

Grants & Recognitions

Contact: [Homa Naficy](#), Multicultural Services Director, Hartford Public Library

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services Citizenship and Integration Grant

Year 2010

Amount of \$99,985.00

Project Title: Citizenship Education Services

Project Goal: To expand educational opportunities and tools to facilitate the transition of Legal Permanent Residents to citizenship status and integration, via the use of instructional technologies (multimedia and software) and collaborative learning. The Library will build on its partnerships with the Hartford Public Schools and selected Ethnic- Based Organizations (EBOs) to recruit volunteer immigrant high school students and members from the EBOs to be trained as: trainers in the effective use of instructional technologies and guides to the naturalization process. The Library will offer two delivery modes; one an instructor-led Classroom mode, and the second, a self-paced, self-study mode, facilitated at the Library by the trained volunteers. The Self-Study mode will increase learning opportunities for students unable to attend a “fixed-schedule” course, because of their work or other socio-economic barriers. Instructional technologies will be at the core of both delivery modes; hence, students will improve their civics/ESL knowledge while gaining invaluable computer skills.

Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant (Demonstration)

Year 2010

Amount: \$637,896

Project Title: Building Relationships and Bridging Social Capital: An Inclusive Approach to Immigrant Civic Engagement

Project Goal: World renowned Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam contends that building networks of trusting relationships creates one of civic participation’s most powerful contributions to immigrant integration. Putnam calls these relationships “social capital,” arguing that all aspects of community, including inter-group relations, are strengthened when social capital is strong. Indeed, people who know one another through shared work are far less capable of stereotyping, fearing, and mischaracterizing each other. In its publication *The Engaged Library: Library Stories of Community Building*, the Urban Library Council refers to Putnam and re-emphasizes that libraries are uniquely positioned to build networks that bring together different types of people who may not otherwise share experiences with each other.

According to a recent report, ‘The House We All Live In’ published by the Carnegie Corporation “...there is not enough funding to generate more research to replicate successful models of immigrant civic integration...” Creating such a replicable model, that will respond to the acute need nationwide for immigrant civic integration, is the goal of this demonstration project.

[Click here](#) for an overview of Project Design.



500 Main Street • Hartford, CT 06103
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