

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services (CINAS) Grant Program Characteristics and Outcomes from FY 2019 Services Report

December 2023

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INTRODUCTION

The goals of the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (CIGP)¹ are 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. These goals are accomplished through different grant programs across the United States, one being the Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services (CINAS) grant program. CINAS provides grant funding for public and nonprofit organizations to help prepare immigrants for citizenship by offering both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services.

This report provides an overview of the characteristics and outcomes for CIGP participants associated with the CINAS grant program who received citizenship preparation services during fiscal year 2019 (FY 2019). Please note this report does not reference services provided by FY 2019 grant recipients, who provided services from October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022. Rather, this report includes CIGP participants served by FY 2017 and FY 2018 grant recipients, who provided citizenship services from October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2020, and October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2021, respectively.

This report also includes summary CIGP CINAS grant program information for FY 2014, FY 2015, FY 2016, FY 2017, and FY 2018.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) Office of Citizenship collected CIGP grant recipient data; in addition, USCIS analyzed lawful permanent resident (LPR) and naturalization data created by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS).

¹ From FY 2009 – FY 2016, the program was called the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (CIGP) During FY 2017 - FY 2020 it was known as the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program (CAGP). In FY 2021, the name returned to Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (CIGP) and has remained as such since then. This report will use Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (CIGP) to refer to past and future grant cycles. For details, see the program website at: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/civic-integration/learn-about-the-</u> <u>citizenship-and-integration-grant-program</u>

FY17 and FY18 Grant Fact Sheets (Grantees providing services during FY19): https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/factsheets/FY2017 Grant Program Awards Fact Sheet.pdf https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/factsheets/FY2018 Grant Program Awards Fact Sheet.pdf

The characteristics of CIGP participants in the CINAS grant program examined in this report include participants' country of birth and world region, residence by U.S state, gender, marital status, lawful permanent resident (LPR) class of admission, occupation, and length of time in LPR status. The outcomes examined include the type of service provided to CIGP participants, the number of naturalization applications submitted, English and civics test results including test exemptions, the number of fee waivers, and the number of naturalized CIGP participants.

The USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy (OP&S), Policy Research Division (PRD), Immigration Data Analysis Branch analyzed data extracted from USCIS databases such as Computer-Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS 3 or C3), Computer-Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS 4 or C4), and USCIS Electronic Immigration System (ELIS) for USCIS Forms: I-485 (*Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*) and N-400 (*Application for Naturalization*), associated with CIGP participants.

During FY 2019, 73 CINAS grant recipient organizations provided citizenship and naturalization preparation services to CIGP participants in the District of Columbia and 31 states across the United States. Of these CIGP recipients, 37 received their two-year CIGP grant in September 2017, providing their first year of services in FY 2018, and their second year of services in FY 2019. Thirty-six CIGP recipients received their two-year CIGP grant in September 2018, providing their first year of services in FY 2019 and their second year of services in FY 2019.

Each CIGP CINAS recipient organization received, on average, approximately \$250,000 in funding for their two-year grants. CIGP participants are offered.

citizenship instruction services to prepare for the English and civics portions of the naturalization test, as well as naturalization application legal services to assist with submitting Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.

A total of 32,252 participants enrolled in FY 2019, a 5% decrease from FY 2018. The number of N-400 applications submitted associated with FY 2019 CIGP participants was 25,984, a 7% decrease from FY 2018.

Among FY 2019 CIGP participants, 20% enrolled between October and December 2018, 23% enrolled between January and March 2019, 26% enrolled between April and June 2019 and 31% enrolled between July and September 2019. Among those enrolled, 72% of the FY2019 participants became naturalized U.S. citizens by December 2022. The percentage of naturalized citizens was higher in FY 2019 compared with FY 2018 (61%).

FY 2019 CIGP Participants Characteristics

FY 2019 CIGP participants were born in 169 different countries. The top five countries of birth, comprising 39% of total CIGP participants were: Mexico (20%), Iraq (7%), Myanmar (5%), Dominican Republic (4%), and Bhutan (3%), (see Figure 1a and Figure 1b). In comparison, the top five leading countries of birth for FY 2018 CIGP participants were: Mexico (21%), Dominican Republic (6%), Iraq (5%), El Salvador (4%), and Myanmar (4%).

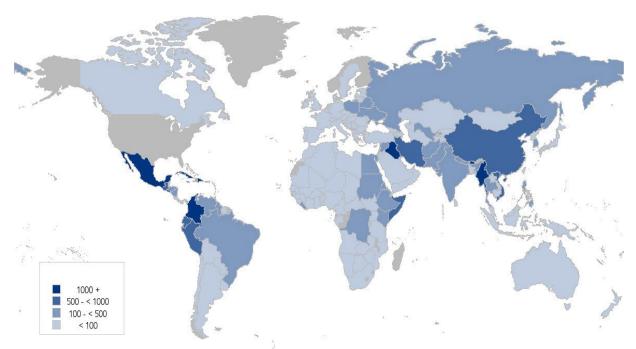


Figure 1a. FY 2019 CIGP Participants by Country of Birth

Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022.

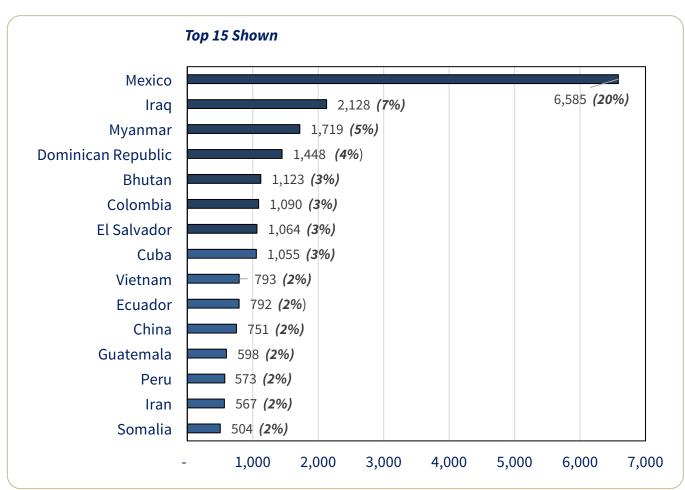


Figure 1b. FY 2019 CIGP Participants by Country of Birth

Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022.

Fifty eight percent of FY 2019 CIGP participants lived in one of six U.S states at the time they enrolled in CIGP: California (20%), New York (13%), Texas (9%), Florida (6%), New Jersey & Illinois (5%) (See Figure 2). In comparison, approximately 60% of FY 2018 CIGP participants lived in the following states: California (20%), New York (14%), Texas (10%), Florida (6%), New Jersey (5%), and Illinois (5%).

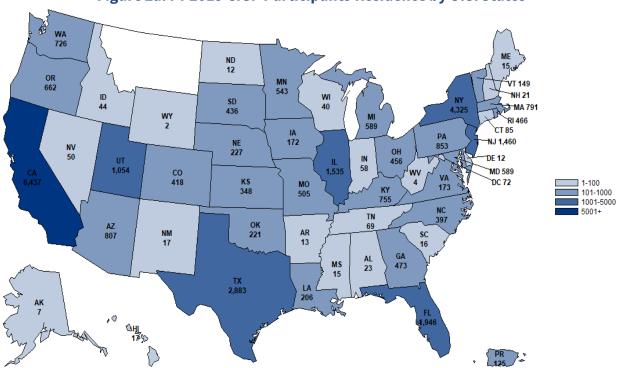


Figure 2a. FY 2019 CIGP Participants Residence by U.S. States

Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022.

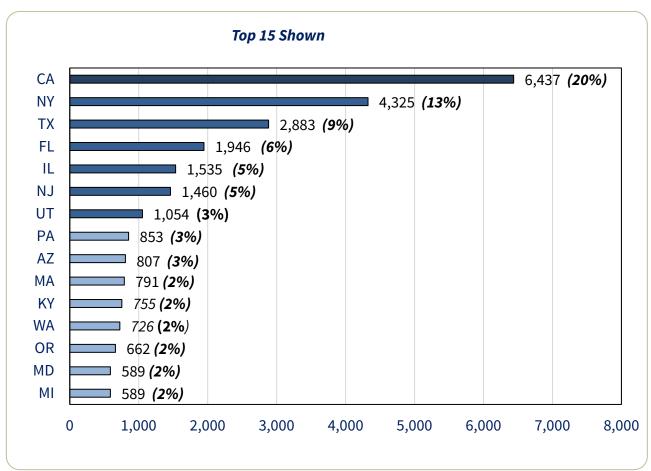


Figure 2b. FY 2019 CIGP Participants Residence by U.S. States

Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022.

About 73 % of CIGP participants were born in the following world regions: Asia (32%), North America (20%), Africa (11%), and the Caribbean (10%) (see Figure 3).

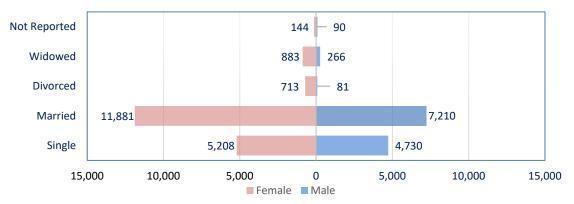


Figure 3. FY 2019 CIGP Participants by World Region and Gender

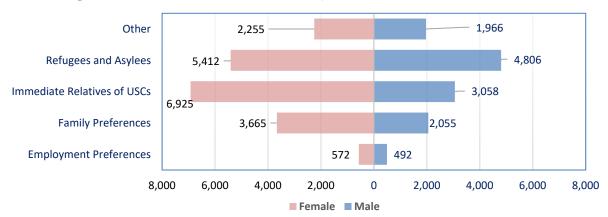
Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022. **Note:** Results with missing gender information are not included.

Females accounted for 58% of all FY 2019 CIGP participants. Fifty nine percent of CIGP participants were married, while 31% were single, and 2% were divorced (see Figure 4).





Thirty one percent of FY 2019 CIGP participants gained LPR status through admission as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (USCs), 32% were admitted as refugees and asylees, and another 18% were admitted under family-based sponsored preferences (see Figure 5). Other classes of admission include (Diversity Visa, IRCA, parolees, etc.)





Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022. **Note:** Results with missing gender information are not included.

Thirty seven percent of FY 2019 CIGP participants reported Other/no occupations when they applied for naturalization. Seven percent were in production and transportation related occupations, and another 7% were in service occupations (see Figure 6).

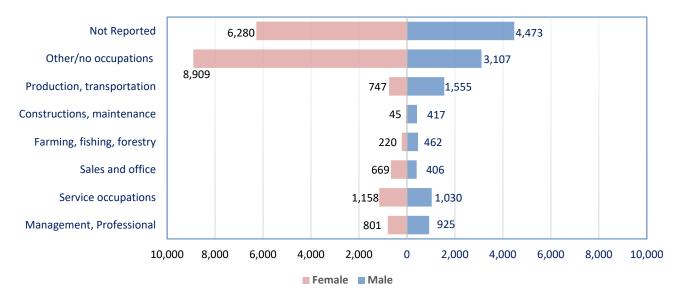


Figure 6. FY 2019 CIGP Participants by Occupation and Gender

CIGP participants' Years in LPR Status data is based on the length of time between their age at naturalization and when they were granted LPR status. Figure 7 below does not include CIGP participants who have not become naturalized U.S citizens by December 2022 (8,850 out of 32,252 CIGP participants). FY 2019 CIGP participants spent a median of seven years in LPR status before becoming naturalized U.S citizens (see Figure 7). The median CIGP LPR status duration time in FY 2018 was seven years as well.

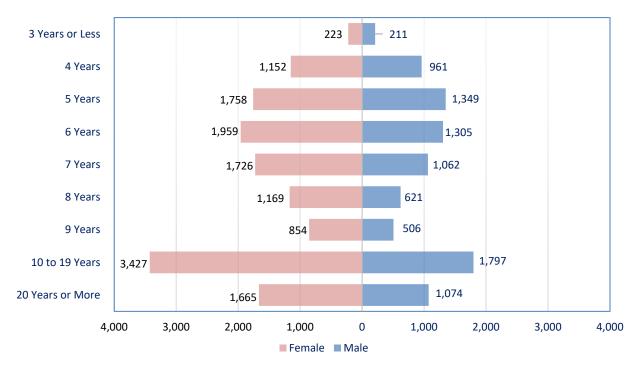


Figure 7. FY 2019 CIGP Participants by Years in LPR Status and Gender

FY 2019 CIGP Participant Services Provided

About 62% of CIGP participants only used naturalization application services (screening to determine naturalization eligibility, assistance with filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, or providing case-specific advice depending on needs, while 22% used only citizenship instruction services (English proficiency assessments and English and civics instruction). About 15% of CIGP participants used both citizenship instruction services and naturalization application services, (see Figure 8). It should be noted services provided by grant programs were not the same, with some programs offering both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services while others only offering one of the two.

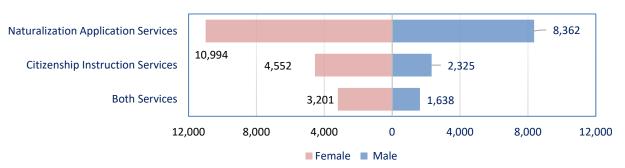


Figure 8. FY 2019 CIGP Participants by Service Type and Gender

Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022. **Note:** Results with missing gender information are not included.

Within the CIGP grant cycle, 25,984 FY 2019 CIGP participants submitted Form N-400, of which, 4,345 (About 16%) had a fee waiver request approved (see Figure 9). The fee waiver status for the CIGP N-400 applicants does not include reduced information.²

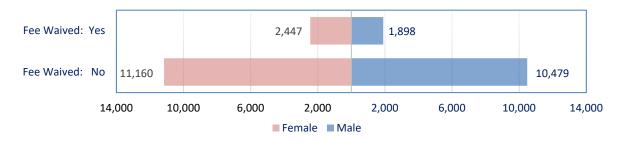


Figure 9. FY 2019 CIGP Participants by Fee Waiver and Gender

² For details about application fee waivers, see: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-fees/additional-</u> <u>information-</u> <u>on-filing-a-fee-waiver</u> and request for reduced fee: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/i-942</u>

Ninety-eight percent (25,698 of 25,984) of CIGP participants who submitted Form N-400 received no exemption from taking any portion of the naturalization test.

Seventy-seven participants were exempt from taking the civics test only, 65 participants were exempt from taking both tests, while another 144 participants were exempt from taking the English test only (see Figure 10).³



Figure 10. FY 2019 CIGP Participants – English and Civics Tests Exemptions

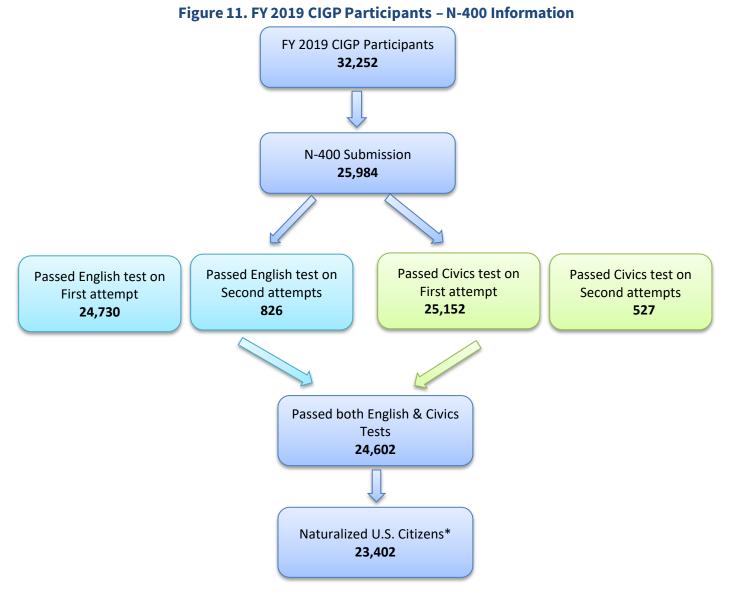
Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022.

³ For details about naturalization test exceptions, see <u>https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/exceptions-and-accommodations.</u>

FY2019 CIGP Participant Outcomes

Within the CIGP grant cycle, the number of CIGP participants who became naturalized U.S citizens includes those who were otherwise eligible for naturalization and either passed both the English and the civics portion of the naturalization test or received an exemption from one or both tests.

About 81% (25,984 of 32,252) of FY 2019 CIGP participants submitted Form N-400. Over 95% of CIGP participants who applied for naturalization passed either the English or the civics test on the first attempt. About 72% (23,402 of 32,252) of CIGP participants became naturalized U.S citizens by December 2022. (See Figure 11).



Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022.

FY2019 CIGP Participants Summary

CIGP Characteristics	CIGP Female		CIGP	Male	
Marital Status	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	
Divorced	713	3.80%	81	0.70%	
Married	11,881	63.10%	7,210	58.30%	
Single	5,208	27.70%	4,730	38.20%	
Widowed	883	4.70%	266	2.10%	
Unknown	144	0.80%	90	0.70%	
Birth Region					
Africa	2,055	10.90%	1,501	12.10%	
Asia	5,728	30.40%	4,538	36.70%	
Caribbean	2,102	11.20%	1,216	9.80%	
Central America	1,567	8.30%	858	6.90%	
Europe	995	5.30%	621	5.00%	
North America	4,195	22.30%	2,383	19.30%	
Oceania	27	0.10%	22	0.20%	
South America	2,081	11.10%	1,175	9.50%	
Not Reported (Missing Country of Birth	79	0.40%	63	0.50%	
Admission Class					
Employment Preferences	572	3.00%	492	4.00%	
Family Preferences	3,665	19.50%	2,055	16.60%	
Immediate Relatives of USCs	6,925	36.80%	3,058	24.70%	
Other	2,255	12.00%	1,966	15.90%	
Refugees and Asylees	5,412	28.70%	4,806	38.80%	
Occupation					
Management, professional and related occupations	801	4.30%	925	7.50%	
Service occupations	1,158	6.20%	1,030	8.30%	
Sales and office occupations	669	3.60%	406	3.30%	
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	220	1.20%	462	3.70%	
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	45	0.20%	417	3.40%	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	747	4.00%	1,555	12.60%	
Military occupations	0	0.00%	2	0.00%	
Other and no occupations	8,909	47.30%	3,107	25.10%	
Unknown occupations	6,280	33.40%	4,473	36.10%	

Table 1a: CIGP Participant Summary Characteristics by Gender, FY 2019

CIGP Characteristics	CIGP F	CIGP Female		Male	
Years in LPR Status	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	
3 Years or Less	223	1.10%	211	1.70%	
4 Years	1,152	6.10%	961	7.70%	
5 Years	1,758	9.30%	1,349	10.90%	
6 Years	1,959	10.40%	1,305	10.50%	
7 Years	1,726	9.20%	1,062	8.60%	
8 Years	1,169	6.20%	621	5.00%	
9 Years	854	4.50%	506	4.10%	
10 to 19 Years	3,427	18.20%	1.797	14.50%	
20 Years or More	1,665	8.80%	1,074	8.70%	
# Of Participants by Quarter					
Oct-Dec 2018	4,919	26.10%	3,240	26.20%	
Jan-Mar 2019	4,285	22.80%	2,975	24.00%	
Apr-Jun 2019	5,798	30.80%	3,820	30.90%	
Jul-Sep 2019	3,827	20.30%	2,342	18.90%	

Table1b: CIGP Participant Summary Characteristics by Gender, FY 2019

Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022. **Note:** Results with missing gender information are not included.

Table 2: CIGP Participant Summary Service and Outcome by CIGP and Gender, FY 2019

CIGP Characteristics	CIGP	CIGP Female		P Male
Services Used	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Naturalization Application Services	10,994	58.40%	8,362	67.60%
Citizenship Instruction Services	4,552	24.20%	2,325	18.80%
Both Services Used	3,201	17.00%	1,638	13.30%
N-400 Fee Waiver				
No Fee Waiver:	16,382	87.00%	10,479	84.70%
Fee Waiver	2,447	13.00%	1,898	15.30%
Exam Exemptions				
Civics test Only	8	0.10%	2	0.00%
English test only	43	0.30%	26	0.30%
Exempt from both tests	38	0.20%	26	0.30%
No Exemptions	15,872	99.40%	9,691	99.40%

Overview: CIGP Participant Information, FY 2014 - FY2019

Table 3: CIGP Participant Characteristics, FY 2014-FY 2019

	CIGP Participant Information					
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Gender	ofTotal	of Total				
Female	60.20%	60.30%	58.60%	59.20%	58.80%	58.40%
Male	39.80%	39.60%	36.70%	37.20%	37.60%	38.40%
Marital Status						
Married	64.20%	62.30%	59.10%	61.10%	58.40%	59.40%
Single	29.00%	23.70%	30.00%	32.20%	31.80%	31.00%
Divorced	3.40%	9.40%	2.40%	2.30%	2.30%	2.50%
Widowed	2.70%	4.00%	3.20%	3.20%	3.30%	3.60%
Other/Not Reported	0.70%	0.60%	5.30%	1.20%	3.90%	3.20%
Birth Region						
Asia	28.80%	33.10%	28.90%	27.10%	29.60%	32.10%
North America	21.50%	19.40%	22.90%	25.30%	20.50%	20.50%
South America	13.20%	12.40%	10.70%	11.00%	10.60%	10.20%
Caribbean	11.80%	11.40%	9.90%	11.20%	11.50%	10.40%
Africa	9.60%	10.30%	9.30%	11.10%	11.80%	11.20%
Central America	9.30%	8.50%	9.90%	9.90%	8.40%	7.60%
Europe + Oceania	5.70%	4.50%	8.40%	4.50%	4.10%	5.30%
Top Country of Birth						
Mexico	21.30%	19.20%	23.00%	25.20%	21.10%	20.40%
Iraq	8.60%	6.70%	4.60%	3.90%	5.40%	6.60%
Dominican Republic	6.70%	5.30%	4.50%	5.40%	5.60%	4.50%
El Salvador	4.00%	3.80%	4.50%	4.60%	4.50%	3.30%
Colombia	3.70%	3.80%	3.90%	3.40%	3.30%	3.40%
All Others	55.10%	56.70%	59.50%	57.50%	60.10%	61.90%
Top U.S States Residence						
CA	14.80%	14.60%	22.20%	19.90%	19.60%	19.50%
NY	17.60%	14.00%	10.70%	15.30%	13.60%	13.10%
ТХ	13.20%	8.30%	9.30%	12.10%	10.10%	8.70%
FL	3.90%	7.20%	8.40%	5.80%	6.40%	5.90%
IL	5.40%	6.10%	4.50%	4.20%	4.90%	4.40%
All Others	45.10%	49.80%	44.90%	42.70%	45.40%	48.40%
Classes of Admission						
Employment preferences	5.60%	5.00%	4.70%	4.70%	3.90%	3.30%
Family-sponsored preferences	19.40%	19.50%	18.70%	19.80%	19.70%	18.00%
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	33.70%	31.40%	30.70%	34.20%	31.70%	31.20%
Refugees and asylees	27.70%	30.30%	28.60%	26.80%	29.00%	31.80%
Other (Diversity Visa, IRCA, parolees, etc.)	13.60%	13.80%	17.30%	14.60%	15.70%	15.60%

Continued next page...

Table 3 (continued): CIGP Participant Characteristics, FY 2014-FY 2019

	CIGP Participant Information					
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Employment and Occupation	Percent of Total	Percent of Total	Percent of Total	Percent of Total	Percent of Total	Percent of Total
Unemployed	20.30%	14.60%	6.90%	7.00%	N/A %	N/A %
Homemaker	15.50%	9.40%	12.30%	12.70%	N/A %	N/A %
Student	8.70%	5.00%	11.70%	11.80%	N/A %	N/A %
Retired	3.80%	3.10%	0.70%	0.70%	N/A %	N/A %
Construction, extraction, maintenance	14.80%	2.10%	1.50%	1.70%	1.60%	1.40%
Service	14.30%	23.70%	7.20%	7.90%	7.70%	6.90%
Sales and office	8.00%	4.90%	2.90%	3.20%	3.20%	3.40%
Production, transportation	7.50%	5.30%	8.10%	8.70%	7.90%	7.20%
Management/ /Farming//Military/ Other/Unknown *	7.10%	31.90%	48.70%	46.30%	79.60%	81.10%

Note: * Several occupation categories (Management/Farming/Military/Other/Unknown) were consolidated for FY 2018 and FY 2019 respectively.

CIGP Partici	-					
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
CIGP Services Used	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
	of Total					
Naturalization Application Services	55.0%	52.2%	46.2%	42.3%	42.8%	62.1%
Citizenship Instruction Services	28.0%	27.6%	24.4%	26.0%	24.5%	22.1%
Both Services Used	17%	20.1%	15.3%	13.0%	12.6%	15.4%
N-400 Fee Waiver						
Yes	N/A	52.7%	41.1%	26.8%	15.1%	16.7%
No	N/A	47.3%	58.9%	72.2%	84.9%	83.3%
Exam Exemptions ^₄						
Civics test only	2.0%	4.1%	< 1 %	< 1 %	<1%	< 1 %
English test only	11.0%	7.3%	3.90%	3.3%	1.1%	<1%
Exempt from both tests	2.0%	3.9%	4.9%	4.00%	1.40%	<1%
No exemptions	85.0%	84.7%	90.9%	92.4%	97.4%	98.8%
Naturalization Information ⁵						
Passed (civics or English) tests on first attempt	84.0%	88.9%	91.3%	89.9%	96.4%	96.6%
Passed either test on second or later attempt	16.0%	9.8%	8.7%	7.2%	3.6.%	2.6.%
Overall passed both tests	92.0%	93.4%	90.1%	90.0%	94.1%	94.7%
CIGP participants who became naturalized U.S citizen	67.0%	64.0%	61.7%	55.1%	60.9%	72.5%

Table 4: CIGP Participant Service and Outcome, FY 2014-FY 2019

Source: USCIS, CLAIMS 3/CLAIMS 4/ELIS, and DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) naturalization data as of December 2022.

⁵ For more details on naturalization steps:

⁴ "Exam Exemptions" refers to percentages of total CIGP participants.

https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/the-naturalization-interview-and-test

<u>https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/the-naturalization-interview-and-test/applicant-performance-on-the-naturalization-test</u>

Between FY 2014 and FY 2019, the number of CIGP participants increased by 79%, while the number of CIGP participants who submitted Form N-400 increased by 49%. Overall, the CIGP participants who became naturalized U.S citizens increased by 93% between FY 2014 and FY 2019 (see Figure 12).¹

It should be noted the FY 2014 CIGP participants numbers were smaller because they included grants years in which the CIGP funding levels were at \$5 million rather than \$10 million. At lower funding levels, USCIS awarded smaller grants to fewer organizations, which resulted in fewer participants.

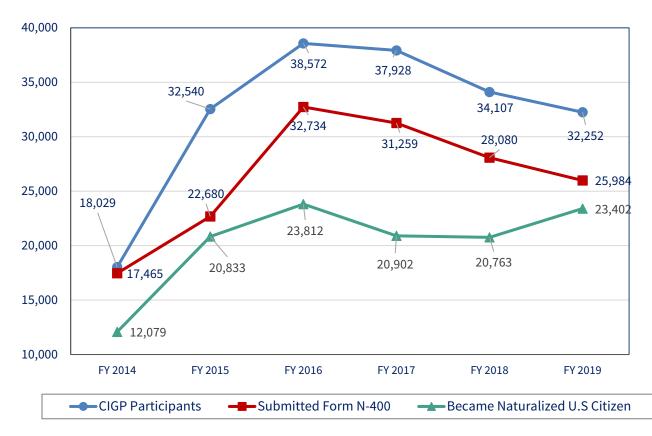


Figure 12: CIGP Participants Information, FY 2014-FY 2019

Source: OP&S Published Reports: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies</u> in addition to current FY 2019 CIGP report numbers.

¹ The FY14 number of participants was notably smaller because it included grants years in which the CIGP funding levels were at \$5 million rather than \$10 million. At lower funding levels, USCIS awarded smaller grants to fewer organizations, which resulted in fewer participants.

Between FY 2014 and FY 2019, CIGP participants' LPR classes of admission percentages remain relatively unchanged (see Figure 13).

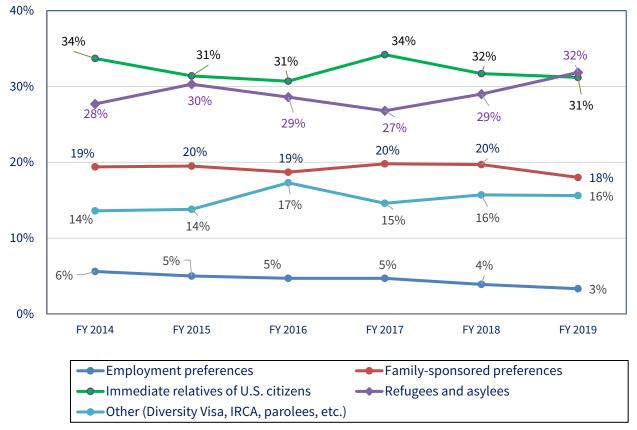


Figure 13: CIGP Participants- Admission Class, FY 2014-FY 2019

Source: OP&S Published Reports: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies</u> in addition to current FY2019 CIGP report numbers.

Through the CIGP, participants associated with the CINAS grant program were able to access citizenship instruction services (English proficiency assessments and English and civics instruction), and naturalization application services (screening to determine naturalization eligibility, assistance with filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, or providing case-specific advice), depending on need.

Between FY 2014 and FY 2019, the percentage of participants who received only naturalization application service ranged from 55% to 62%. Similarly, the percentage of CIGP participants who received citizenship instruction services only ranged between 22% and 28%. Furthermore, the percentage range for CIGP participants who received both naturalization application services and citizenship instruction services was between 13% and 20% between FY2014 and FY2019 (See Figure 14). A possible explanation for the increase in percentage in FY 2019 naturalization application services compared with previous years is that the service used to receive information provided by grant organizations has been updated more frequently.

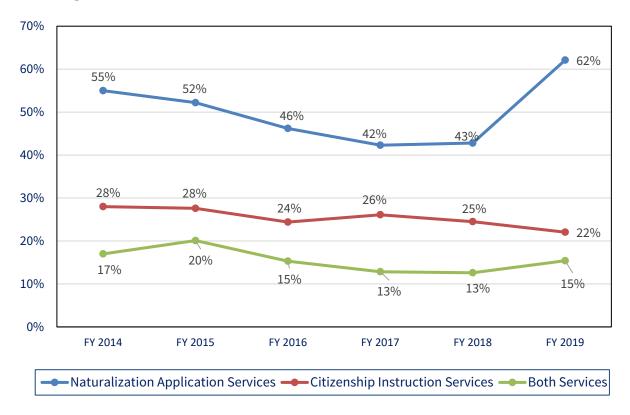


Figure 14: CIGP Participants- Percent of Services Used, FY 2014-FY 2019

Source: OP&S Published Reports: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies</u> in addition to current FY2019 CIGP report numbers.

The overall test passing rate for FY 2014 CIGP participants through FY 2019 CIGP participants, was between 90% and 95%, while the percentage participants who became U.S. naturalized citizens ranged between 55% and 72% respectively (see Figure 15).

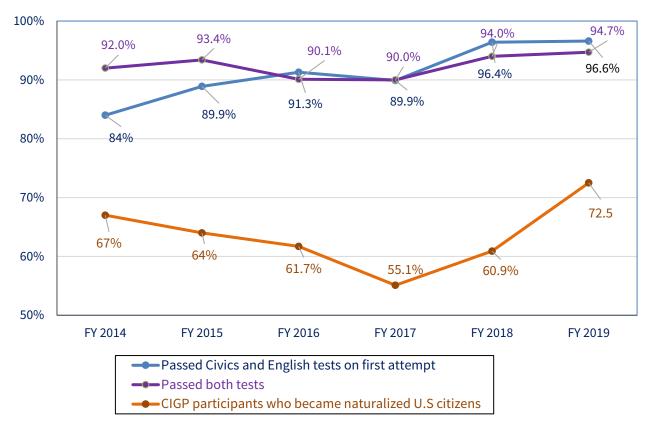


Figure 15: CIGP Participant- English and Civics Tests Passing Rates and Naturalization Outcomes, - FY 2014-FY 2019

Source: OP&S Published Reports: <u>https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies</u> in addition to current FY2019 CIGP report numbers.