

THE SEATTLE  
BRIDGES TO  
CITIZENSHIP  
FALL INSTITUTE



## *Event Summary*

**The Seattle Bridges to Citizenship Fall Institute  
September 9-10, 2015**



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

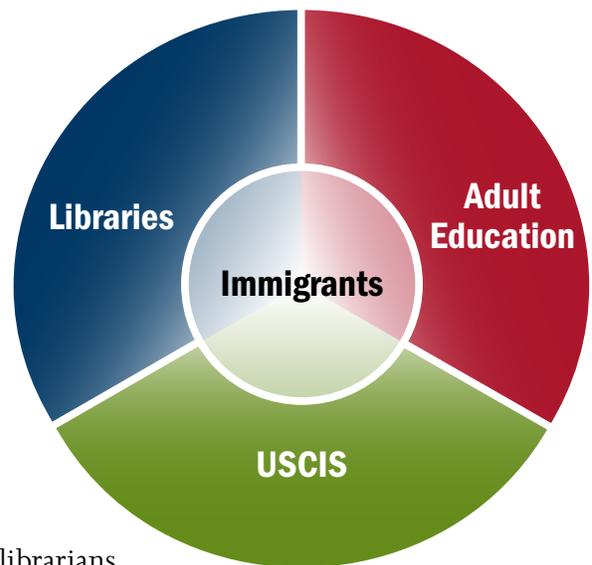
# The Seattle Bridges to Citizenship Fall Institute Event Summary

The USCIS Office of Citizenship facilitated a workshop for librarians and adult educators titled “The Seattle Bridges to Citizenship Fall Institute” in Seattle on September 9–10, 2015. Twenty-one librarians and forty-four educators participated in the Institute. Most were from Washington state and the northwest region, although there were people who attended from as far away as San Diego.

The Institute gave participants and USCIS staff the opportunity to interact with one another, ask questions, and learn about the needs and services of the various organizations represented. This Institute had four primary objectives:

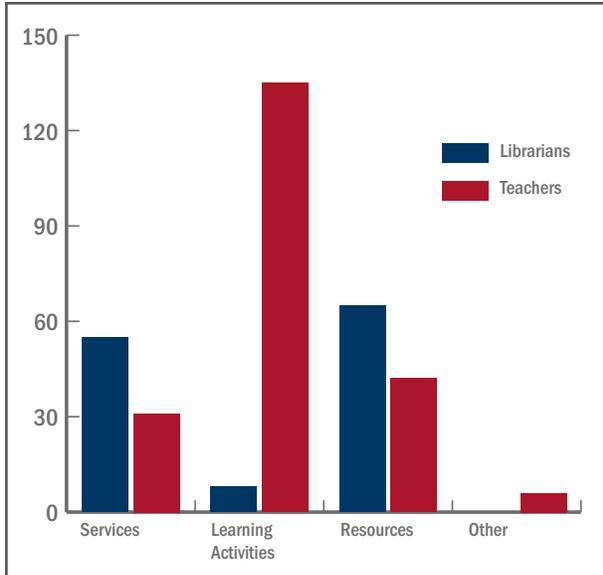
- Provide librarians and teachers with information about the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization and the naturalization interview and exam.
- Identify the needs of immigrant patrons who use library services and students who attend adult citizenship education classes.
- Connect librarians and teachers with resources and strategies that they can easily apply to their work with immigrant patrons and students.
- Create strategies for building networks between libraries, adult citizenship education programs, community-based organizations, and USCIS.

Participants also provided input about the needs of immigrants in their community and the steps that their organizations can take to meet those needs. After reviewing the responses from



librarians and teachers, most of the ideas generated fell into one of three categories: services, learning activities, and resources. Although both groups identified needs that fit in each of the categories, the librarians focused primarily on identifying services and resources that they can provide to immigrant patrons at the library while teachers overwhelmingly focused on developing learning activities to help immigrant students. This complementary relationship establishes an excellent foundation for building networks between librarians and educators to comprehensively meet the needs of immigrants in their communities. The rest of the Institute focused on helping librarians and teachers build that network.

On the second day of the Institute, librarians reexamined a library through the eyes of an



immigrant with little or no English speaking proficiency and learned about ESL strategies that make finding and accessing library resources and services easier for immigrants. Meanwhile, teachers explored the resources available at the USCIS Citizenship Resources Center (<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship>), learned several activities that they can use with their students that are derived from the brain-based instructional approach, and worked with one another to develop their own activities.

The last session of the Institute involved librarians and educators working together to create samples of informational materials about libraries or educational programs that could be handed out to immigrants. Working in small groups, they drew on the immigrant needs identified from the previous day, the services their organizations offer, the ESL strategies presented from earlier in the day, and their own experiences to develop ideas for a pamphlet or brochure advertising the services that a library or education organization offers to immigrants seeking to naturalize. The session concluded with each group presenting their brochure.

## NEXT STEPS

USCIS sent participants a post-event letter thanking them for participating and requesting information about the immigrant services they currently provide, as well as those they are planning to implement in the future. USCIS will then share these promising practices in future emails to Bridges to Citizenship workshop participants.