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For Immediate Release

Library Awarded \$250,000 Grant for Immigration and Citizenship

Sept. 7, 2016 — Hartford Public Library has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security for Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services.

The new two-year grant supports current citizenship services at the Library and will enhance services to legal permanent residents fluent in English, but with low literacy skills. This group is seldom reported in national literacy statistics.

The funds also allow Hartford Public Library to develop a more unified and systematic approach to immigrant integration among peer libraries in Connecticut by sharing success strategies, which include N400 application workshops, Citizenship Corners, and effective outreach tools. Peer libraries are in Enfield, Vernon, East Hartford, New Britain, Norwich, and Stamford. Libraries in Norwich and Stamford will also receive on-site citizenship classes. This collaborative approach could serve as a model for libraries in other states to replicate.

Hartford Public Library was among 46 organizations in 21 states to receive funding.

“It is most affirming that USCIS recognizes libraries as essential partners in facilitating immigrant civic integration,” says Homa Naficy, chief adult learning officer for Hartford Public Library.

Since it began in 2009, the USCIS [Citizenship and Integration Grant Program](#) has awarded a total of \$63 million through 308 competitive grants to public or private nonprofit organizations in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Now in its eighth year, the program has helped more than 156,000 permanent residents prepare for citizenship. USCIS anticipates that an additional 37,000 permanent residents will receive citizenship preparation services by Sept. 30, 2018, as a result of the grant program.

For more information about Hartford Public Library Immigration and Citizenship programs, see its website: <http://bit.ly/2bQCa3E>

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