

On behalf of Senator Bill Nelson, I am pleased to share the following potential sources of funding and grant opportunities. Please feel free to share and of course contact me if you have any questions. And keep in mind that we are happy to provide Letters of Support for Grant applications. -Helen

## **USCIS Announces Citizenship and Assimilation grant Opportunities**

**Deadline: August 6, 2017**

Grants will support citizenship preparation services for lawful permanent residents

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is now accepting applications for two funding opportunities under the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program. These are competitive grant opportunities for organizations that prepare lawful permanent residents for naturalization and promote civic assimilation and assimilation through increased knowledge of English, U.S. history and civics. The two programs will provide up to \$10 million in grants for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country. Applications are due by Aug. 6.

USCIS wants to expand availability of high-quality citizenship preparation services throughout the country with these two opportunities:

- Citizenship instruction and naturalization application services: This opportunity will fund up to 36 organizations that offer both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to lawful permanent residents.

- Citizenship instruction only: This grant opportunity will assist nonprofit organizations in establishing new citizenship instruction programs or expanding the quality and reach of existing citizenship instruction programs. We expect to award up to 10 nonprofit organizations through this opportunity. In doing so, we want to encourage the expansion of the existing field of citizenship instruction programs, particularly those offered by small community-based organizations that have not previously received a grant from us.

We expect to announce all 46 award recipients in September.

Since 2009, we have awarded approximately \$63 million through 308 grants to organizations that have provided citizenship preparation services to more than 170,000 permanent residents in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

To apply for this funding opportunity, visit [grants.gov](http://grants.gov). For additional information on the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program for fiscal year 2017, visit [uscis.gov/grants](http://uscis.gov/grants) or email the USCIS Office of Citizenship at [citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov).

For more information about USCIS and its programs, please visit [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) or follow us Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), Facebook (/uscis) and Instagram (@uscis).

## **Practice Change Leaders Invites Applications From Health Organization Leaders**

**Deadline: August 16, 2017**

Practice Change Leaders for Aging and Health is a national initiative to develop, support, and expand the influence of organizational leaders who are committed to achieving transformative improvements in care for older adults.

The program is designed to give health organization leaders an opportunity to improve their leadership skills and content expertise in ways that will positively influence care for older adults. Leaders complete a project aimed at integrating improved care for older adults within their organization, allowing them to remain at their full-time job during the one-year program.

#### Eligibility:

Applicants must hold a leadership role in a health care delivery organization, health-related institution, or community-based organization with direct responsibility for care that impacts older adults. The applicant's home institution may be a health plan, hospital, ambulatory clinic, home health agency, assisted living facility, nursing home, or community-based agency providing health-related services to older adults. Irrespective of practice setting, applicants must be senior enough in their organization to have decision-making authority and be able to effectuate change. Applicants must live and practice in the United States.

The program will make up to ten awards of \$45,000 in 2017 for the program that commences on January 1, 2018.

Applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, August 16.

For more information, visit the Practice Change Leaders website @ <http://www.changeleaders.org/details.asp>

Questions? and to request an application, e-mail [info@changeleaders.org](mailto:info@changeleaders.org)

#### **#LatinosTeach Campaign**

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics is currently seeking a call for Hispanic teachers as a part of its #LatinosTeach Campaign, an ongoing effort of the Initiative to advance the office's priority of recruiting more Hispanics into the teaching profession. While Hispanic students continue to represent a large part of the nation's student population, nearly 1 out of 4, Hispanic teachers represent only 7.8% of the teaching workforce. The #LatinosTeach Campaign focuses on building the repository of Hispanic teachers, highlighting the advances of Hispanic teachers who have transformed their classrooms and the communities in which they reside and/or teach. You may nominate teachers currently teaching Pre-K through 12th grade and have taught a minimum of two years.

*Nominate a Latino educator by filling out our [Nomination Form \[doc\]](#) [\[pdf\]](#) and emailing the Initiative at [WHIEEH@ed.gov](mailto:WHIEEH@ed.gov). Be sure to include the educators name and contact information. You may also ask the educator to fill out the [Nomination Response Form](#) and submit it to [WHIEEH@ed.gov](mailto:WHIEEH@ed.gov).*

## **New EPA Tool Helps Communities Access More Than \$10 Billion in Water Infrastructure Financing**

*gives communities access to information and financing opportunities that will help improve water quality and protect public health*

WASHINGTON (July 26, 2017) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the Water Finance Clearinghouse, a web-based portal to help communities make informed financing decisions for their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs. The Clearinghouse provides communities with a searchable database with more than \$10 billion in water funding sources and over 550 resources to support local water infrastructure projects. It consolidates and expands upon existing EPA-supported databases to create a one-stop-shop for all community water finance needs. The Water Finance Clearinghouse was developed by EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, an information and assistance center that provides financing information to help local decision makers make informed decisions for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to reach their public health and environmental goals.

"Every day, Americans depend on water infrastructure to ensure that their drinking water is safe and that local waterways stay clean," said EPA's Office of Water's Deputy Assistant Administrator D. Lee Forsgren. "Investing in water infrastructure sustains local economies by creating jobs, protecting public health, and increasing quality of life. EPA's Clearinghouse is a vital portal that helps connect communities with the information and tools they need to finance much needed water infrastructure improvement projects."

Many communities around the country have aging or inadequate water infrastructure: each year approximately 240,000 main breaks occur while elsewhere billions of gallons of raw sewage are discharged into local surface waters from aging conveyance systems. Communities increasingly need efficient access to up-to-date water finance information to rehabilitate or replace their water infrastructure. EPA's new Water Finance Clearinghouse meets this need.

The Water Finance Clearinghouse gives local decision makers an opportunity to search for available funding sources for water infrastructure as well as resources (such as reports, webpages, and webinars) on financing mechanisms and approaches that can help communities access capital to meet their water infrastructure needs. State, federal, local, and foundation funding sources and resources on public-private partnerships, asset management practices, revenue models, and affordability approaches are included in the Clearinghouse.

The Water Finance Clearinghouse is updated in real-time, following a crowdsourcing model. States, federal agencies, and other water sector stakeholders have the ability to suggest edits and new resources or funding options at any time through the Contributor Portal. Stakeholders can use this interactive feature to manage how their programs and initiatives are displayed in the Clearinghouse.

EPA webinars on how to use the Clearinghouse are scheduled for:

- July 27
- July 31
- August 3

- August 14
- August 18
- August 24
- August 31

All webinars will be held 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern. You can register for a webinar at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/4533646364837520386>

More information on the Clearinghouse: <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/water-finance-clearinghouse>