FY 2024 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

USCIS

May 22, 2024

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- All lines are muted.

- Submit written questions through the "Q&A box" on the right side of your screen.

Opening Remarks

Felicia Escobar Carrillo

Chief of Staff

USCIS Office of the Director

Agenda

- Welcome

- Overview of the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

- FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity – Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services (CINAS)

- FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity – Citizenship and Integration Training Academy (CITA)

- Application Process – Grants.gov

- Eligibility Requirements – DHS Grants and Financial Assistance Division

- Questions and Answers

Welcome – USCIS Office of Citizenship

Provides federal leadership, tools, and resources to foster immigrant integration

Promotes instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities

Engages and supports organizations in their integration efforts

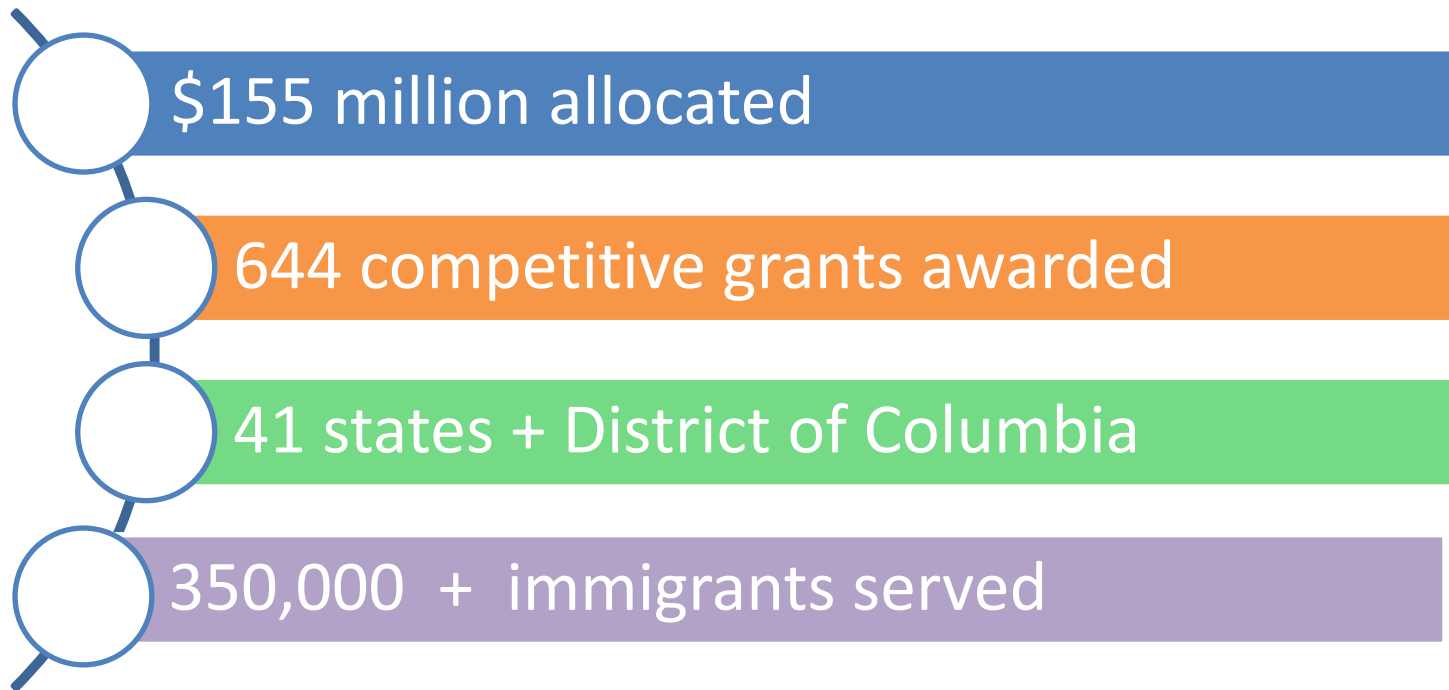# Overview of the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

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.

Program Impact

$155 million allocated

644 competitive grants awarded

41 states + District of Columbia

350,000 + immigrants served

FY 2024 Notices of Funding Opportunity

In FY 2024, USCIS will offer $12.6 million through two competitive funding opportunities:
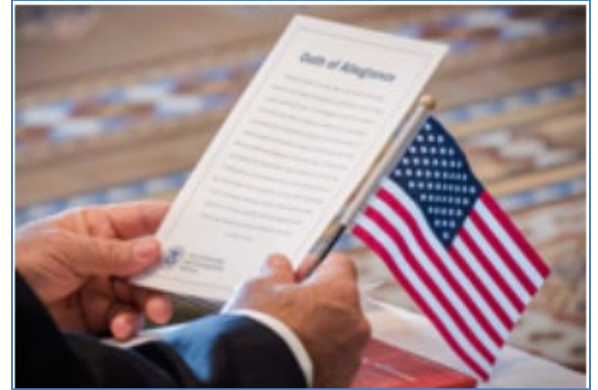
- Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services Grant (CINAS)
- Citizenship and Integration Training Academy (CITA)

CINAS Overview

- Approximately 40 grants of up to $300,000 each

- Two-year period of performance: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2026

- The goal of the CINAS grant is to support organizations that provide direct citizenship preparation services to immigrants

CINAS Overview, Cont.

- **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 by conducting naturalization eligibility screening, preparing and submitting Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, preparing for the naturalization interview, and providing ongoing case management as needed.

Who Can Apply for CINAS?

A diverse range of organizations are eligible to apply, including:

- City, township and county governments

- Independent school districts

- Indian/Native American tribally designated organizations and governments

- Public/Indian housing authorities

- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) IRS status, other than institutions of higher education

- Private, public and state-controlled institutions of higher education

- Special district governments

- State governments

When Can Organizations Apply for CINAS?

- Organizations may now apply for the FY 24 Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services Grant (CINAS) Notice of Funding Opportunity on www.grants.gov.

- Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on 6/21/2024 via grants.gov.

- All applicants must have:

  - a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number,

  - a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN), and

  - an updated System for Award Management (SAM) account prior to submitting an application.

Review and Selection Process for CINAS

- Initial eligibility review to ensure each application meets the minimum eligibility requirements

- Merit review of all eligible applications:

    o USCIS will convene panels of grant reviewers

    o Applications will be scored and ranked based on the criteria in the NOFO

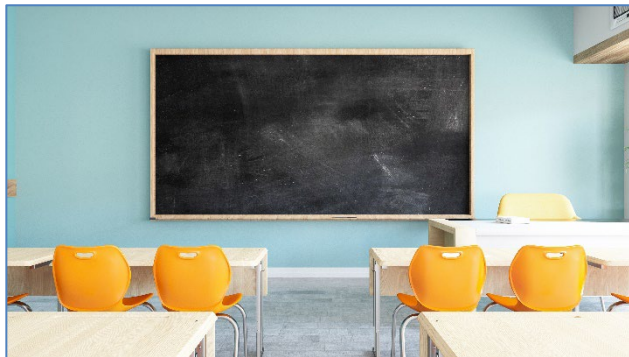- Selection and final award notification completed prior to October 1, 2024

FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity: Citizenship and Integration Training Academy (CITA)

In FY 2024, USCIS will offer $2.6 million through a new competitive funding opportunity:

- Citizenship and Integration Training Academy (CITA)

CITA Overview

- Approximately 7 grants of up to $400,000 each

- Three-year period of performance: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2027.

- The goal of the CITA grant is to train a new cadre of citizenship instructors and oversee the development of new citizenship programs.

- The funding will provide support to organizations that have not previously received USCIS funding.

CITA Overview, Cont.

Year One:

- During year one, USCIS will provide 12 months of rigorous, mandatory training to enable organizations to establish and implement high-quality citizenship education programs for LPRs in year two and three.

- The CITA program will offer an optional component for funded organizations to pursue and establish a naturalization application services program staffed by two Department of Justice-accredited representatives.

CITA Overview, Cont.

Year Two:

- During year two, **grant recipients MUST launch a citizenship education program, applying the knowledge and expertise learned in year one.**

- **Awardees that elect to establish a naturalization application services program MUST launch this program during year two of the grant**

CITA Overview, Cont.

Year Three:

- During year three, **grant recipients are expected to have a fully operational citizenship education program and, if applicable, a fully operational naturalization application services program.**

- **USCIS staff will continue to provide on-going technical assistance in response to program performance challenges or deficiencies.**

Who Can Apply for CITA?

- Applicants must demonstrate a minimum of one year of experience within the past three years providing adult education, English as a second language (ESL) instruction, or other services to adult immigrants.

- Applicants must also demonstrate extensive knowledge of the community they propose to serve.

- Applicants may *not* have received previous USCIS grants funds, as a primary grant recipient, subrecipient, or contractor.

Who Can Apply for CITA?, Cont.

Eligible Applicants include:

- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) IRS status

- City, township, county, and state governments

- Special district governments

- Public/Indian housing authorities

- Indian/Native American tribal organizations and governments

- Public or state-controlled institutions of higher education

- Independent school districts

- Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)

- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian serving institutions

- Tribally controlled colleges and universities (TCCUs)

When Can Organizations Apply for CITA?

- Organizations may now apply for the FY 24 Citizenship and Integration Training Academy (CITA) Notice of Funding Opportunity on www.grants.gov.

- Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on 7/12/2024 via grants.gov.

- All applicants must have:

  - a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number;

  - a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN); and

  - an updated System for Award Management (SAM) account before they submit an application.

Review and Selection Process for CITA

- Initial eligibility review to ensure each application meets the minimum eligibility requirements.

- Merit review of all eligible applications:

  o USCIS will convene panels of grant reviewers.

  o Applications will be scored and ranked based on the criteria in the NOFOs.

- Selection and final award notification completed before October 1, 2024.

Eligibility Requirements

Jacqueline Greely

Grants and Financial Assistance Division

Department of Homeland Security

www.dhs.gov/dhs-grants

Eligibility Requirements Overview

Grants and Financial Assistance Division, Department of Homeland Security

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

Grants Application Process

Sagal Musa

Program Advisor

Grants.gov

www.grants.gov

Application and Submission

CINAS applications are due by June 21, 2024.

CITA applications are due by July 12, 2024.

Other key elements:

Grants.gov

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

Registration: Before Grants.gov
System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

- Complete registration with SAM at: [www.SAM.gov to receive UEI](www.SAM.gov)

- 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

Registration:
SAM.gov and Grants.gov
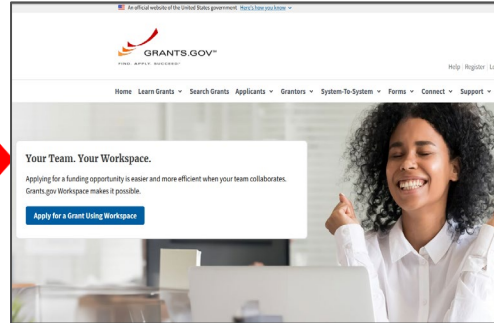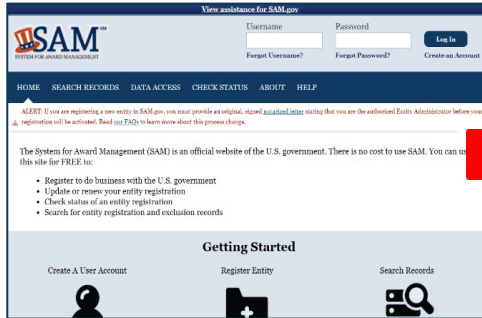
- **Organization data and EBiz POC information are transferred electronically from SAM to Grants.gov.**

- **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.

Registration: Grants.gov Account

Tips for Applicants

Crafting Grant Proposals and Submitting Applications

- <u>Register and submit early.</u>

- 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 <u>only</u> 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).

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)

Follow us on Twitter: @grantsdotgov

Video tutorials on YouTube

Subscribe to our blog: Blog.Grants.gov

Bookmark for System Alerts

Grants.gov Mobile App

Bookmark our Online Help

Email Newsletter & Alerts: Community@grants.gov

QUESTIONS?

Resources

- 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**

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