**Citizenship Corners & Expanded English Language Services for New Americans**

**Grant Amount:**
$7,500 / $15,000

**Time Range:**
1 year / 2 years

**Eligibility:**
Public Libraries

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**Summary:**
Provide citizenship and ESOL services

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**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This program would provide libraries the opportunity to develop a range of services for New Americans. The Citizenship Corners would be a one-year program and would be funded at no more than $7,500. Should the library seek to expand existing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes or create a Conversation Circle program, they could apply for the higher range of funds. Libraries applying for this range would need to commit to a two-year time frame.

Components of the project will include the following:

- Set up a special area of the library as a Citizenship Corner
- Feature information on immigration and naturalization provided by USCIS
- Partner with community organizations to offer a series of workshops on citizenship and naturalization at least twice during the grant year
- Commit to maintaining citizenship information as part of library services
- Cultural training for staff
- Materials and support of citizenship and English language learning

Expanded English Language Services – Two-Year Grant
• Create or expand a small group instruction program to learn and practice English using trained volunteers supervised by library staff
• Offer classes that focus on vocabulary building through informal conversation and topics of practical interest
• Include a Citizenship Corner as a designated area of the library
• Partners include USCIS and the Office for Refugees and Immigrants
• Cultural training for staff
• Materials and support of citizenship and English language learning

BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Census, 15.5% of the Massachusetts population is foreign-born. Libraries are the natural location to find resources to learn and practice English. Additionally, libraries play a critical role as informal education centers where they offer structured programs to learn about the citizenship and naturalization process in a safe and trusted environment. These programs aid in the acculturation process by increasing knowledge of American culture and customs. They also serve as a forum for community members to meet and interact with others from different cultures.