

How to Create a Citizenship Education Program



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***The PowerPoint slides will be emailed to attendees after the webinar.

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2

Overview

- Need for comprehensive citizenship services
- How and why legal service providers are well-positioned to offer citizenship education services
- Key components of a successful citizenship education program
- Profile of local affiliate program
- Resources and next steps

3

Survey Questions

1. Does your program currently offer ESL or citizenship test preparation classes?
2. Are you interested in resources from CLINIC on how to promote immigrant integration within your agency and community?

4

Statistics

- In 2012, 40.8 million immigrants in the U.S. (Migration Policy Institute)
- 54% of these were not yet naturalized (Migration Policy Institute)
- 8.8 million LPRs were eligible for naturalization in 2012 (DHS Office of Immigration Statistics)
- 779,929 persons naturalized in 2013 (DHS Office of Immigration Statistics)
- 55% of LPRs eligible to naturalize are limited English proficient (Pew Hispanic Center)
- 52% of LPRs eligible to naturalize are low income (Pew Hispanic Center)
- 60% of all foreign-born came to the U.S. over 19 years of age (National Center for Education Statistics)
- Persons naturalizing in 2013 spent a median of 7 years in LPR status before naturalizing (DHS Office of Immigration Statistics)

5

What's Required for the Test?

- 100 possible civics-based questions (6 out of 10)
- Reading (one out of three)
- Writing (one out of three)
- Speaking
- Simple words and phrases
- Words in ordinary usage in English language

***Questions, vocabulary, and other test prep materials:
<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship>

6

Barriers to Naturalization

- Cost
- English language proficiency
 - Most naturalization denials due to failing test
 - Barriers to classes:
 - Location/transportation
 - Schedule/time
 - Family/work obligations
 - Lack of available classes
 - Lack of high quality classes
 - Cost
 - Inexperience or negative experience in classroom

Note: Overall pass rate for citizenship test is 96%

7



Remedies

- Increase in language and citizenship classes
- Public education efforts
- Support services offered by the community
- Coordinated approach to make it easy

http://www.casademaryland.org/storage/documents/nai_report.pdf

8



Advantages of Legal Service Providers

- Trust
- Reputation
- Community awareness
- Staff knowledge of clients

9



Benefits of Offering Citizenship Classes

- Wrap-around services for clients
- Greater support for clients pursuing naturalization
- Target services for specific populations (elderly, etc.)
- Preparation for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- Exposure to more funders
- Eligibility for some government grants

10



Types of Classes

- Civics-Based ESL (Level 1)
 - Content-based language class
 - For lower-level LEP students preparing for the citizenship test
 - Focus on: English language basics, vocabulary, and citizenship test content

11



Types of Classes

- Citizenship (Level 2)
 - Content-based test preparation class
 - For higher-level LEP students preparing for the citizenship test
 - Focus on: citizenship test content

12



Key Components

- Formal curriculum that is age and level appropriate
- Course objectives for each class level
- Student assessments
- Qualified instructor who is evaluated and provided training opportunities
- Robust, complementary citizenship legal services
- Coordination of citizenship legal and educational services

13



Nuts and Bolts: Curricula

- How many levels should we offer?
- What materials should we use?
- How do we pay for student textbooks?
- Do we have to teach only what is on the test?

***Materials resource: <http://www.mcael.org/providers>

14



Nuts and Bolts: Logistics

- How often should class meet?
- How long should a class session be?
- How many weeks should a class term run?
- Who should enroll in this type of class?
- Can I charge for the classes?

15



Nuts and Bolts: Assessment

- How do we assess student learning?
- How do we assess teaching quality?

16



Nuts and Bolts: Staffing

- Can our program use volunteers to teach the classes?
- If we want to hire teachers, how much should we pay?
- Can we use a mix of professionally trained teachers and volunteers?
- Do we need a program coordinator?

***Teacher training resource: <http://www.mcael.org/instructors>

***Volunteer and teacher training resources: <http://www.proliteracyednet.org/>

17



Robust Citizenship Legal Services

- New Americans Campaign
- Why plan a workshop?
- Identifying partners
- Program decisions
- Outreach in the community

18



New Americans Campaign



- Established in July 2011
- Brings over 80 legal-service providers, faith-based organizations, businesses, foundations and community leaders across the country
- Visit <http://newamericanscampaign.org>

19



Coordination of Legal and Educational Services

- Legal and educational staff know each other and are cross-trained
- Staff meet regularly and discuss referrals
- Legal staff visit classes
- Incentives are offered for wrap-around services
- Legal staff have class information and contact for registration
- Use of single database and intake process for citizenship program clients

20



Post-Naturalization

- Voter registration
- Civic engagement opportunities
- Leadership development
- Volunteering
- Advocacy

21



Affiliate Profile: Catholic Charities of Buffalo

- Program overview
- Challenges
- Funding
- Lessons learned

22



Potential Funding Sources

- Federal government (Office of Citizenship, DOE)
- City and State government
- Local foundations
- Collaborative grant applications
- Literacy councils (<http://www.mcael.org/grants>)
- Local businesses (Comcast, Dollar General and CVS)

23



Partnerships

- Libraries
- Religious institutions
- Public housing centers
- Local public schools
- Local universities with ESL programs
- Employers

24



Next Steps

- Needs assessment
- Inform the Resource Developer
- Advocate for language classes
- Observe other programs
- Create business plan
- Research funding

25



Resources: Program Standards

- See CLINIC's self-assessment form at: <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/online-resources/helpful-links/citizenship-test-preparation-program-self-assessment>
- CLINIC's *A More Perfect Union: A National Citizenship Plan*, <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/publications>
- USCIS' Elements of Program Quality for Adult Citizenship Education, <http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/organizations/program-development>

26



Resources: Materials

- USCIS: <http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship>
 - *Expanding ESL, Civics, and Citizenship Education in Your Community: A Start-Up Guide*
- TESOL: www.TESOL.org
 - Local TESOL chapter
- Center for Applied Linguistics: www.cal.org and Center for Adult English Language Acquisition: www.cal.org/caela
- National Institute for Literacy: <http://nlincs.ed.gov>
- English Language Learner University: www.ELL-U.org
- Local adult ed programs, community college programs, and literacy councils
- CLINIC's *Citizenship for Us: A Handbook on Naturalization & Citizenship*, <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/publications>

27



Other Resources

- America's Literacy Directory, <http://www.literacydirectory.org/>
- CLINIC Toolkit, Creating a Citizenship Preparation Program, <http://cliniclegal.org/resources/comprehensive-citizenship-preparation-program-toolkit>
- CLINIC Toolkit, Creating a Workplace ELL Program, <http://cliniclegal.org/resources/creating-workplace-ell-program>
- CLINIC handbook, *Citizenship for Elders: Issues and Options in Test Preparation*, https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/citizenship_for_elders_2nd_edition_final.pdf

28



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- Access to attorney hotline for case consultations
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29



Questions?



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