



News Release

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USCIS Awards \$1.2 Million for Citizenship Grant Program

13 Community-Based Organizations to Receive FY 2009 Funding

WASHINGTON — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Alejandro Mayorkas today announced a total of \$1.2 million in grants for 13 organizations to support citizenship preparation programs for legal permanent residents (LPRs). This announcement falls on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day—established by Congress in 2004 to mark the anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

“We are proud to support our new grantees,” said Mayorkas. “In the spirit of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, I am pleased to announce that we will be working with these organizations to help immigrants pursue citizenship and become fully vested members of their communities.”

The award recipients are: Association House of Chicago; Catholic Charities of Dallas Inc.; Central American Resource Center, Los Angeles; Federation Employment and Guidance Service Inc., New York, N.Y.; International Institute of St. Louis; International Rescue Committee Inc., San Diego; Jewish Family and Children’s Services, San Francisco; Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest Inc., East Orange, N.J.; Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, Raleigh, N.C.; OneAmerica, Seattle; Progreso Latino, Central Falls, R.I.; Saint Mark Roman Catholic Parish, Dorchester, Mass.; and Young Women’s Christian Association of Tulsa, Okla.

Through this competitive grant program, USCIS will provide funding to community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve one or more priority immigrant groups in areas of the United States that contain a large representation of the country’s immigrant population.

The funding will be used to expand the number of people served by programs that assist LPRs improve English language skills, gain knowledge of U.S. history and government (civics), and prepare for the naturalization application and interview process. The funds may only be used to provide direct services to immigrants with legal status in the United States.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit www.uscis.gov. To learn more about applying for federal funding opportunities, visit www.grants.gov.

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