

June 14, 2022

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

Thank you for increasing the funding for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Citizenship and Integration Grant Program to \$20 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. We write today to request that you continue your support for the integration of immigrants into the social, cultural, economic and civic life of the United States by further investing \$100 million for the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program in FY 2023.

As you know, the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (CIGP) has been part of a multifaceted effort to provide citizenship preparation resources, support, and information to immigrants and immigrant-serving institutions. Since 2009, the CIGP has awarded more than \$112 million through 513 competitive grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 39 states and the District of Columbia. The program has helped more than 290,000 lawful permanent residents (LPRs) prepare for U.S. citizenship.

Unfortunately, even after important investments in citizenship preparation resources, the CIGP currently serves only a fraction of eligible immigrants and immigrant-serving institutions. Approximately 9.13 million LPRs are potentially eligible to naturalize, and the number continues to grow. Despite its life changing impact, the 290,000 LPRs reached by CIGP in its entire history is less than one percent of over the over nine million potentially eligible LPRs (.031 percent). For FY 2021, USCIS anticipates that approximately 25,000 LPRs will receive citizenship preparation services through the CIGP. This would reach .0027% of the eligible population of LPRs. Clearly, the need exists to support immigrants interested in becoming citizens, and the vehicle for meeting that need is to increase investments in CIGP.

Additionally, while USCIS reviewed more than 95 eligible applications FY 2021 funding only supported 40 organizations nationwide. Increasing funding for the CIGP will not only support immigrant-serving institutions but will also increase capacity for additional qualified legal service providers to assist with the naturalization application and process. This will allow USCIS to more efficiently adjudicate applications by reducing filing errors likely contributing to the agency-wide effort towards reducing casework backlogs and improving processing times. Increasing funding will also further the goals of the Interagency Strategy for Promoting Naturalization.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to expand FY2023 funding for the CIGP to \$100 million to expand the quality and reach of citizenship instruction programs and ultimately make a civic, economic, and social investment that would benefit families, local communities, and the nation as a whole. For any questions, please contact Laura Vazquez, Associate Director, Immigrant Integration at lvazquez@unidosus.org.

Sincerely,

Advocating Opportunity
Alianza Americas
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.
Aliento Education Fund
ALL In Education
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Arkansas United
Boundless Immigration
CARECEN
Center for Employment Training
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Church World Service
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations, Inc.
Coalition on Human Needs
Emerald Isle Immigration Center
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project
Farmworker Association of Florida
Freedom Network USA
GMHC
Greater Lawrence community Action Council
HIAS Pennsylvania
Hispanic federation
Hispanic Services Council, Inc.
Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigrant Welcome Center
Immigration Hub
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California
Korean Community Service Center
Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)
Make the Road New York
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas
NALEO Educational Fund

National Education Association
National Partnership for New Americans
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
North Carolina Asian Americans Together
OneAmerica
Poder Latinx
Presente.org
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Promise Arizona
Rural coalition organization
Self-Help for the Elderly
The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc
UndocuBlack Network
UnidosUS
Unite Oregon
United Stateless
University of San Francisco Immigration & Deportation Defense
Clinic
USW Local 675
Voice for Refuge Action Fund
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Workers Center of Central New York
World Education Services