



FY23 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

USCIS

June 27, 2023

- Hello everyone. Thank you for joining us for our national engagement on **FY23 Citizenship and Integration Grant**.

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****USCIS owns the images**

Agenda



U.S. Citizenship
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- Welcome
- Overview of the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program
- FY23 Notices of Funding Opportunity – Overview and Performance Expectations
- Eligibility Requirements
- Application Process
- Questions and Answers

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Welcome



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The mission of the USCIS Office of Citizenship is to:

- Provide federal leadership, tools, and resources to foster immigrant integration.
- Promote instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities.
- Engage and support organizations in their integration efforts.



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 - Provide federal leadership, tools, and resources to foster immigrant integration
 - Promote instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities
 - Engage and support organizations in their integration efforts
- The USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program is an important component of our mission here in the Office of Citizenship and at USCIS.

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Overview of the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program



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The goal of the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program is to:

- Expand the availability of high-quality citizenship preparation services for immigrants across the nation; and
- Provide opportunities for immigrants to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate into the fabric of American society.

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* *Photo from Baltimore City Community College and IRC Baltimore*

Overview of the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, cont'd.



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- Since 2009, the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program has awarded more than \$132 million through 579 competitive grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 39 states and the District of Columbia.
- The program has assisted more than 300,000 immigrants prepare for citizenship.



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** Photo from Hartford Public Library*

FY23 Notices of Funding Opportunity



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In FY23, USCIS will offer \$25 million through four competitive funding opportunities:

- Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services Grant (CINAS)
- Community and Regional Integration Network Grant (CARING)
- Innovations in Citizenship Preparation Grant (Innovations)
- Regional Hub Program (Hub)

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- The FY23 \$25 million funding level has increased by \$5 million since last year.
- This increase in funding enables USCIS to offer funding to more qualified recipients.
- On the following slides, we will briefly describe each of the four grant programs and highlight the eligibility requirements for applicants.
- If your organization plans to apply, please review the full program descriptions and application instructions published in the Notices of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO.
- You can find the published NOFOs on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

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CINAS Overview



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- Approximately 55 grants of up to \$300,000 each.
- Two-year period of performance: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025.
- The goal of the CINAS grants is to support organizations that provide direct citizenship preparation services to immigrants.



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Citizenship preparation services include citizenship instruction and naturalization application services.

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CINAS Overview, cont'd.



- **Citizenship Instruction Services:** Educational services that provide enrolled immigrants with the skills and knowledge needed to prepare for citizenship, including instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL), U.S. history and government, and the naturalization process.
- **Naturalization Application Services:** Within the scope of the authorized practice of immigration law, grant recipients must assist qualified program participants in preparing and submitting Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, preparing for the naturalization interview, and providing ongoing case management as needed.

The terms “citizenship instruction services” and “naturalization application services” will be used throughout the presentation. To clarify, here is what USCIS means by these terms.

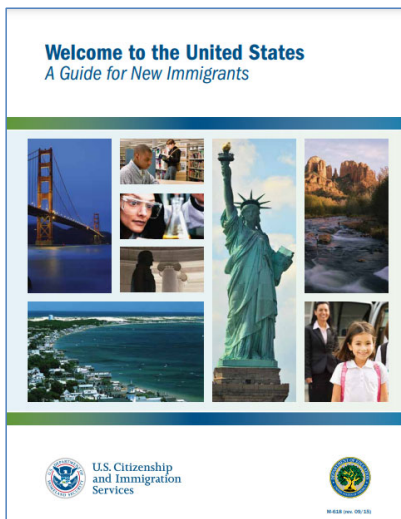
- **Citizenship Instruction Services:** Educational services that provide enrolled immigrants with the skills and knowledge needed to prepare for citizenship, including instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL), U.S. history and government, and the naturalization process.
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CARING Overview



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- Approximately 3 grants of up to \$300,000 each
- Two-year period of performance: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025.
- The goal of the CARING grants is to support organizations providing extended integration services and citizenship preparation services to vulnerable immigrant populations.
- Grant recipients will provide citizenship preparation services and will develop individualized integration plans for each participant.

- This grant program was previously called the Refugee and Asylee Integration Services Grant.
- Specific vulnerable populations include:
 - Refugees and asylees
 - Cuban or Haitian entrants
 - Victims of human trafficking or criminal activity (T and U Visas)
 - Abused spouses, children, or parents of U.S. citizens (VAWA)
 - Individuals on Special Immigrant Visas
- The CARING grant is the only FY23 grant that permits civics-based literacy and civics-based ESL instruction. These classes target lower-level learners who do not yet possess sufficient English language skills to be placed in a traditional citizenship class. Civics-based literacy classes target program participants assessed at the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) level 1 – beginning ESL literacy. The civics-based ESL classes target program participants who assess at NRS level 2- low beginning ESL.

- The other grant programs require citizenship instruction classes that target NRS low beginning to high intermediate levels (levels 2-6).

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Innovations Overview



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- Up to 14 grants of up to \$250,000 each.
- Two-year period of performance: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025.
- The goal of the Innovations grant is to amplify innovations in citizenship preparation and foster creative approaches to preparing immigrants for naturalization.
- USCIS will consider applications for all types of citizenship preparation innovations. However, the most successful applicants will propose innovations that address an existing challenge within the citizenship preparation field.

USCIS is particularly interested in funding innovations that engage hard-to-reach populations. Examples include but are not limited to:

- LPRs residing in rural locations or other isolated areas where there is a lack of access to citizenship education services; or
- LPRs whose jobs require mobility (e.g., migrant workers, nurses, truck drivers, etc.), making it difficult for them to participate in in-person classes for a significant period of time;
- LPRs who are pre-literate and/or have limited literacy skills in their native language and therefore require substantial support to prepare for the naturalization process;
- LPRs who have been historically and traditionally marginalized (e.g., the elderly, women, victims of crime, etc.); and
- LPRs covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) who may need support to successfully navigate the naturalization process.

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Innovations Grant



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Innovations grant recipients will organize their work into three phases:

- **Phase 1: Conduct Research and Refine Project Plan**
- **Phase 2: Develop Innovation**
- **Phase 3: Pilot Testing, Iterative Evaluation, and Rollout**

- Under the Innovations grant, work will be divided into three phases, and each phase will have one standard performance measure. USCIS will evaluate each recipient's performance on how well they achieve their stated goals.
- The three phases are:

Phase 1: Conduct Research and Refine Project Plan

During the first quarter, grantees will have a start-up period to conduct research, and refine their project plans.

Phase 2: Develop Innovation

During this period, which lasts one year, grantees will focus on developing or building their innovation.

Phase 3: Pilot Testing, Iterative Evaluation, and Rollout

During this phase, grantees will pilot or test their innovation in accordance with their project plan. Once the grantee is satisfied with their innovation, they should make their innovation publicly available in accordance with their project plan so that others may benefit from their experience.

- Successful applicants will include key performance indicators related to attaining U.S. citizenship in their applications.
- Grantees must submit A-numbers of all program participants.

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Regional Hub Overview



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- Up to 4 grants of \$1,000,000 each.
- Two-year period of performance: Oct. 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2025.
- The Regional Hub funding opportunity is designed to build community and organizational capacity to identify, support, and prepare LPRs for citizenship.



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Regional Hub Grant



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Regional hub grantees must achieve the following objectives:

- **Create or expand a city, county, state, or regional citizenship network dedicated to helping LPRs understand, prepare, and apply for naturalization.**
- **Provide (or contract a qualified organization to provide) expert-level technical assistance to organizations that currently offer citizenship preparation services.**

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Regional Hub Grant, cont'd.



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Regional Hub grant recipients will organize their work into three phases:

- Phase 1: Start-up (Q1-Q2)
- Phase 2: Implement and Expand (Q3-Q4)
- Phase 3: Achieve and Sustain (Q5-Q8)



- Phase 1: Start-up Quarters 1-2, October 1, 2023 – March 30, 2024
 - Citizenship Lead: Recruits at least 10 new members to the citizenship network, identifies meeting location, identify shared platform for communicating with members and sharing resources.
 - Technical Assistance Lead: Conducts a site visit to each sub-awardee and evaluates their existing citizenship services using an evaluation tool provided by USCIS. The Technical Assistance Lead will then create a program development plan for each sub-awardee, outlining the specific steps it will take to help develop high-quality citizenship programs for each sub-recipient.
- Phase 2: Implement and Expand Quarters 3-4, April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024
 - Citizenship Network Lead: Holds regular network meetings
 - Technical Assistance Lead: Provides technical assistance to the three sub-awardees

- Phase 3: Achieve and Sustain Quarters 5-8, October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025
 - Citizenship Network Lead: Continues holding regular network meetings; also begins offering quarterly community citizenship fairs.
 - Technical Assistance Lead: Continues providing technical assistance to sub-awardees. Sub-awardees must all be providing both citizenship instructions and naturalization application services by Q5.

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CIGP Eligibility Requirements



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- Organizations with public or nonprofit status may apply for the CINAS, CARING, and Regional Hub grants.
- Public, nonprofit, for-profit organizations and small businesses may apply for the Innovations grant.
- Applicants may apply to multiple FY23 funding opportunities. However, USCIS reserves the right to only fund one award per applicant.
- Organizations that received funding under some FY 2022 grant programs are ineligible to apply for FY 2023 grant program. Please review the eligibility section of each NOFO for additional details.

- The following types of organizations may apply:
 - City or township governments
 - County governments
 - Independent school districts
 - Indian/Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
 - Indian/Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
 - Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization
 - Public/Indian Housing Authority
 - Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) IRS status, other than institutions of higher education
 - Private institutions of higher education
 - Public & state-controlled institutions of higher education
 - Special district governments
 - State governments
 - Small businesses
 - For-profit organizations other than small businesses

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Review and Selection Process



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- Applications are due by 11:59 PM EST on 7/28/2023 via grants.gov.
- All applicants must have a UEI number, a valid EIN number, and an updated SAM account prior to submitting an application.
- USCIS will conduct a technical review of all eligible applications:
 - USCIS will convene panels of grant reviewers.
 - Applications will be scored and ranked based on the criterion in the NOFOs.
- Selection and final award notification completed prior to October 1, 2023.

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- Selection and final award notification completed prior to October 1, 2023
- UEI number = Unique Entity Identifier number, formerly known as a DUNS number
- EIN number = Employer Identification Number
- SAM = System for Award Management

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Eligibility Requirements



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Grants and Financial Assistance Division

Department of Homeland Security

www.dhs.gov/dhs-grants

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Eligibility Requirements Overview



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Grants and Financial Assistance Division, Department of Homeland Security

- Eligible Applicants
- Applicant Eligibility Criteria
- Not Eligible
- Non-responsive Applications
- Maintenance of Effort
- Cost Share or Match
- Key Dates Highlight

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Grants Application Process



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Grants.gov

www.grants.gov

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Now we will review Grants.gov topics including:

- Application and Submission
- System for Award Management(SAM.gov)
- Grants.gov Account
- Grants.gov resources

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Application and Submission



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Applications are due by July 28, 2023.

Other key elements:

Grants.gov

- SAM Registration – Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) replaces DUNS
- Grants.gov Registration
- Grants.gov Tips and Resources

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Registration: Before Grants.gov

System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

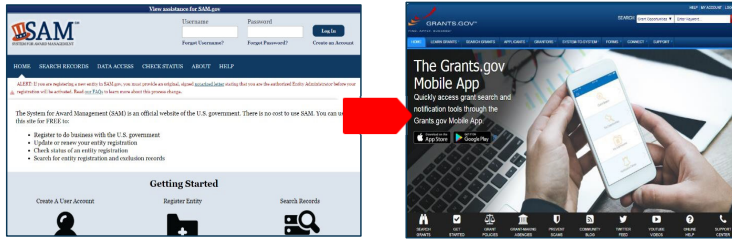


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- Register with SAM at: www.SAM.gov to receive UEI
- Establish E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC): Individual who oversees all activities for organization within Grants.gov and approves the AOR
- 7-10 (or more) business days after completely registering, including submitting notarized letter to SAM

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Registration: SAM.gov and Grants.gov



- Organization data and EBiz POC information are transferred electronically from SAM to Grants.gov.
- Applicants within the organization can add a new profile to their account to associate with the organization.
- Visit SAM.gov for more information: <https://sam.gov/content/home>.
- **NOTE:** SAM registration must be renewed annually.

Images are screen captures of Sam.gov and Grants.gov websites which are provided and maintained for public information and education.

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Registration: Grants.gov Account



For a full overview of the grants.gov process visit:
<https://www.grants.gov/documents/19/18243/GrantsgovApplicantOverviewTraining.pptx>

Grants.gov topics include:

- Navigating Grants.gov
- Registration
- Search Grants
- What's in a Funding Opportunity?
- Applying with Workspace
- Track Application Submission
- Tips and Support Resources Training Topics
- Navigating Grants

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Images are screen captures of Grants.gov registration web page.

Tips for Applicants

Crafting Grant Proposals and Submitting Applications



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- Register and submit early.
- Thoroughly read and follow all the instructions provided by the agency.
- Fill out SF-424 forms first.
- Include sufficient program and budget details.
- Attachment file names must be 50 characters or less and only contain UTF-8 characters.
- Use correct UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) when creating a workspace.
- Make sure you have Grants.gov compatible PDF software (Adobe Reader).

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Connect with Grants.gov



Applicant Support Center available 24/7 (closed on Federal holidays)

support@grants.gov | 1-800-518-4726 (toll-free) | 1-606-545-5035 (international)



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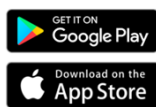
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on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

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Community@grants.gov

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QUESTIONS?

Please contact the USCIS Office of Citizenship at citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov for any questions on the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program.

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Resources



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- USCIS Grant Program Office: citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov
- Grants.gov: support@grants.gov or 1-800-518-4726
- DHS Grants Office: CISMailbox@hq.dhs.gov
- Subscribe or view a list of upcoming local and national engagements: uscis.gov/outreach
- Share feedback on today's engagement or contact us: Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov



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END OF PRESENTATION

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Author: USCIS

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