

**The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
FY 2022 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program
Innovations in Citizenship Education**

All entities wishing to do business with the federal government must have a unique entity identifier (UEI). Entities that have done business with the government can obtain their UEI by following the steps [here](#). Entities that have not done business with the federal government may request a UEI via the System for Award Management (SAM) web page at:

<https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>. Receiving a UEI take 1-2 business days

Grants.gov registration information can be found at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. Detailed information regarding UEI and SAM is also provided in Section D of this NOFO.

Additional Information can be found on Grants.gov:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/planned-uei-updates.html>

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 Number

97.010

3. Assistance Listings Title

Citizenship Education and Training

4. Funding Opportunity Title

FY 2022 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program: Innovations in Citizenship Education

5. Funding Opportunity Number

DHS-22-CIS-010-004

6. Authorizing Authority for Program

H.R. 2471 – Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117-103) Division F, Title IV

7. Appropriation Authority for Program

H.R. 2471 – Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117-103) Division F, 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 a key milestone in the civic integration of immigrants. Naturalization requirements, such as knowledge of English and U.S. history and government, encourage civic learning and build a strong foundation upon which immigrants can fully integrate into society. Through preparing for naturalization, immigrants gain tools to become successful citizens and meet their responsibilities as United States citizens.

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 to provide opportunities for immigrants to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate into the fabric of American society.

Since it began in 2009, the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program has awarded more than \$112 million through 513 competitive grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Now in its 14th year, the program has helped more than 290,500 LPRs prepare for citizenship. The Citizenship and Integration Grant Program supports the objectives of [Executive Order 14012, Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans](#) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024](#) by promoting integration, inclusion, and citizenship. The Citizenship and Integration Grant Program also addresses the DHS mission to enforce and administer our immigration laws as stated in the [2014 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review](#), as the program provides immigrants instruction on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship and information on how to apply for naturalization within the authorized practice of immigration law.

Educating future citizens is a core component of the Citizenship and Integration Grant program. Citizenship education provides immigrants with the skills and knowledge they need to prepare for citizenship, including instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL), U.S. history and government, and the naturalization process. Citizenship education programs have always faced challenges, such as student recruitment and retention, hiring qualified instructors, and tracking long-term program success. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified these challenges and created new hurdles to preparing immigrants for citizenship.

Simultaneously, the pandemic greatly accelerated change and innovation across nearly every sector. Many citizenship education programs have developed new and innovative ways of preparing students for citizenship. Similarly, welcoming communities are experimenting with creative ways to re-engage and reconnect with both immigrant and native-born populations.

Accordingly, USCIS is launching a special initiative – *Innovations in Citizenship Education* – designed to amplify innovation. USCIS will award innovations grants to organizations that foster creative approaches to preparing immigrants for naturalization and encouraging the civic, linguistic, and cultural integration of immigrants into their communities.

USCIS will consider applications for all types of citizenship education innovations. The most successful applicants will propose innovations that address an existing challenge within the

citizenship education field and will include key performance indicators related to attaining U.S. citizenship.

Examples of potential innovations include, but are not limited to:

A. Innovations that engage hard-to-reach populations, such as:

- Persons 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;
- Persons who have had limited education;
- Persons who have been historically and traditionally marginalized (e.g., elderly, women, rare language speakers, youth, victims of crime);
- Persons who lack confidence in their ability to learn a new language and pass the naturalization test;
- Persons whose jobs require mobility including migrant workers, nurses, truck drivers, etc., whose mobility makes it difficult for them to participate in in-person classes for a significant period of time;
- Persons residing in rural locations or other isolated areas where there is a lack of access to citizenship education services; or
- Persons covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) who may need special accommodations to successfully navigate the naturalization process;

B. Innovations in Citizenship preparation, such as:

- A two-generational approach to citizenship education that address both potential applicants and their school-aged children or grandchildren;
- Partnerships with local businesses, unions, libraries, or schools to create citizenship education programs;
- A community-based approach to citizenship education that supplements classes by matching community members with prospective applicants to provide English language immersion and integration opportunities;
- Mobile citizenship teaching units;
- Mobile naturalization application services units;
- Creation of networks of legal service providers that work collaboratively to address community need for naturalization application services; Partnerships between other federal agency naturalization working group member grantees that produce multiplier outreach effect (e.g., working with HHS/ORR preferred community grantees, USDA agricultural worker grants, DOJ office of violence against women grantees, etc.¹

C. Innovations that build the capacity of other immigrant-serving organizations, including but not limited to:

¹ See the [Interagency Strategy for Promoting Naturalization](#).

- Creating and recording a series of web-based videos on how to start-up a high-quality citizenship education program;
- Establishing a peer-to-peer network for immigrant-serving organizations to exchange ideas and problem-solve together;
- Developing networks and mechanisms that help service providers better connect with more marginalized populations, including but not limited to the elderly, women, victims of violence, special immigrant juveniles, individuals granted cancellation of removal, individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals covered by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), etc.

D. Innovations that support the digital access and digital literacy, including but not limited to:

- Creating a system of “technology libraries” from which individuals in a citizenship education program can check out laptops or tablets as a means of accessing online learning resources;
- Establishing a program in which immigrant youth volunteers provide one-on-one training to citizenship education students on the use of technology to support citizenship education and overall digital literacy; or
- Collaborating with [Department of Education grantees](#)² and others working on digital literacy initiatives to ensure access for immigrant communities with low digital literacy rates.

E. Innovations that develop new citizenship education tools or resources that can be shared nationally, such as:

- Developing a mobile phone app to help persons along in their immigrant journey and prepare for the USCIS naturalization test and interview.
- Creating digital tools for use by other service providers that help applicants access counsel and support for completing the naturalization applicant process, or
- Engaging non-English media to furnish culturally appropriate messaging on integration and citizenship and English language resources.

Organizations that propose to offer direct citizenship education services under this grant should be familiar with the [Elements of Program Quality for Adult Citizenship Education](#). USCIS developed the Elements with a panel of adult education experts and based them on state and federal standards for adult education. They provide a general framework for preparing immigrants for the civics and English components of the naturalization interview and test. Program administrators and teachers should use these Elements when designing, enhancing, or evaluating their adult citizenship education programs. Additional USCIS resources for citizenship education programs are listed in Appendix B.

Request for Applications

² See [Department of Education Digital Literacy Initiatives](#)

In fiscal year (FY) 2022, up to \$2 million in federal funding is available for eligible organizations to develop and pilot innovative approaches to citizenship education. USCIS will award grants of between \$50,000 and \$250,000. The total number of awards will be determined based on the proposals received. Citizenship education provides persons 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.

Partnerships

Partnerships are encouraged. While the primary applicant is required to have a minimum of two years of recent experience providing citizenship education, partner organizations are not required to have this experience. Innovation can result when unlikely partners collaborate, and therefore USCIS encourages partnerships with innovators outside of the traditional citizenship education realm. The principal applicant will be considered the grant recipient and will be responsible for the grant funds.

A partner organization is a “sub-awardee” if the organization receives a portion of the grant funding to provide additional services. The primary applicant must complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other binding document with any prospective sub-awardees 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 specific services the sub-awardee will provide and how grant funding will be allocated to fund the services. Prospective sub-awardees must have their own individual UEI number and will be responsible for financial and performance reporting. Sub-awardees must submit their reports to the primary applicant for submission to DHS.

If the primary applicant partners with an organization that does not receive a portion of the grant funding, the primary applicant should still complete an MOU. However, the applicant does not need to include the other required information listed above for sub-awardees and the partner organization does not need an individual UEI.

10. Performance Measures

Establishing clear performance measures prior to the start of the grant performance period is an essential way for DHS and grant recipients to ensure a clear understanding of intended program outcomes and impacts. With the Innovations grants, however, DHS anticipates a diversity of programs and therefore anticipates that performance measures may differ between grantees. All applicants must select two or more performance measures from the menu below. Applicants should also include additional performance measures in their application specific to their proposed innovation. DHS may negotiate program-specific performance measures with individual organizations prior to award.

Applicants must select two or more of the following performance measures:

- Number of students that enroll in a citizenship education class as a result of the innovation;
- Percentage of students that demonstrate measurable learning gains as a result of the proposed innovation;

- Number of students or participants that file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, as a result of the proposed innovation;
- Number of new community partnerships created, as evidenced by a Memorandum of Understanding, to support the citizenship preparation and/or integration of immigrants in the community.
- Number of “hard to reach” immigrants engaged through targeted citizenship outreach campaign;
- Number of immigrants who are trained on (or use) a new citizenship education tool.

B. Federal Award Information

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. Available Funding for the NOFO: | Up to \$2,000,000 |
| 2. Projected number of Awards: | Up to 40 |
| 3. Period of Performance: | 24 months |

Note: extensions are permitted. See Section H, Additional Information, Period of Performance Extensions, for more information.

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| 4. Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s): | 10/01/2022 |
| 5. Projected Period of Performance End Date(s): | 09/30/2024 |
| 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. Indian/Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- e. Indian/Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- f. Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization
- g. Public/Indian Housing Authority
- h. Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) IRS status, other than institutions of higher education
- i. Private institutions of higher education
- j. Public & state-controlled institutions of higher education
- k. Special district governments
- l. State governments

- m. Small businesses
- n. For-profit organizations other than small businesses

2. Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Applicants will be judged on the merits of their proposal according to the below criteria. Partnering with an organization that has substantial citizenship education experience and knowledge would be helpful in establishing capacity for successful proposals.

Non-Responsive Applications

Your application will be deemed non-responsive if:

- a. Form SF-424 – *Application for Federal Assistance* is missing.
- b. Form SF-424A – *Budget* is missing.
- c. Form SF-424B – *Assurances - Non-Construction Programs* is missing.
- d. The applicant's Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is not registered in SAM.
- e. The application does not include a Budget Narrative or Budget Table.
- f. The application does not include a Project Narrative.

For a complete list of all required forms, please see Appendix A.

3. Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

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 20%** 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: 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:** 06/27/2022
- b. **Application Submission Deadline:** 08/05/2022 at 11:59PM EST
- c. **Anticipated Award Date:** No later than 09/30/2022

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. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

d. Other Key Dates

Event	Suggested Deadline for Completion
Obtaining UEI 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 <https://www.grants.gov/>, select “Applicants” then “Apply for Grants.” To obtain the application package, select “Download a Grant Application Package.” Enter the Assistance Listing 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
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.

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 Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number and Employer ID Number (EIN)
- b. In the application, provide a valid UEI number;
- c. Have an account with <https://login.gov/>;
- d. Register for, update, or verify their SAM account and ensure the account is active before submitting the application;
- e. Create a Grants.gov account;
- f. Add a profile to a Grants.gov account;
- g. Establish an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) in Grants.gov;
- h. Submit (if applicable, add: an initial) application in Grants.gov; and
- i. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information, including information on a recipient's immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well on all predecessors that have been awarded a federal contract or grant within the last three years, if applicable, at all times during which it 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 UEI 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. DHS encourages or requires applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov, depending on the funding opportunity. For

this funding opportunity, the DHS GFAD requires applicants to submit applications through Grants.gov.

6. How to Register to Apply through Grants.gov

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 four 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 Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number, active System for Award Management (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 UEI 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 here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.

- a. *Obtain a UEI Number:* All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a UEI number. Applicants must enter the UEI number in the data entry field labeled "Organizational UEI" on the SF-424 form.
 - i. For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number, refer to: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>.
- b. *Register with SAM:* All organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually.
 - i. 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>.
- c. *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>.

- d. *Add a Profile to a Grants.gov Account:* A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., 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 UEI Number for the organization in the UEI field while adding a profile.

- i. For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html>.

- e. *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>.

- f. *Track Role Status:* To track your role request, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html>.
- g. *Electronic Signature:* When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization applicant with the AOR role that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving 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 applying on Grants.gov. 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 submission. 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(s), or external drives, 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's name, address, and UEI 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. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant to which you are applying.

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

Online Submission. All applications must be received by [INSERT TIME] Eastern 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.

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. Funding Restrictions

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

- a. 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.
- b. USCIS application fees.
- c. 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.
- d. Profit/Fee is not allowable except when subcontracting for routine goods and services with commercial organizations.
- e. Foreign travel.
- f. Construction costs and purchase of real property under this funding opportunity.
- g. Pre-award costs.
- h. Funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development.
- i. Costs for food or refreshments.
- j. Incentive items or gift cards.
- k. General volunteer stipends.
- l. Living allowances for any national volunteer service program participants.
- m. Fees for conferences that are not considered training events.

Pre-Award Costs

Pre-Award Costs are not allowed.

12. Allowable Costs

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 and consistent with the programs objectives and priorities as outlined in the notice of funding opportunity starting on page 2.

Management and Administration (M&A) Costs

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).

Indirect Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs

Indirect Costs are allowable for the grantee and any proposed sub-awardee (if applicable). 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 2 C.F.R. § 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 2 C.F.R. [§ 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 C.F.R. § 200.414](#).

E. Application Review Information

1. Application Evaluation Criteria

a. Programmatic Criteria

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

1.) Organizational Capacity to Provide Innovative Approaches to Citizenship Education (10 Points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates:

- Capacity to conduct activities to support citizenship education and outreach (partnering with an organization that has substantial citizenship education experience and knowledge would be helpful in establishing capacity for successful proposals) (6 points); and
- Experience working on or leading innovative programs and processes, especially in education or immigrant integration and service provision (4 points).

2.) Description of Need for Innovation (15 points)

The extent to which the applicant:

- Describes a challenge currently faced in citizenship education that will be addressed through innovation (5 points);
- Provides data or evidence to illustrate this challenge (5 points); and
- Describes what has already been done (by the applicant and/or other organizations) to address this problem (5 points).

3.) Proposed Innovation (25 points)

The extent to which the applicant:

- Describes the proposed innovation and how it aligns with a specific citizenship education need (10 points);
- Presents an innovation plan that is reasonable and feasible (10 points);
- Includes a logic model to show planned work and intended results. The logic model should include inputs, planned activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact (5 points).

4.) Implementation Plan (25 points)

The extent to which the applicant:

- Describes how it intends to implement its proposed innovation (10 points);
- Demonstrates capacity to implement its proposed innovation (10 points); and
- Includes key milestones and a timeline in its implementation plan (5 points).

5.) Evaluation Plan (25 points)

The extent to which the applicant:

- Explains how and when it will evaluate the success of its innovation and its results made available to a broader audience to benefit from the innovative approach or methods (10 points); and

- Outlines key performance indicators it will use to measure the success of its innovation. At least two performance measures must be included from the menu of performance measures listed in section A.10 of this NOFO (15 points).

b. Financial Integrity Criteria

Prior to making a federal award, the DHS GFAD is required by 31 U.S.C. §3321 note, 41 U.S.C. §2313, and 2 C.F.R. §200.205 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 federal award.
- 4.) Reports and findings from audits.
- 5.) Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

c. 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 GFAD 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 (FAPIIS) and is accessible through the sam.gov website.
- 2) An applicant, at its option, may review information in FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered.
- 3) DHS GFAD will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, 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. §200.206.

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:

- a. 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 by remote review.

- b. 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.
- c. An application may be selected for post-review quality control and possible rescoring if it received significantly diverging scores and comments from reviewers.
- d. 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.
- e. 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:
 - 1) The summary letter from the applicant's most recent audit report;
 - 2) 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.);
 - 3) A pre-award site visit or investigation to determine and validate current services and proposed activities; and
 - 4) 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.
- f. 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 program content, staffing, budget, activities, and performance metrics. If an application includes a sub-awardee or partner 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.
- g. 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 three years following the funding decision.

- h. 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.
- i. DHS will notify all applicants electronically of funding decisions. Unfunded applicants may send a written request to 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.
- j. **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 shows prioritization for underserved, marginalized or vulnerable populations;
 - b) Whether an application, when balanced with other potential awards and with existing Citizenship and Integration Grant Program recipients, has a potential for more positive integration outcomes (e.g., naturalization, increased community engagement, increased sense of belonging, English language knowledge gains) for greater numbers of people throughout the country;
 - c) Whether an application, when balanced with other potential awards and existing Citizenship and Integration Grant Program recipients, addresses a clear need and gap in resources or service provision.
 - 2) **Past performance of a previous Citizenship and Integration Grant Program recipient (if applicable)**, including:
 - a) Whether a previous grant recipient achieved their core program goals;
 - 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](https://www.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](#). In addition, awardees are required to comply with the prohibitions on certain telecommunications equipment and services under Section 889 of the [John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\) for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2019](#).

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 C.F.R. 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.

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

3. Reporting

a. 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: www.grantsolutions.gov/support/public/pdf/FederalFinancialReport-RecipientsFinalv2.pdf.

The Federal Financial Report (FFR) form is available online at: [SF-425 OMB #4040-0014](#)

b. Programmatic Performance Reporting Requirements

The recipient is required to submit quarterly performance reports 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 the program-specific performance measures that it included in its proposal.

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 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.

Grantees are required to collect the applicable data and submit it quarterly to DHS. 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.

USCIS may also request that grantees provide feedback and ideas to our Next Generation intake models and concepts.

c. 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, recipients must submit the following:

- 1) The final request for payment, if applicable;
- 2) The final FFR (SF-425);
- 3) The final progress report detailing all accomplishments;
- 4) A qualitative narrative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance; and
- 5) Other documents required by this NOFO, terms and conditions of the award, or other DHS FAO guidance.

After these reports have been reviewed and approved by the DHS Financial Assistance Office, a closeout 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 three years from the date of the final FFR, unless a longer period applies, such as due to an audit or litigation, for equipment or real property used beyond the period of performance, or due to other circumstances outlined in 2 C.F.R. §200.334, Retention Requirements for Records.

In addition, any recipient that issues subawards to any subrecipient is responsible for closing out those subawards as described in 2 C.F.R. §200.344, Closeout. Recipients acting as pass-through entities must ensure that they complete the closeout of their subawards in time to submit all necessary documentation and information to DHS FAO during the closeout of their prime grant award.

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

d. Disclosing Information per 2 C.F.R. §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 GFAD, the recipient must notify DHS GFAD 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 C.F.R. § 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 C.F.R. § 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 C.F.R. § 180.800(a); or
- 4) Have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding three 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 C.F.R. § 180.335, the recipient must provide immediate written notice to DHS GFAD in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 180.350.

e. Reporting of Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

Per 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix I § F.3, the additional post-award reporting requirements in 2 C.F.R. 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 \$10,000,000 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 and Oversight

Per 2 C.F.R. §200.329, DHS GFAD, through its authorized representatives, has the right, at all reasonable times, to conduct desk reviews, make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems to review project accomplishments and to provide any required technical assistance. During site visits or desk reviews, DHS GFAD will review grant recipients' files related to the grant award. As part of any monitoring and program evaluation activities, grant recipients must permit DHS GFAD, upon reasonable notice, to review grant-related records and to interview the organization's staff and contractors regarding the program. Recipients must respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS GFAD requests for information relating to the grant program.

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.

5. Program Evaluation

Recipients and subrecipients are encouraged to incorporate program evaluation activities from the outset of their program design and implementation to meaningfully document and measure their progress towards the outcomes proposed. Title I of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 ([Evidence Act](#)), Pub. L. No. 115-435 (2019) defines evaluation as “an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, and organizations intended to assess their effectiveness and efficiency.” Evidence Act § 101 (codified at 5 U.S.C. § 311). Credible program evaluation activities are implemented with relevance and utility, rigor, independence and objectivity, transparency, and ethics (OMB Circular A-11, Part 6 Section 290).

Evaluation costs are allowable costs (either as direct or indirect), unless prohibited by statute or regulation, and such costs may include the personnel and equipment needed for data infrastructure and expertise in data analysis, performance, and evaluation. (2 C.F.R. §200).

In addition, recipients are required to participate in a DHS-led evaluation if selected, which may be carried out by a third-party on behalf of the Program Office or DHS. By accepting grant funds, recipients agree to participate in the evaluation, which may include analysis of individuals who benefit from the grant, and provide access to program operating personnel and participants, as specified by the evaluator(s) for six months after the period of performance.

G. DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information

1. Contact and Resource Information

USCIS Program Office (Office of Citizenship):

- Send all questions to citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov.
- USCIS Office of Citizenship staff will respond within five business days.

DHS Grants Office: Send all questions to the Grants Officer at 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.

1. Period of Performance Extensions

Grantees 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. Grantee requests for extension will be evaluated based on performance to date and potential for meeting programmatic requirements within the proposed extension period. Requests for extensions are subject to approval by the DHS Grants and Financial Assistance Grants Officer.

2. Appendices

For information on additional required documents, and the format of the narrative application please see Appendix A. Appendix B contains list of USCIS citizenship education resources. For definitions of frequently used terms in this NOFO, see the FY 2022 Glossary in Appendix C.

Disclosure: Risk Assessment Evaluation

DHS staff will assess 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 risk assessment 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 risk assessment may inform funding decisions. This assessment may include a pre-award site visit, and organizations which 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 risk, DHS may consider the following:

- Financial stability;
- Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in applicable OMB Guidance;
- Applicant's record in managing previous DHS awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 1. Timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements.
 2. Accuracy of data reported.
 3. Conformance to the terms and conditions of previous federal awards.
 4. If applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards.
 5. 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), UEI and SAM.

6. Reports and findings from single audits performed under Subpart F – Audit Requirements, 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and findings and reports of any other available audits.
7. Applicant organization's annual report.
8. Publicly available information, including information from the applicant organization's website.
9. 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:

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

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.

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL 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 (5 pages maximum)

Provide the information requested below. Please address each question in the order outlined in the table below. The project abstract must not include any proprietary or

Appendix A: Additional Required Forms

confidential information. Attach the Project Abstract to the application package.³

General Information <i>Complete the following table.</i>		
1.	Organization legal name	
2.	Organization legal address (Number and street, city, state, zip code)	
3.	Head of the organization (Name, title, address, phone number, email address)	
4.	Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), the person at the organization authorized to sign and receive award (Name, title, address, phone number, email address and website)	
5.	Grant Project Manager, 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)	
6.	Type of organization (e.g., community/faith-based organization, public school, adult education program, public library)	
7.	Annual Organizational Budget	
8.	Total federal funding requested (up to \$250,000)	
9.	Total federal funding allocated for administrative costs	
10.	Total cost share (percentage of total award amount requested; minimum of 20% required)	
11.	Geographic area/community where services will be provided	
12.	Congressional district (based on the legal address of the applicant organization)	

³ See the Grants.gov [Applicant User Guide](#) for instructions on how to attach forms and documents.

Appendix A: Additional Required Forms

13.	Number of full-time equivalents (FTEs). Indicate the number of intended grant-funded FTEs	
14.	Is your organization or proposed sub-awardee DOJ recognized? (yes/no)	
15.	Brief description of planned innovation (1-2 sentences)	
16.	List any grants received by the applicant in the past three years focused on adult education or services to immigrants. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarding agency • Date received • Dollar amount 	
Sub-Awardee or Partner Organization(s) (if applicable) <i>If there are multiple sub-awardees, provide the below information for each.</i>		
17.	Sub-awardee or partner organization legal name	
18.	Sub-awardee or partner organization point of contact (Name, title, address, phone number and email address)	
19.	Sub-awardee or partner type of organization (e.g., community/faith-based organization, public school, adult education program, public library, business, etc.)	
20.	Services proposed by sub-awardee or partner organization	
21.	Total federal funds allocated for the sub-awardee	

5. Project Narrative (16 double-spaced page maximum)

In a separate document, provide a response for each item in the chart below following the order listed. **The items and attachments listed in each section below are required.** Any item or attachment that is omitted will result in points deducted.

Format Requirements

- 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 line spacing.
- Font size must be at least 12 point, preferably Times New Roman font.

Appendix A: Additional Required Forms

- 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 **16 pages**.
- Do not include any marks from the “Track Changes” tool in your word processing program.
- Attach the completed Project Narrative to the application package.

Project Narrative Items
A. Organizational Capacity to Provide Innovation in Citizenship Education
1. Experience Providing Citizenship Instruction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary applicant’s recent experience providing citizenship instruction. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dates and total years of experience providing citizenship instruction; ○ The number of students enrolled in classes in the past year and any previous years; ○ Name of the standardized test of English language proficiency used (such as CASAS, BEST Plus 2.0, etc.); ○ Experience administering the standardized test(s); ○ The program’s pre- and post-test rates for the last program cycle, if applicable, as well as the percentage of ESL students that demonstrated educational gains; ○ The number of instructional hours provided per class; and
2. Experience Providing ESL Instruction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary applicant’s recent experience providing ESL instruction. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dates and total years of experience providing ESL instruction; ○ The number of students enrolled in classes in the past year and any previous years; ○ Name of the standardized test of English language proficiency used (such as CASAS, BEST Plus 2.0, etc.); ○ Experience administering the standardized test(s); ○ The program’s pre- and post-test rates for the last program cycle, if applicable, as well as the percentage of ESL students that demonstrated educational gains; ○ The number of instructional hours provided per class.
B. Need for Innovation
1. Describe the Challenge in Citizenship Education Your Innovation Addresses
2. Provide Data or Evidence of Challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include citations
3. Describe Prior Efforts to Address Challenge

Appendix A: Additional Required Forms

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May include applicant's efforts and/or the efforts of other organizations. • Include information on when such efforts were made. • Include information on the results of past efforts and any lessons learned (if available).
C. Proposed Innovation
1. Overview of Proposed Innovation and How Aligns with Need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be as detailed as possible. Describe the issue or problem driving the need for the proposed innovation. Provide evidence that the proposed innovation has been studied sufficiently to indicate a high probability for success.
2. Present an Innovation Plan that is Reasonable and Feasible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the scope of the proposed innovation will not exceed the grant's two-year performance period. • State the main goal of the project and then outline the supporting objectives to reach this goal. • Objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). Provide supporting information that describes the innovative nature of the project and how this innovation could advance the field of citizenship education.
3. Include a Logic Model
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The logic model should include inputs, planned activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact, particularly with respect to immigrants who are eligible or soon-to-be eligible to naturalize. • It may be submitted as an attachment.
D. Implementation Plan
1. Describe Proposed Implementation of the Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview on how the applicant will approach implementation. • The implementation plan should be divided into three sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, research, and development; • Implementation • Evaluation
2. Demonstrate Organizational Capacity to Implement Proposed Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe any resources, partners, or networks the applicant possesses that will support the implementation of this plan.
3. Include Key Milestones and a Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timeline should cover the full two-year performance period of this grant.
E. Evaluation Plan
1. Describe How and When Applicant will Evaluate Program Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe which staff members will be responsible for program evaluation.

2. Outline Key Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicate if the key performance indicators are measurable.• Include at least two of the required performance measures outlined in section A.10 of this NOFO.•

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. Attach **résumés** and/or **position descriptions** (if the position is vacant) for all key personnel, including program managers and coordinators, instructors (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.
- b. **Organizational chart** for the applicant and any proposed sub-awardee(s).
- c. Attaches a **Logic Model** of proposed innovation plan.
- d. 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

Create a table of Key Performance Indicators that your organization will use to measure the success of your innovation. Break each indicator down, when possible, into quarterly goals. There will be eight quarters over the 2-year performance period and each quarter is 3 months long. Please note this table must include at least two of the required performance measures listed in section A.10 of this NOFO, and your organization's quarterly goals for each performance measure.

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

If USCIS awarded your organization with a Citizenship and Integration Grant anytime within the years 2012-2020, please provide a copy of the most recent quarterly feedback report.

9. Budget Table and Narrative

When proposing costs for this grant program, ensure that the budget shows a reasonable balance of costs between planning, implementation, and evaluation of your proposed project.

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.

	Year 1			Year 2			Total		
Category and Item	In-Kind	DHS	Total	In-kind	DHS	Total	In-kind	DHS	Total
1. Personnel									
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
TOTAL Personnel	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X	\$X

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

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 this section to

Appendix A: Additional Required Forms

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 – h** 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-market value.
- 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 consultant travel). 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.
- e. **Equipment:** Any article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or 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. For equipment purchased with grant funds (or received under a grant) and having a \$5,000 or more per unit cost, the Recipient must maintain an annual inventory, which will include a brief description of the item, serial number, and amount of purchase. 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.

- f. **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.
- g. **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 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

Appendix A: Additional Required Forms

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.**

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

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 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.

APPENDIX B: USCIS Resources for Citizenship Education Programs

Educators and volunteers play a critical role in helping immigrants prepare for U.S. citizenship. The USCIS Citizenship Resource Center provides an array of resources and materials to support educators and programs working to prepare immigrants for the naturalization process. Below are a few key resources that all programs should be familiar with. For a full list of resources, please visit the Citizenship Resource Center at www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

USCIS Adult Citizenship Education Program Development Guide: Building an Adult Citizenship Program

This program development guide outlines a step-by-step process to create or sustain an adult citizenship education program and includes products and resources from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for use at each stage of program development

Elements of Program Quality for Adult Citizenship Education

This document provides a general framework for preparing permanent residents for the civics and English components of the naturalization interview and test.

Guide to the Adult Citizenship Education Content Standards and Foundation Skills: A Framework for Developing a Comprehensive Curriculum

This guide assists adult education program administrators and teachers in developing a citizenship curriculum and thematic lessons, choosing textbooks and supplemental materials, and creating effective learning activities.

Adult Citizenship Education Sample Curriculum for a High Beginning ESL Level Course

This publication outlines the components, structure, and process involved with creating an adult citizenship education curriculum.

Additional Citizenship Education Resources:

- [Resources for Educators About the Naturalization Process](#)
- [Prepare Students for the Interview and Test](#)
- [Learn New Teaching Techniques](#)
- [Start a Citizenship Program](#)
- [Promote a Citizenship Program](#)
- [Train and Develop Staff](#)

APPENDIX C: FY 2022 Innovation Grant Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Class cycle	The time period, such as a term or semester, when classes are held on a frequent or regular basis. This time period has a beginning and end date.
Cognizant federal agency	Defined by 48 CFR 2.101 as the Federal agency that, on behalf of all Federal agencies, is responsible for establishing final indirect cost rates and forward pricing rates, if applicable, and administering cost accounting standards for all contracts in a business unit.
Cost sharing	The portion of the project or program costs not covered by the federal government. Cost sharing occurs when a grant recipient contributes its own financial, human, or material resources towards achieving grant program objectives. Any organization planning to offer cost sharing should include the proposed contribution in its proposed budget and clearly label the resource as a cost sharing contribution. For more information, see 2 CFR Part 215 .
Direct costs	Costs that can be identified specifically with a particular sponsored project or an institutional activity, or easily assigned to activities with a high degree of accuracy. Examples include the salaries of staff assigned to a specific project, materials and supplies, and travel. For more information, see 2 CFR Part 200.413 .
Employee	<p>A person who provides services to an employer in exchange for compensation and who does not provide these services as part of an independent business. The term does not include board members or contracted individuals. The following factors of a job arrangement may indicate that an individual is an employee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The employer pays the individual; The employer may fire the individual; The employer provides the individual with tools or equipment and a place to work; The employer trains the individual; The individual is required to follow the employer's instructions; The employer sets or can set the individual's work hours; The employer restricts the individual from working for others; and Other applicable factors.

TERM	DEFINITION
Employer	In the context of this notice of funding opportunity, an employer is an organization that has the ability to hire, pay, fire, supervise, or otherwise control the work of an employee.
Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative	The form that attorneys and accredited representatives use to provide information establishing their eligibility to appear and act on behalf of an applicant, petitioner, or respondent before USCIS. Form G-28 is available at uscis.gov/g-28 .
Fringe benefits	Allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages.
Fringe benefit rate	The value of fringe benefits expressed as a percentage of salary. Calculate the dollar amount by applying the appropriate fringe benefit percentage rate to each employee's salary to be charged to the project. For more information, see OMB Circular A-21, OMB Circular A-87, or OMB Circular A-122.
Fringe benefit rate agreement	An agreement that has been approved by a cognizant federal agency (usually the agency that provides the most funding to the grant recipient) that establishes the rate at which an organization will request reimbursement for fringe benefits under the grant program.
FY	An abbreviation for fiscal year. The federal government's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.
Indirect costs	Common or joint costs that cannot be readily and specifically identified with one particular project or any other institutional activity. Examples include: utilities, general office supplies, and salaries of staff that support multiple programs and initiatives.
Indirect cost rate agreement	An agreement that establishes the rate at which an organization will request reimbursement for indirect costs incurred during the day-to-day operations of a federal grant program.
In-kind contribution	The value of non-cash contributions (such as property or services) that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benefit a federally assisted project or program; and 2. Are provided for free by non-federal third parties to a recipient, sub-recipient, or cost-type contractor under the award.

TERM	DEFINITION
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	A formal agreement between parties that defines each party's rights and responsibilities.
National Reporting System (NRS)	An outcome-based reporting system developed by the U.S. Department of Education for state-administered, federally funded adult education programs. For more information, see this list of NRS test benchmarks for educational functioning levels.
Nationally normed standardized assessment test	In the context of citizenship instruction, this refers to specific tests used to determine a student's English language proficiency. The Department of Education has a list of approved standardized tests .
Naturalization application services	Legal services, provided within the scope of the authorized practice of immigration law, that help qualified immigrants go through the naturalization application and interview process. Services may include naturalization eligibility screening, legal advice, Form N-400 preparation and submission, and interview preparation.
Naturalization eligibility screening	A systematic assessment conducted by an attorney or BIA-accredited representative to determine if an individual is eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship. Eligibility screenings include legal advice.
Non-duplicated citizenship students	A student enrolled in a grant-funded citizenship class for the first time. A program cannot count a student as newly enrolled more than once during the grant performance period, even if the student enrolls in multiple classes.
Non-responsive application	An application that does not meet one or more of the requirements listed under Eligibility Information – Non-Responsive Applications in the notice of funding opportunity. We will not review applications that are non-responsive.
Partner organization	Grant applicants may include a partner organization in their proposal. The partner may provide a portion of the direct services or some other contribution to the applicant's proposed grant project.
Performance period	The performance period is a set amount of time, as determined by the awarding agency, in which the grant recipient is able to access grant funds and perform all grant-related tasks. The performance period for the FY 2022 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program is two years.

Appendix C: Innovation Grant Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Quarter	<p>There are four quarters in a fiscal year. The quarterly dates are as follows:</p> <p>Quarter 1: October 1 to December 31</p> <p>Quarter 2: January 1 to March 31</p> <p>Quarter 3: April 1 to June 30</p> <p>Quarter 4: July 1 to September 30</p>
Sub-awardee	<p>A partner organization that receives a portion of grant funds from the grant recipient in order to provide services under this grant. There must be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the applicant and sub-awardee. The sub-awardee must also have a UEI number.</p>
Subcontract	<p>A legal contract in which the grant recipient hires an individual, business or organization to do a specific task or set of tasks. Subcontracting is permitted under the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to successfully manage all aspects of the grant-funded project, including financial management.</p>
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)	<p>A unique nine-character identification number requested in, and assigned by, the System for Award Management (Sam.gov). Organizations must request a UEI prior to applying for this funding opportunity.</p>