions in effect at the time the original award was made will apply.

Before accepting the award, the AOR should carefully read the award package for instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under federal awards. Recipients must accept all conditions in this NOFO as well as any special terms and conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program.

Post-award program income: In the event program income becomes available to the recipient post-award, it is the recipient's responsibility to notify the DHS Grants Officer to explain how that development occurred, as part of their request for guidance and/or approval. The Grants Officer will review approval requests for program income on a case-by-case basis; approval is not automatic. Consistent with the policy and processes outlined in 2 CFR Part 200, pertinent guidance and options, as determined by the type of recipient and circumstances involved, may be approved by the Grants Officer. If approval is granted, an award modification will be issued with an explanatory note in the remarks section of the face page concerning guidance and/or options pertaining to the recipient's approved request. All instances of program income must be listed in the progress and financial reports.

### 3. Reporting

#### **Federal Financial Reporting Requirements**

The recipient must submit a Form SF-425, Federal Financial Report (FFR), to the DHS Grants Officer no later than 30 days after the end of the reporting period end date. The FFR is available online at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html>. The FFR shall be submitted via GrantSolutions using the guidance found here:

<https://www.grantsolutions.gov/support/public/pdf/FederalFinancialReport-RecipientsFinalv2.pdf>

#### **Programmatic Performance Reporting Requirements**

The recipient is required to submit the following performance reports:

Quarterly Performance Reports must be submitted to the USCIS Program Office and the DHS Grants Officer within 30 days after the end of each quarter. Reports are due January 30, April 30, July 30, and October 30. Reports must be submitted via the USCIS GrantBook platform and GrantSolutions.gov using the guidance found here:

<https://www.grantsolutions.gov/support/pdf/GrantRecipientProcessPerformanceProgressReport.pdf>

Grant recipients must collect and report data on each lawful permanent resident served with grant funding, which may include:

1. Alien registration numbers. USCIS may use these numbers to track naturalization outcomes during and after the period of performance;
2. Countries of birth;
3. When specific services were provided, including client enrollments, naturalization eligibility screenings, referrals for literacy and ESL instruction, Forms N-400 and G-28 filed and referral for professional recertification;
4. Assessment data, including pre- and post-test scores;
5. Classes attended, including the number of hours in class;
6. When students and clients either passed or failed the naturalization test; and
7. When students and clients naturalized.

Grantees are required to collect the data listed above and submit it to DHS quarterly. These data are used to measure and track grantee performance and assess the success of individual programs as well as the collective performance of all grantees. All grantee performance data can be used to determine continued and future USCIS grant funding.

Grant recipients must also collect and report data on citizenship classes provided, which may include:

1. Class titles and proficiency levels;
2. Dates when classes are held;
3. The instructor teaching each class;
4. The number of instructional hours provided per class; and
5. The number of students enrolled per class.

In addition to collecting these data, grant recipients must also provide quarterly narrative reports. The narrative report may include questions on the following topics: program accomplishments, progress meeting goals, progress of the sub-awardee organization (if

applicable), challenges in meeting goals, staff and/or organizational development activities, student assessment and progress, outreach activities, volunteer recruitment and training, staff changes, progress made toward DOJ accreditation, and promising practices.

For financial reports, grant recipients must use the OMB-approved FFR [SF-425 OMB #4040-0014](#)

USCIS will provide guidance on attachments to include with the report.

### **Closeout Reporting Requirements**

Within 90 days after the end of the period of performance, or after an amendment has been issued to close out a grant, whichever comes first, recipients must submit a final FFR and final progress report detailing all accomplishments and a qualitative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance.

The final performance report must include cumulative quantitative data, program accomplishments and challenges, and any promising practices related to direct service provision to lawful permanent residents.

If applicable, an inventory of all construction projects that used funds from this program must be reported with the final progress report.

After these reports have been reviewed and approved by the DHS Financial Assistance Office, a close-out notice will be completed to close out the grant. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds that will be de-obligated, and address the requirement of maintaining the grant records for 3 years from the date of the final FFR.

The recipient is responsible for returning any funds that have been drawn down but remain as unliquidated on recipient financial records.

#### **a. Disclosing Information per 2 CFR § 180.335**

This reporting requirement pertains to disclosing information related to government-wide suspension and debarment requirements. Before a recipient enters into a grant award with DHS, the recipient must notify DHS if it knows if it or any of the recipient's principals under the award fall under one or more of the four criteria listed at 2 CFR § 180.335:

- 1) Are presently excluded or disqualified;
- 2) Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against it or any of the recipient's principals for one of those offenses within that time period;
- 3) Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR § 180.800(a); or
- 4) Have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding 3 years for cause or default.

At any time after accepting the award, if the recipient learns that it or any of its principals falls under one or more of the criteria listed at 2 CFR § 180.335, the recipient must provide immediate written notice to DHS in accordance with 2 CFR § 180.350.

#### **b. Reporting of Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance (if applicable)**

Per 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix I § F.3, the additional post-award reporting requirements in 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix XII may apply to applicants who, if upon becoming recipients, have a total value of currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all federal awarding agencies that exceeds \$10 million for any period of time during the period of performance of an award under this funding opportunity. Recipients that meet these criteria must maintain current information reported in FAPIIS about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in paragraph 2 of Appendix XII at the reporting frequency described in paragraph 4 of Appendix XII.

#### **4. Monitoring**

Per 2 CFR § 200.336, DHS, through its authorized representatives, has the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide such technical assistance as may be required. During site visits, DHS will review grant recipients' files related to the grant-funded program.

As part of any monitoring and program evaluation activities, grant recipients must permit DHS, upon reasonable notice, to review grant-related records and to interview the organization's staff and clients regarding the program, and to respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to their grant program.

Recipients that are new to the USCIS Office of Citizenship and/or first time federal funds recipients will receive an on-site monitoring visit within the first year of award initiation. If the monitoring visit results in a determination that basic, minimum requirements as outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity are not being met, DHS may require corrective actions and/or initiate termination of the award.

### **G. DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information**

#### **Contact and Resource Information**

##### **USCIS Program Office (Office of Citizenship):**

Send all questions to [citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov).

USCIS Office of Citizenship staff will respond within 5 business days. You may also refer to a list of Questions and Answers found at [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants). This document will be available a few days after the posting of this NOFO.

**DHS Grants Office:** Send all questions to the Grants Officer at [CISMailbox@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CISMailbox@hq.dhs.gov)

### **H. Additional Information**

Applicants will obtain NOFO overviews and full announcement information from the Grants.gov website where the full NOFO is posted. Applications will be processed through the Grants.gov portal.

#### **Extensions**

Applicants may request a no-cost extension in order to complete all project activities. The request must be submitted 45 days prior to the expiration of the performance period. Requests for extensions are subject to approval by the DHS Grants and Financial Assistance Grants Officer.

## Appendices

For information on additional required documents, the E-Verify condition, and the format of the narrative application please see Appendix A and B.

1. For definitions of frequently used terms in this NOFO, visit [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants) and click on **FY 2020 Glossary**.
2. Applicants are also encouraged to review the **FY 2020 Guidance for Preparing Your Proposal** at [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants).
3. Before submitting your application, use the Applicant Checklist to ensure your application is complete and all required documents are included. Visit [www.uscis.gov/grants](http://www.uscis.gov/grants) and click on **FY 2020 Applicant Checklist**.

## Disclosure: Risk Assessment Evaluation

DHS staff will evaluate the risks to the program posed by each highly ranked applicant, including conducting due diligence to ensure an applicant's ability to manage federal funds. This evaluation is in addition to the evaluation of the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application on the basis of the Selection Criteria, and results from this evaluation may assist funding decisions. This evaluation may include a pre-award site visit, and for organizations who have not received prior DHS Grants and Financial Assistance Division (GFAD), awards may be required to complete a risk assessment questionnaire as part of the pre-award financial and administrative review. If an award is made, DHS may apply special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk of the award.

In evaluating risks, DHS may consider the following:

1. Financial stability;
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in applicable OMB Guidance;
3. Applicant's record in managing previous DHS awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
  - a) Timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements.
  - b) Accuracy of data reported.
  - c) Conformance to the terms and conditions of previous federal awards.
  - d) If applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards.
  - e) Information available through OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as: Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), Duns and SAM.
  - f) Reports and findings from single audits performed under Subpart F – Audit Requirements, 2 CFR Part 200 and findings and reports of any other available audits.
  - g) Applicant organization's annual report.
  - h) Publicly available information, including information from the applicant organization's website.
  - i) Applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients.

## Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status

Applicants are to disclose if they are currently designated as high risk by a federal awarding agency. This includes, but is not limited to, any status requiring additional oversight by a

federal awarding agency due to past programmatic, administrative or financial concerns. If an applicant is designated as high risk by a federal awarding agency, it should provide an explanation with the application package and include the following information:

1. The federal awarding agency that assigned the high risk status;
2. The federal awarding agency's point of contact for the risk status, including name, phone number and email address;
3. Date of the risk status designation;
4. Reason(s) for the risk status.

DHS seeks this information to ensure appropriate federal oversight of all grant awards. The disclosure of an organization's risk status does not disqualify it from receiving an award; however, additional grant oversight may be required. If necessary, this information will be provided in the award documentation. Failure to disclose high risk status may result in award termination or other remedies.



## **REQUIRED FORMS**

Complete the required forms in accordance with the application instructions on Grants.gov. If submitting any information that is deemed proprietary, privileged or confidential, commercial or financial, please denote the beginning and ending of such information with asterisks (\*\*\*)

### **1. Form SF-424 – Application for Federal Assistance**

This form must be completed within the application package on Grants.gov. You must download and install Adobe Reader in order to view this form. Applicants are only required to complete fields which are highlighted.

### **2. Form SF-424A – Budget**

This form must be completed within the application package on Grants.gov. You must download and install Adobe Reader in order to view this form. Applicants are only required to complete fields which are highlighted. Provide budget amounts by object class (personnel, fringe benefits, travel, etc.). Include second year budget amounts in Section E. Funds may be requested as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and are not precluded by the cost principles or program funding restrictions.

### **3. Certifications/Assurances**

These forms must be completed within the application package on Grants.gov. You must download and install Adobe Reader in order to view these forms. Applicants must submit:

- a. Form SF-424B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs;** and
- b. Certification Regarding Lobbying.** If paragraph two of the certification applies, then complete and submit SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying which is provided as an optional form in the application package.

By signing and submitting an application under this announcement, the applicant is providing: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters – Primary Covered Transactions; and Certification that the applicant is not delinquent on any federal debt.

### **4. Project Abstract (3 single-spaced page maximum)**

Provide the information requested below in a separate document, following the order outlined in the following table. The project abstract must not include any proprietary/confidential information. Attach the Project Abstract to the application package.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See the Grants.gov [Applicant User Guide](#) for instructions on how to attach forms and documents.

*Appendix A*  
*Additional Required Documents*

<b>General Information</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Organization legal name</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Organization legal address</b> (Number and street, city, state, zip code)
<b>3.</b>	<b>Head of the organization</b> (Name, title, address, phone number, email address)
<b>4.</b>	<b>Authorized official</b> , the person at the organization authorized to sign and receive award (Name, title, address, phone number, email address)
<b>5.</b>	<b>Grant project manager</b> , the person who will manage operations of the grant project and will serve as USCIS' primary point of contact (Name, title, address, phone number, email address)
<b>6.</b>	<b>Type of organization</b> (e.g., community/faith-based organization, public school, adult education program, public library, etc.)
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Project description</b> (200 words or less)            Provide a brief summary of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organization's experience providing English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship instruction to immigrants, the number of years providing services, and the estimated number of students peryear;</li> <li>• The organization's experience providing naturalization application services, number of years providing services, and the estimated number of clients per year;</li> <li>• A description of the immigrant community, including most common countries of origin that the organization will serve; and</li> <li>• Proposed grant project activities and outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Annual Organizational Budget</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Total federal funding requested</b> (Up to \$250,000)
<b>10.</b>	<b>Total federal funding allocated for citizenship instructor salaries</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Total federal funding allocated for administrative costs</b> (must not exceed 15%)
<b>12.</b>	<b>Applicant's total cost share</b> (percentage of total award amount requested; minimum of 10% required)
<b>13.</b>	<b>Geographic area/community</b> where services will be provided
<b>14.</b>	<b>Congressional district</b> (based on the legal address of the applicant organization)
<b>15.</b>	<b>Number of full-time equivalents (FTEs)</b> Indicate the number of intended grant-funded FTEs.
<b>16.</b>	<b>Fees charged for citizenship instruction</b> (if applicable)
<b>17.</b>	<b>Fees charged for naturalization application services</b> (if applicable)
<b>18.</b>	<b>Is your organization or proposed sub-awardee DOJ recognized?</b> (yes/no)
<b>19.</b>	<b>List all Department of Justice (DOJ) Accredited Representative (or partial) employee(s) or attorney employee(s)</b>

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<b>20.</b>	<b>Are all program sites in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act?</b>								
<b>21.</b>	<b>List any grants received by the applicant in the past three years focused on adult education or services to immigrants.</b>								
	<b>Name of Grant</b>			<b>Grantor</b>		<b>Period of Performance</b>		<b>Total Award Amount</b>	
<b>Proposed Citizenship Class Structure</b>									
<b>22.</b>	<b>Class cycle table:</b> Provide the information below for each class type. Follow the example provided below.								
	<b>Class Title and Instructor</b>	<b>Proficiency Level</b>	<b>Hours per class</b>	<b>Textbook, list author, edition and any supplementary resources used</b>	<b>Times per week</b>	<b>Weeks per class cycle</b>	<b>Total hours per class cycle</b>	<b>Times offered over two year period of performance</b>	<b>Location of class</b>
	e.g., Citizenship Morning (Instructor - Pat Jones)	High beginning	3	Citizenship Textbook A, Jones, 2017 and USCIS lesson plans from USCIS website	2	10	60	8	ABC Family Center
<b>NOTE:</b> Applicants must offer a minimum of 40 hours of citizenship instruction over a 10-12 week class cycle for students at the NRS low beginning to high intermediate level. (Note: Classes offered at the literacy or advanced level are not eligible for funding under this grant. Classes offered in languages other than English are not eligible for funding under this grant.)									
<b>23.</b>	<b>Number of total citizenship instruction hours to be offered over the two-year period</b>								
<b>24.</b>	<b>Approximate number of students enrolled per class</b>								
<b>25.</b>	<b>Other education services offered</b> (tutoring, study groups, etc.) (these services are not reimbursable)								
<b>26.</b>	<b>Additional support services offered</b> (childcare, transportation assistance, etc.)								
<b>27.</b>	<b>Name, publisher, and edition of citizenship textbook(s) to be used</b>								
<b>28.</b>	<b>Is the textbook free to students? If no, how much is charged?</b>								
<b>29.</b>	<b>Name of nationally normed standardized assessment test(s) of English language proficiency for student placement and assessment of progress</b>								
<b>30.</b>	<b>Is the organization an <a href="#">E-Verify</a> participating employer in good standing? If yes, provide the E-Verify company identification number or client company identification number.<sup>3</sup></b>								
<b>31.</b>	<b>Is the organization certified by the <a href="#">Student and Exchange Visitor Program</a> (SEVP)? If yes, please provide your SEVP campus ID number. If yes, are you currently in compliance with all SEVP</b>								

<sup>3</sup> E-Verify participation is required as a condition of receiving an award.

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	requirements?
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Sub-Awardee Organization (if applicable)	
<b>30.</b>	<b>Sub-awardee organization legal name</b>
<b>31.</b>	<b>Sub-awardee organization point of contact</b> (Name, title, address, phone number and email address)
<b>32.</b>	<b>Is the sub-awardee a non-profit or public organization?</b> If not, the sub-awardee is not eligible to receive funding.
<b>33.</b>	<b>Sub-awardee type of organization</b> (e.g., community/faith-based organization, public school, adult education program, public library, etc.)
<b>34.</b>	<b>Services proposed by sub-awardee organization</b>
<b>35.</b>	<b>Total funds allocated for the sub-awardee</b>
<b>36.</b>	<b>Is the sub-awardee an E-Verify participating employer in good standing? If yes, provide the E-Verify company identification number or client company identification number.<sup>4</sup></b>
<b>37.</b>	<b>Is the organization certified by the <a href="#">Student and Exchange Visitor Program</a> (SEVP)? If yes, please provide your SEVP campus ID number. If yes, are you currently in compliance with all SEVP requirements?</b>

**5. Project Narrative (15 double-spaced page maximum)**

In a separate document, provide a response for each item in the chart below following the order listed. Items 5.A. – 5.C. below are the **mandatory headings** that must be included in the Project Narrative. The items and attachments listed in each section are required, and any item or attachment that is omitted will result in points deducted.

**Format Requirements**

- You must follow the order specified below, using the required three headings:
  - A. Citizenship Instruction Program
  - B. Naturalization Application Services Program
  - C. Integration of Services
- Include the title “Project Narrative” at the top of the first page.
- Ensure that the application can be printed on 8 ½” x 11” single-sided paper.
- Use double-spacing.
- Font size must be at least 12 point, preferably Times New Roman font.
- Margins must be at least one (1) inch at the top, bottom, left and right of the paper.
- Project narrative pages must be numbered “1” of “XX.”
- Pages should be numbered consecutively and are limited to a total of **15 pages**.
- Do not include any marks from the “Track Changes” tool in your word processing program.

<sup>4</sup> E-Verify participation is required as a condition of receiving an award.

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- Attach the completed Project Narrative to the application package.

<b>Project Narrative Items</b>
<b>A. Citizenship Instruction Program</b>
<b>1. Experience and Community Need</b>
Describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The citizenship instruction provider's (must distinguish if it is the applicant or sub-awardee) recent <b>experience providing ESL instruction</b>. Include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dates and total years of experience providing ESL;</li><li>○ The number of students enrolled in ESL in the past year and any previous years;</li><li>○ Name of the standardized test of English language proficiency used (such as CASAS, BEST, etc.);</li><li>○ Experience administering the standardized test(s);</li><li>○ The program's pre and post-test rates for the last program cycle as well as the percentage of ESL students that demonstrated educational gains in that same program cycle.</li></ul></li><li>• The citizenship instructor provider's (must distinguish if it is the applicant or sub-awardee) recent <b>experience providing citizenship instruction</b>. Include the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dates and total years of experience providing citizenship instruction;</li><li>○ The number of students enrolled in citizenship instruction in the past year and any previous years;</li><li>○ If available, the naturalization test pass rate for program participants; and</li><li>○ The textbook and other resources used.</li></ul></li><li>• The particular <b>lawful permanent resident population(s) that you currently serve</b> with citizenship and ESL instruction.</li><li>• The <b>need for citizenship instruction</b> among the lawful permanent resident population that you serve, including whether there are wait lists for citizenship instruction and/or ESL instruction at your organization. Indicate whether there are other citizenship and ESL instruction service providers in your area.</li></ul>

**2. Attainable Goals for Enrollment, Testing, and Educational Gains**

- Explain how the proposed number of students to be served under the grant-funded program is attainable based on your organization’s experience, past performance, and the proposed budget.
- Explain how the proposed goals for percentage of students pre and post-tested, and percentage of students demonstrating educational gains are feasible based on your organization’s experience, past performance, and proposed budget. Describe the retention strategies employed or that will be employed to maintain a satisfactory post-test rate. Describe the strategies employed or that will be employed to assist students who are not making educational gains.
- Indicate how many additional students will be served under the grant-funded program that would not otherwise have been served.

**3. Program Administration**

Describe:

- The outreach plan to raise awareness of program services and recruit students.
- Intake procedures, including how the organization will verify and document that only lawful permanent residents will receive services funded through this funding opportunity.
- The orientation process for new students.
- Strategies for ensuring student retention and increasing post-test rates, including whether there are any known barriers to student attendance (e.g., transportation, childcare, student tuition, etc.), your organization’s strategies to address these and retain students, and proposed attendance policy.
- The proposed managed enrollment policy for the program, including whether students will be permitted to enroll in grant funded classes after the start of a class cycle (and if so, for how long into the cycle). Include how the organization will accommodate students who desire classes after the registration period has closed. Note: Programs may not enroll students after the third class period.

#### 4. Class Structure and Curriculum

Describe the curriculum<sup>5</sup> for the program. Provide the following information:

- A description of the **comprehensive citizenship education services** provided to students, including curriculum objectives and how the proposed curriculum<sup>4</sup> and class structure meet the needs of the lawful permanent resident community.
- A description of the **class structure**, including levels offered and length of each class cycle (in weeks and hours). Applicants may refer to the class cycle table provided in the Project Abstract. Note: Applicants must offer a minimum of 40 hours of citizenship instruction over a 10-12 week class cycle for students at the NRS low beginning to high intermediate level. (Classes offered at the beginner literacy NRS or pre-test at NRS advanced level are not eligible for funding under this grant. Classes offered in languages other than English are not eligible for funding under this grant.)
- If you propose to offer a multi-level class, describe **how the different levels** will be managed in the classroom, including how volunteers will be used.
- The use of **materials** for citizenship instruction, including the name, year, and edition of the textbook(s) that will be provided to students for each class level.
- A description of the **assessment process**, including:
  - The specific nationally normed standardized test or test(s) that will be used for the program to assess English language proficiency;<sup>6</sup>
  - When and how assessments are used;
  - The staff responsible for administering the test;
  - Strategies you intend to employ to ensure that all enrolled students are both pre and post tested; and
  - Non-standardized assessments (e.g., quizzes, unit tests, etc.) that are used to monitor student civic learning during the course for each class level.<sup>7</sup>
- If you have an existing ESL program, describe how you will coordinate services between the ESL program and the grant-funded citizenship classes. Be sure to include information on the coordination of assessment data, referrals, and curriculum.

<sup>5</sup> For guidance on developing a citizenship curriculum, please review the [Guide to the Adult Citizenship Education Content Standards and Foundation Skills](#).

<sup>6</sup> The standardized tests that the Department of Education has determined to be suitable to assess English language proficiency as listed in [Federal Register Notice Tests Determined To Be Suitable for Use in the National Reporting System](#)

<sup>7</sup> Grant recipients may use the USCIS developed Assessment of Adult Citizenship Education (AACE) to measure civic knowledge, which will be provided upon funding. This is not required.

**5. Personnel**

Describe **the staffing structure** for the proposed citizenship instruction program.

- Provide a list of key personnel for the program. Key personnel include the grant project manager(s) and teachers.
- For each person, provide the following information, preferably in a table format:
  - Name, or indicate if the position is vacant. If the position is vacant, a target start date;
  - Title and brief position description;
  - Whether the position is paid or volunteer;
  - FTE charged to the grant; and
  - Relevant experience, qualifications and training. Note that this grant must include at least one paid teacher position. The applicant must demonstrate that each teacher has at least one year of experience teaching ESL to adults in a classroom setting for a program that has a structured curriculum and utilizes a textbook, and:
    - (1) Holds a degree in TESOL/Adult Education; and/or
    - (2) Holds a TESOL/Adult Education certification from a state licensing agency; and/or
    - (3) Has a minimum of 2 years of experience teaching ESL to adults in a classroom setting for a program that has a structured curriculum.

See below for a sample staff table.

<b>Sample Staff Table</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title and Position Description</b>	<b>Paid or Volunteer</b>	<b>FTE charged to grant</b>	<b>Relevant experience, qualifications and training</b>
Mary Brown	Education Program Coordinator – manages adult education programs	Paid	0.5 FTE	TESOL degree, 5 years of experience as a program manager, 10 years of experience teaching ESL

- If applicable, explain how **volunteers** will be used for the citizenship instruction program. Describe their roles and responsibilities, the training they will receive, and the reporting structure. Volunteers must be managed by a paid lead teacher or a paid education program coordinator.
- If your organization has only one teacher on staff at the time of application, please describe your organization’s **contingency plan** for the provision of citizenship instruction in the event of staff turnover.



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<b>B. Naturalization Application Services Program</b>
<b>1. Experience and Community Need</b>
Describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The naturalization application services provider’s <b>recent experience providing naturalization application services within the authorized practice of immigration law.</b> Include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dates and total years of experience;</li><li>○ Whether the services were provided by attorneys or by U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP) accredited representatives; and</li><li>○ The number of lawful permanent residents served in the past year and any previous years.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Program achievements</b>, including the organization’s record of submitting successful naturalization applications.</li><li>• The particular <b>lawful permanent resident population(s) that you serve</b> with naturalization application services.</li><li>• The <b>need for naturalization application services</b> among the lawful permanent resident population that you serve, including whether there are wait lists for services. Indicate whether there are other naturalization application service providers in your area.</li></ul>
<b>2. Attainable Naturalization Application Services Goals</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain how the proposed number of naturalization clients to be served under the grant-funded program is feasible based on your organization’s experience, past performance, and the proposed budget.</li><li>• Indicate how many naturalization applications you intend to file in the next two years with this grant funding that otherwise would not have been filed. Please reference your program goals table attachment.</li></ul>
<b>3. Program Administration</b>
Describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The coordinated <b>outreach plan</b> to raise awareness of services and recruit clients.</li><li>• <b>Intake procedures</b>, including how the organization and sub-awardee (if applicable) will verify and document that only lawful permanent residents will receive services funded through this funding opportunity, and who conducts intake.</li></ul>
<b>4. Service Delivery and Case Management</b>
Describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The naturalization application services provided, including the forms filed on behalf of clients.</li><li>• The naturalization eligibility screening process and who will determine clients’ eligibility for naturalization.</li><li>• How your organization handles complex cases.</li><li>• The support provided to clients throughout the application process (i.e., from intake until the oath ceremony).</li><li>• How your organization prepares clients for the naturalization interview.</li><li>• How your organization keeps clients informed of their case status.</li><li>• Any plans to use grant funds to hold group application workshops, and if so, the process for following up with those clients about their cases.</li></ul>

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**1. Personnel**

Describe the **staffing structure** for the proposed naturalization application services program.

- Provide a list of key personnel for the program. Key personnel include the project manager(s), the DOJ accredited representative(s) and/or attorney(s), and any additional case workers.
- For each person, provide the following information, preferably in a table format:
  - Name, or indicate if the position is vacant. If the position is vacant, provide a separate position description and target start date;
  - Title and brief position description;
  - Whether the position is paid or volunteer;
  - FTE charged to the grant;
  - Relevant experience, qualifications and training. For the DOJ accredited representative(s) and/or attorney(s), indicate the level of experience providing naturalization application services; and
  - Indicate who will sign Form N-400 as the preparer and who will enter their appearance as Attorney or DOJ accredited representative by signing Form G-28 in connection with all naturalization applications filed under this grant.

See below for a sample staff table.

<b>Sample Staff Table</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title and Position Description</b>	<b>Paid or Volunteer</b>	<b>FTE charged to grant</b>	<b>Relevant experience, qualifications and training</b>
Jim Smith	DOJ accredited representative – provides immigration legal services to clients	Paid	0.3 FTE	Accredited for 5 years, 3 years of experience with naturalization application services

- If your organization has only one staff member that is DOJ accredited or an attorney, please describe your organization’s **contingency plan** for the provision of naturalization application services in the event of staff turnover. You may use grant funds to cover costs associated with the DOJ accreditation of additional staff members.
- If applicable, explain how **volunteers** will be used for the naturalization application services program. Describe their qualifications, roles and responsibilities, the training they will receive, and the reporting structure.

### C. Integration of Services

Describe:

- The plan to provide **integrated citizenship preparation services** so that lawful permanent residents are aware of the full range of grant-funded services and can easily access both types of services (instruction and naturalization application assistance). Indicate who will coordinate both components of the grant program and ensure that outreach, intake, and services are conducted in an integrated manner.
- The **communications plan** for maintaining regular contact between the service providers, including how often meetings will take place and in what manner (by phone or in-person).
- The **referral process** between the citizenship instruction provider and the naturalization application services provider.
- Plans for a coordinated **data collection system**, including how the organization and sub-awardee (if applicable) will track and report on services provided and whether students and clients naturalize. Explain the system used for tracking data.
- If a **sub-awardee** is proposed, describe the applicant's history working with the sub-awardee organization. Describe the applicant's plan for managing the sub-awardee's performance and maintaining frequent communication with the sub-awardee.

## 6. Project Narrative Attachments

NOTE: The attachments will not count toward the page limit for the Project Narrative. These items should be attached to the application package.

- a. Provide a document summarizing your program's citizenship curriculum. This document must include:
  - (1) a course abstract that provides a summary of the course or courses offered;
  - (2) Course learning objectives;
  - (3) Textbook(s) and supplemental materials to be used;
  - (4) A scope and sequence (not to exceed one page) that outlines the order in which the content will be delivered, how long each topic/lesson/unit will be covered. NOTE: The scope and sequence must align with the class structure outlined in the project abstract. (Do not send the textbook table of contents.); and
  - (5) A description of assessments used and when assessments are administered.

For more information on creating a curriculum, please see the [USCIS Guide to Creating an Adult Citizenship Education Curriculum](#).

- b. Provide **one original lesson plan** for each class level. (Photocopies of textbook pages or USCIS civics lesson plan are not acceptable.)

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- c. Attach **résumés** and/or **position descriptions** (if the position is vacant) for all key personnel, including program managers and coordinators, teachers (paid and volunteer), attorneys and/or DOJ accredited representatives, and other legal support staff. Résumés must include all relevant job experience, education, and licensure or accreditation with corresponding dates.
- d. **Organizational chart** for the applicant and any proposed sub-awardee(s).
- e. If you propose a sub-awardee, the applicant must include a signed **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between the organizations as a required attachment to the grant application. The MOU should include the responsibilities expected of each party, performance expectations, plans for maintaining communication, and the payment and/or reimbursement process for the sub-awardee(s). The MOU should be signed by both parties and dated.

**7. Program Goals**

Provide the following goals for grant-funded services in a table format. Include the total number over the 2-year period, as well as a breakdown by quarter. There are 8 quarters over the 2-year performance period, and each quarter is 3 months long.

<b>Program Goal Chart</b>									
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>	<b>Q8</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1.</b> Number of newly enrolled (non-duplicated) lawful permanent residents to enroll in citizenship instruction classes ( <b>Minimum 200</b> )									
<b>2.</b> Percentage of enrolled students who post-test ( <b>Minimum 80%</b> )									
<b>3.</b> Percentage of post-tested students demonstrating measurable educational gains ( <b>Minimum 80%</b> )									
<b>4.</b> Number of lawful permanent residents for whom your organization will provide naturalization eligibility screening ( <b>Minimum 200</b> )									

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5. Number of lawful permanent residents for whom your organization will prepare and submit Form N-400 and Form G-28 ( <b>Minimum 200</b> )									
6. Number of lawful permanent residents to pass the naturalization test after receiving services from your organization									
7. Number of lawful permanent residents to naturalize after receiving services from your organization									

**8. USCIS Quarterly Feedback Report (Current or Past Grant Recipients Only)**

If USCIS awarded your organization with a Citizenship and Assimilation Grant anytime in 2012-2018, please provide a copy of the most recent quarterly feedback report.

Note: This is an example of a FY 2019 USCIS feedback report. Please be sure to include your full feedback report, not just the example shown below.

FY 2019 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program			
Quarterly Feedback Report			
<b>I. Grant Information</b>			
Organization			
USCIS Program Officer			
Quarter			
Feedback Report Date			
<b>II. Goal Progress Assessment</b>			
Core Goal	Did you meet your quarterly goal?	On track to meet cumulative goal?	Feedback: (1) What has gone well? (2) What needs to improve? (3) Does grantee need assistance from USCIS? If so, what? (Assistance can include programmatic, teacher training, retention, educational, testing, legal, technical, and other types of help)
Number of newly-enrolled (non-duplicated) citizenship students			
Percentage of enrolled students who post-tested			
Percentage of post-tested students demonstrating measurable gains			
Number of LPRs that received naturalization eligibility screening			
Number of LPRs for whom your organization prepared and submitted Form N-400			

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**9. Budget Table and Narrative**

When proposing costs for this grant program, ensure that the budget shows a reasonable balance of costs between the citizenship instruction program and the naturalization application services program.

If a **sub-awardee** is proposed, applicants must provide a separate sub-awardee budget narrative and table following the same format and with the same level of detail as that of the applicant (i.e., by Object Class Category/Cost Classification). Each sub-awardee budget and supporting detail should be separate from the applicant’s budget narrative.

If any fees are proposed that will result in program income, show in the budget how this income will be used to support the program.

**Budget Table**

Provide your budget request in a table format in addition to the budget narrative. Include all budget categories, as listed in the budget narrative section. Under each category list the line items requested. See sample table below. Note: This sample table shows the Personnel category only. Applicants must provide information on all budget categories.

The Budget Table may be provided either in the same document as the budget narrative or attached to the application package.

Budget Table									
Category and Item	Year 1			Year 2			Total		
	In-Kind	DHS	Total	In-Kind	DHS	Total	In-Kind	DHS	Total
<b>1. Personnel</b>									
J. Smith, Program Manager - 1 FTE	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X
B. Diaz, Instructor - 0.5 FTE	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X
L. Santiago, Attorney - 1 FTE	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X
K. Brown, Assistant - 0.25 FTE	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X
<b>TOTAL Personnel</b>	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X

**Budget Narrative (Five-page limit)**

Attach your budget narrative (including separate budget narratives for each proposed sub-awardee) to the application package. Please limit the information provided in

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this section to budget relevant information only.

Include costs for the first and second performance years. Separate the first performance year costs from the second performance year costs. Show a total of all requested federal grant funds. This total should match the total listed on the project abstract. Budget categories **b – i** below should add up to this total. This total should **not** include any in-kind costs. The in-kind contribution total should be listed separately.

Provide budget information in the order listed below. Budget detail is required for:

- a. **In-Kind Costs**: The dollar value of non-cash donations to the project. These donations may be in the form of space, supplies, salaries, etc. The costs should be calculated at the verifiable fair-marketvalue.
- b. **Personnel**: Costs of employee salaries and wages. For each staff person, provide the name (if known), title, time commitment to the project as a percentage of a full-time equivalent (FTE), annual salary, and grant funded salary. Do not include the costs of consultants. Consultants are to be included under “Contractual.”
- c. **Fringe Benefits**: Costs of employee fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate. Provide the method used to calculate the proposed rate amount. If a fringe benefit has been negotiated with, or approved by, a cognizant federal agency, **attach a copy of the negotiated fringe benefit agreement**. If no rate agreement exists, provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, FICA, retirement insurance, taxes, etc. Identify the base for allocating these fringe benefit expenses. (Attach the agreement to the application package.)
- d. **Travel**: Costs of project-related travel by employees of the applicant organization and/or sub-awardees (do not include costs of sub-contractor or consultanttravel). For each proposed trip, provide the purpose, number of travelers, travel origin and destination, number of days, and a breakdown of costs for airfare, lodging, meals, car rental, and incidentals. The basis for the airfare, lodging, meals, car rental, and incidentals must be provided, such as past trips, current quotations, Federal Travel Regulations, etc. Foreign travel is not permitted. The applicant must include costs for two staff members to attend a **mandatory** two-day grant recipient orientation training in Washington, D.C. the first year of the grant, and costs for a teacher/coordinator to attend a USCIS teacher training on activities and methods that promote linguistic and civic assimilation during the second year of the grant.

**Equipment**: Any article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or

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exceeds the lesser of (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for financial statement purposes, or (b) \$5,000. For each type of equipment requested, provide a description of the equipment, the cost per unit, the number of units, the total cost, and a plan for use on the project, as well as use or disposal of the equipment after the project ends. An applicant organization that uses its own definition for equipment should provide a copy of its policy or section of its policy which includes the equipment definition.

**NOTE 1:** Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, calibration and maintenance services, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation must be included in or excluded from acquisition cost in accordance with the organization's regular written accounting practices.

**NOTE 2:** Before purchasing equipment in the amount of \$5,000 or more per unit cost, the Recipient must obtain the written approval from DHS. The Recipient must maintain an annual inventory, which will include a brief description of the item, serial number and amount of purchase for equipment purchased with grant funds, or received under a grant, and having a \$5,000 or more per unit cost. The inventory must also identify the sub-award under which the equipment was purchased. Maintenance and insurance will be the responsibility of the Recipient. Title of equipment will remain with the Recipient until closeout when disposition will be provided in writing by DHS within 120 days of submission of final reports.

- e. **Supplies:** Costs of all tangible personal property other than that included in the equipment category. Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information which supports the amount requested. Grantees should calculate the cost of assessments as well as printing the USCIS required assessment.
- f. **Contractual:** Costs of all contracts for services and goods except for those that belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc. Include third party evaluation contracts (if applicable) and contracts with secondary recipient organizations.

Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open and free competition. Identify proposed sub-contractor work and the cost of each sub-contractor. Provide a detailed budget for each sub-contractor that is expected to perform



*Appendix A*  
*Additional Required Documents*

work estimated to be \$25,000 or more, or 50% of the total work effort, whichever is less.

- Identify each planned subcontractor and its total proposed budget. Each subcontractor's budget and supporting detail should be included as part of the applicant's budget narrative.
- Provide the following information for each planned subcontract: a brief description of the work to be subcontracted; the number of quotes solicited and received, if applicable; the cost or price analysis performed by the applicant; names and addresses of the subcontractors tentatively selected and the basis for their selection; e.g., unique capabilities (for sole source subcontracts), low bidder, delivery schedule, technical competence; type of contract and estimated cost and fee or profit; and, affiliation with the applicant, if any.
- Recipient may be required to make pre-award review and procurement documents available to DHS, including request for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc. This may include procurements expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold fixed at 41 U.S.C. 403(11) (currently set at \$100,000) and expected to be awarded without competition or only one bid or offer is received in response to a solicitation.
- All required flow down provisions in the award must be included in any subcontract.

**NOTE:** Applicants may propose a sub-contract for specific tasks, such as hiring additional citizenship instructors on a contractual basis.

However, the applicant must demonstrate its ability to successfully manage all aspects of the grant-funded project, including financial management. **Private law firms and attorneys in private practice are not eligible to receive funding under this funding opportunity.**

- g. **Other Direct Costs:** Any other items proposed as direct costs. Provide an itemized list with costs and state the basis for each proposed item.

**Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs must not exceed 15% of the total award amount. The submission of an application under this funding opportunity is considered to be acceptance of this requirement and is not subject to negotiation if selected for award. **Attach a copy of the latest indirect cost rate agreement** negotiated with a cognizant federal agency. If the applicant is in the process of initially developing or renegotiating a rate, upon notification that an award will be made, it should immediately develop a tentative indirect cost rate proposal based on its most recently completed fiscal year, in accordance with the cognizant agency's guidelines for establishing indirect

***Appendix A***  
***Additional Required Documents***

cost rates, and submit it to the cognizant agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposals may also request indirect costs. When an indirect cost rate is requested, those costs included in the indirect cost pool should not also be charged as direct costs to the award. If the applicant is requesting a rate which is less than what is allowed under the program, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed.

Any non-federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate (except for those non-federal entities described in [Appendix VII to Part 200 States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals](#), paragraph D.1.b) may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in [§200.403 Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs](#), costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all federal awards until such time as a non-federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-federal entity may apply to do at any time. For more information, see [2 CFR Part 200.414](#).

**10. Documentation of Non-profit and/or Public Status**

The applicant and any proposed sub-awardee must provide documentation of non-profit and/or public status. Any of the following constitutes acceptable proof of non-profit status:

- a. A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.
- b. A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate.
- c. A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has a non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- d. A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.
- e. Any of the items in the subparagraphs immediately above for a State or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.
- f. A signed statement on official letterhead by an official authorized to apply for grant funds on behalf of the public entity will suffice.

Attach documentation of non-profit and/or public status to the application package.

**Award Term and Condition: Requirement to use E-Verify for employment eligibility verification of employees under awards and subawards**

The following award term and condition is incorporated by reference into the eligibility criteria for the fiscal year 2020 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program.

This award term and condition is applicable to all citizenship and/or assimilation grant recipients and subrecipients who are subject to the employment eligibility verification (Form I-9) requirements established under the Immigration and Nationality Act § 274A (codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1324a), and as described in 8 CFR § 274a.2 and agency guidance. (Please refer to the terms and conditions that accompany the award document.)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) administer E-Verify. For information about E-Verify, visit: <https://www.e-verify.gov>. Questions regarding this award term and condition should be directed to USCIS, External Affairs Directorate, Office of Citizenship, [citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov).

**Award Term and Condition:**

**Requirement for recipients and subrecipients to enroll in and participate in E-Verify**

*Section A. Requirement to use E-Verify to confirm employment eligibility*

Unless an exemption applies (as set out at sections B.3. and F of this award term and condition), throughout the period of performance for the award, with respect to the hiring of any individual for employment in the United States under the “program or activity” (as defined under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (see 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-4a)) that is funded in whole or in part under the award or subaward, the recipient or subrecipient must enroll (if not already enrolled) in E-Verify, use E-Verify to confirm employment eligibility of all new hires, and take such steps as may be necessary to ensure award and subaward recipient compliance with this award term and condition.

*Section B. Enrollment and verification requirements*

1. If the recipient is not enrolled in E-Verify at time of award, the recipient must—

- a. *Enroll.* Enroll in E-Verify within 30 calendar days of the award date;
- b. *Verify all new hires.* After enrollment, use E-Verify to confirm employment eligibility of all new hires of the recipient, who are working in the United States, at hiring sites performing work under the program or activity funded in whole or in part under the award, within 3 business days after the first day of employment (but see paragraph B.3 of this award condition).

***Appendix B***  
***E-Verify Requirements***

2. If the recipient is enrolled in E-Verify at time of award, the recipient must--

a. *Verify all new hires.* Use E-Verify to confirm employment eligibility of all new hires of the recipient, who are working in the United States, at hiring sites performing work under the program or activity funded in whole or in part under the award, within 3 business days after the first day of employment (but see paragraph B.3 of this award term and condition).

3. The recipient must comply, for the period of performance of the award, with the requirements of the E-Verify MOU except that –

a. DHS may suspend or terminate the recipient’s MOU and deny access to E-Verify in accordance with the terms of the MOU. In such cases, as appropriate, the recipient may be referred to a suspension or debarment official.

b. During the period between suspension or termination of the MOU by DHS and any decision by the suspension or debarment official whether to suspend or debar the recipient, the recipient is excused from its obligations under section B. of this award term and condition.

c. In exceptional cases, the head of the DHS grant activity may waive the E-Verify requirement for an award or subaward, or a class of awards or subawards, either temporarily or for the period of performance for the award. This waiver authority may not be delegated.

*Section C. Subawards to Subrecipients*

The recipient must—

a. include the requirements of this award term and condition (appropriately modified for identification of the parties), including sections C and D, in each first-tier subaward, such as to make such requirements applicable to all subrecipients; and

b. take such steps as may be necessary to ensure inclusion of the requirements of this award term and condition (appropriately modified for identification of the parties), including sections C and D, in each subaward at any subsequent tier under the award, such as to make such requirements applicable to all subsequent-tier subrecipients.

*Section D. Procurement “contracts” under the award*

The recipient must include (or, as applicable, require the inclusion of) provisions (appropriately modified for identification of the parties) in any first-tier procurement “contract” under the award – if not otherwise inconsistent with applicable law – that would require the “contractor” to use E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of new hires whose work: 1) is funded with award funds; and 2) will be performed in the United States. No such provisions are required to be included in any procurement “contract” beyond the first tier.

***Appendix B***  
***E-Verify Requirements***

*Section E. Antidiscrimination policy*

Nothing in this award term and condition relieves the recipient of any antidiscrimination obligation under section 274B of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1324b) or any other law.

*Section F. Definitions*

As used in this award term and condition —

“Contract” and “Contractor” have the meanings given at 2 CFR § 200.22 and 2 CFR § 200.23, respectively.

“Employment” has the meaning given at 8 CFR § 274a.1(h).

“Memorandum of Understanding” or “MOU” means the legal document (required as part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s enrollment process for E-Verify) describing the agreement between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the entity requesting participation in E-Verify.

“Subaward” is as defined at 2 CFR § 200.92.

“Subrecipient” is as defined at 2 CFR § 200.93, except that, for the purposes of this award term and condition, non-federal entity means a recipient of (or a subrecipient under) a grant or cooperative agreement award from DHS.

“United States,” as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(38), means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

*Section G. E-Verify*

Information about E-Verify is available at the following website: <https://www.e-verify.gov>.