



Promoting Citizenship and Immigrant Integration

**USCIS Announces Grant Recipients,
New Resources, and Research**

**Woodrow Wilson International Center
for Scholars ★ Washington, DC**

September 17, 2010



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

More information can be found online.

Today's event: www.uscis.gov/2010citizenshipconference

Grants: www.uscis.gov/grants

Citizenship Resource Center: www.uscis.gov/citizenship

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USCIS ANNOUNCES GRANT RECIPIENTS, NEW RESOURCES, AND RESEARCH

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

September 17, 2010 ★ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

9:00 am – 9:30 am

Welcome

Sonya Michel

Director, United States Studies Program
Woodrow Wilson International Center
for Scholars

Announcement of Citizenship and Integration Grant Program Recipients

Alejandro Mayorkas

Director, USCIS

Presentation of the Citizenship Resource Center

Rebecca Carson

Chief, USCIS Office of Citizenship

9:30 am – 9:45 am

Break

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Panel 1: Becoming American – New Research and Analysis of Citizenship and Integration

Tiffany J. Lightbourn

Chief, Research and Evaluation Division
USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy

Katherine Benton-Cohen

Associate Professor, Georgetown University

Doris Meissner

Senior Fellow, Migration Policy Institute

Moderator: Laura Patching

Deputy Chief, USCIS Office of Citizenship

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10:45 am – 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm **Panel 2: Innovations in Immigrant
Integration Programs**

Mark Hetfield

Senior Vice President
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)

Ann Morse

Program Director, Immigrant Policy Project
National Conference of State Legislatures

Maria Reyes

Director, YWCA Multicultural Center
YWCA of Tulsa, Oklahoma

Moderator: Rebecca Carson

Chief, USCIS Office of Citizenship



National Capacity Building Grant Recipients

Grantees/Sub-applicants	City	State
Boat People SOS, Inc. (BPSOS)	Falls Church	VA
BPSOS—Delaware Valley	Pennsauken	NJ
BPSOS—Delaware Valley	Philadelphia	PA
BPSOS—Texas	Houston	TX
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)	Washington	DC
Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton	Stockton	CA
Catholic Services of Macomb	Clinton Township	MI
Catholic Charities of Buffalo	Buffalo	NY
Catholic Charities Health and Human Services	Cleveland	OH
Church World Service (CWS)	New York	NY
Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles, Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service (IRIS)	Los Angeles	CA
Church World Service Greensboro	Greensboro	NC
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Inc. (HIAS)	New York	NY
Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, Inc. (GCFJS)	Clearwater	FL
Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts, Inc. (JFSWM)	Springfield	MA
US Together, Inc. (UST)	Columbus	OH
International Rescue Committee, Inc. (IRC)	New York	NY
IRC	Sacramento	CA
IRC	Abilene	TX
IRC	Charlottesville	VA
Minnesota Literacy Council, Inc.	St. Paul	MN
Southwest Adult Basic Education	Marshall	MN
Lincoln Adult Basic Education/Institute for New Americans	Minneapolis	MN
Rochester Adult and Family Literacy Program	Rochester	MN
ProLiteracy Worldwide	Syracuse	NY
Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta	Decatur	GA
Nashville Adult Literacy Coalition	Nashville	TN

Direct Services Grant Recipients

Grantee	City	State
Southeast Regional Resource Center	Juneau	AK
Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama	Birmingham	AL
International Rescue Committee	Phoenix	AZ
Pima Community College - Community Campus	Tucson	AZ
California Human Development Corporation	Santa Rosa	CA
Catholic Charities of Orange County, Inc.	Santa Ana	CA
El Concilio del Condado de Ventura	Oxnard	CA
International Institute of the Bay Area	San Francisco	CA
New Haven Unified School District	Union City	CA
San Dieguito Union High School District Adult School	Encinitas	CA
Stanislaus Literacy Center	Modesto	CA
Colorado African Organization	Denver	CO
Hartford Public Library	Hartford	CT
Hispanic Unity of Florida, Inc.	Hollywood	FL
School Board of Miami-Dade County	Miami	FL
Jewish Family & Career Services, Inc.	Atlanta	GA
West Georgia Technical College	Waco	GA
Mountain States Group, Inc.	Boise	ID
Association House of Chicago	Chicago	IL
Institute For Latino Progress	Chicago	IL
Jewish Family & Children's Service	Waltham	MA
Tri-City Community Action Program, Inc.	Malden	MA
Worcester Public Schools	Worcester	MA
Baltimore City Community College	Baltimore	MD
Montgomery College	Rockville	MD

Grantee	City	State
Board of Education Wayne County City of Dearborn	Dearborn	MI
Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Inc.	St. Paul	MN
Jewish Family & Vocational Services of Middlesex County, Inc.	Milltown	NJ
La Casa de Don Pedro	Newark	NJ
BronxWorks, Inc.	Bronx	NY
City University of New York (CUNY) Citizenship Now!	New York	NY
Federation Employment and Guidance Services, Inc.	New York	NY
HANAC, Inc.	New York	NY
Make the Road New York	Brooklyn	NY
The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, Inc.	Utica	NY
International Institute of Akron, Inc.	Akron	OH
YWCA of Tulsa, Oklahoma	Tulsa	OK
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Portland	OR
Lutheran Community Services Northwest	Portland	OR
Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13	Lancaster	PA
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota	Sioux Falls	SD
Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.	Fort Worth	TX
Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc.	Dallas	TX
Harris County Department of Education	Houston	TX
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Inc.	Arlington	VA
Skyline Literacy	Harrisonburg	VA
Ukrainian Community Center of Washington	Renton	WA
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College	Green Bay	WI

Speaker Biographies

Katherine Benton-Cohen is associate professor of history at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where she teaches courses in women's and gender history, the American West, and the history of race and immigration. She is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the author of *Borderline Americans: Racial Division and Labor War in the Arizona Borderlands* (Harvard University Press, 2009). Benton-Cohen is the recipient of numerous research awards, and was a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in 2009-2010. Her current work, featured in the summer issue of *The Wilson Quarterly*, examines the Dillingham Commission of 1907-1911, a Congressional study of immigration that led to the restrictions of the 1920s.

Rebecca Carson is Chief of the Office of Citizenship at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Ms. Carson is charged with leading federal efforts to proactively foster immigrant integration, encourage United States citizenship, and promote instruction and training on citizenship rights and responsibilities. Prior to joining USCIS, Ms. Carson was the Deputy Campaign Manager for Senator Patty Murray's (D-WA) winning bid for the U.S. Senate in 2004. She also worked for Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), served as the National Field Director at the Democratic National Committee, and worked on and managed several statewide and national progressive campaigns. Ms. Carson graduated from DePaul University College of Law with a Public Interest Law Certificate. She was awarded the prestigious Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) grant and clerked at the National Immigrant Justice Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Mark Hetfield is the Senior Vice President for Policy and Programs at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). Since 1989, he has held a wide range of positions in the field of immigration and refugee law in the private, non-profit, and government sectors, including four non-consecutive positions at HIAS. Mr. Hetfield was on the staff of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, where he was the Commission's senior advisor on refugee issues and directed a Congressionally authorized study on the treatment of asylum seekers in Expedited Removal, which was released in February 2005. Later that year, Mr. Hetfield and his study team were awarded the Arthur C. Helton Award for the Advancement of Human Rights for the Study by the American

Immigration Lawyers Association. In addition, Mr. Hetfield served for five years in the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington and at the U.S. Embassy in Haiti. He also practiced immigration law while associated with the Washington D.C. office of the law firm of Fulbright and Jaworski. Mr. Hetfield holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) from Georgetown University, from which he also graduated cum laude with a juris doctor degree.

Tiffany J. Lightbourn is Chief of the Research & Evaluation Division in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of Policy and Strategy. She is responsible for overseeing and conducting research, analysis, and impact assessments on immigration-related issues. This Division incorporates information from external and internal research and evaluation efforts into the USCIS policy deliberations and decision making process. Dr. Lightbourn graduated with a Doctorate in Social Psychology from The University of Michigan, in 2000. Upon graduation she served as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York where she taught psychology and classes in the multidisciplinary programs of Urban Studies and Africana Studies. In 2004-06 she won a fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, DC, and began work at the Department of Homeland Security. As a fellow, she worked on immigration and border security issues as a member of the Border and Transportation Security portfolio, and later as a federal employee, she helped establish and manage a multi-million dollar grant program to encourage Minority Serving Institutions to become involved in homeland security research and education. Dr. Lightbourn was asked to help lead the Department's efforts to transition leadership after the Presidential election in 2008.

Alejandro Mayorkas is the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). President Obama nominated Mayorkas for the position on April 24, 2009, and the United States Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination on August 7, 2009. As the Director of USCIS, Mayorkas leads the agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security charged with operating the largest immigration system in the world. Mayorkas is responsible for a workforce of more than 18,000 people located in approximately 230 offices throughout the world, and he oversees a budget of approximately \$3 billion. Immediately prior to becoming the Director of USCIS, Mayorkas was a partner in the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers LLP. He advised boards of directors and executives, led internal investigations, and litigated bet-the-company matters covering

a wide array of industries. He served as a member of O'Melveny & Myers' worldwide governing Policy Committee and as Chair of the firm's Values Awards Committee and the Warren Christopher Scholarship Committee. In 2008, the National Law Journal named Mayorkas one of the "50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America." In 1998, Senator Dianne Feinstein recommended Mayorkas to be the United States Attorney for the Central District of California. Nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the United States Senate, Mayorkas became the youngest U.S. Attorney in the nation and the first in the Central District of California to be appointed from within the Office. Mayorkas led an office of 240 Assistant U.S. Attorneys and oversaw the prosecution of cases of national and international significance. He has received numerous awards and commendations from federal and local law enforcement for his work as a federal prosecutor.

Doris Meissner, former Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), is a Senior Fellow at the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) where she directs MPI's work on U.S. immigration policy. Ms. Meissner has authored and co-authored numerous reports, articles, and op-eds and is frequently quoted in the media. She served as director of MPI's Independent Task Force on Immigration and America's Future, a bipartisan group of distinguished leaders. The group's report and recommendations address how to harness the advantages of immigration for a 21st century economy and society. From 1993 to 2000, she served in the Clinton administration as Commissioner of the INS, then part of the U.S. Department of Justice. Her accomplishments included reforming the nation's asylum system; creating new strategies for managing U.S. borders; improving services for immigrants; and shaping new responses to migration and humanitarian emergencies. In 1986, she joined the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as a Senior Associate. Ms. Meissner created the Endowment's Immigration Policy Project, which became MPI in 2001. Ms. Meissner's board memberships include Vice Chair of CARE-USA and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Inter-American Dialogue, and the Pacific Council on International Policy. She is also a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Sonya Michel is Director of United States Studies at the Wilson Center. Her research focuses on historical and contemporary analysis of social policy in the United States and in comparative and transnational perspective;

civil society; global governance; race and gender equity. Before coming to the Wilson Center, she was a professor of history at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her most recent publications include two co-edited volumes, *Civil Society and Gender Justice: Historical and Comparative Perspectives* (Berghahn Books, 2008) and *Child Care at the Crossroads: Gender and Welfare State Restructuring* (Routledge, 2002). She was also a founding editor of the journal *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State, and Society*.

Ann Morse is Program Director of the Immigrant Policy Project of the National Conference of State Legislatures and has been on staff since 1987. Created in 1992, the project advises the State and Local Coalition on Immigration, a collaborative of six national organizations representing state and local government. Ann conducts research and policy analyses on immigration and immigrant policy issues to inform state and local policymakers of federal activities, state and local innovative programs, and state legislation related to immigrants. Current projects include refugee and immigrant integration, immigration reform, and civic engagement. Ann was awarded the Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowship in Public Policy in 2007. She currently serves on the Office of Refugee Resettlement's Integration Working Group. Ann co-directs the NCSL Executive Committee Task Force on Immigration and the States, created in 2006 to with the dual purpose of providing a forum for states to exchange ideas and promising practices while helping legislators understand the implications of federal immigration reform proposals on their states.

Laura Patching is the Deputy Chief of the Office of Citizenship, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Ms. Patching joined the Immigration and Naturalization Service in 2001 and helped manage the Service's transition into USCIS after the passage of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Ms. Patching has been part of the Office of Citizenship since it was created at that time to provide new resources to immigrants and communities. She managed the creation of the landmark publication, *Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants* and well as the USCIS Civics Flash Cards and *Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons*. Prior to beginning her career with the United States Government, Ms. Patching served in several positions in the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs both in Washington, DC and Santiago, Chile. Ms. Patching received her Bachelor of Arts from American University in

Washington, DC and a post-graduate diploma from the University of Chile's Institute for International Studies in Santiago, Chile.

Maria Reyes is the Director of the YWCA Multicultural Center and has over ten years of experience managing programs that serve Tulsa and Northeast Oklahoma's immigrant and refugee populations. The YWCA Tulsa is a nonprofit that offers accredited immigration services, refugee resettlement, ELL classes, counseling, health and wellness, senior programs and Early and Youth development. She has served on various boards that include vice president of the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations, Commissioner for the Mayor's office for the status of women, Co-Chair for Tulsa's Language and Cultural Bank, and others. Maria studied in Valencia Spain and has a degree from Plymouth State University in Plymouth New Hampshire. She has been a certified Oklahoma Alcohol and Drug Counselor since 1990 and has over 20 years of working in the mental health field for both Spanish and English speakers. Her parents are from Havana, Cuba and she was raised as a "Cuban Yankee."



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