

Fast Track to Citizenship Program

The Adult ESOL Program has been awarded a new grant for *Citizenship Education and Naturalization Application Preparation Services*. Ms. Carol Antunano, former ESOL Chair from the English Center, has been hired to assist with the implementation of the program and coordinate its various services.

Program Purpose and Outcomes

The **Fast Track to Citizenship Program** supports effective research-based practices that will increase access to citizenship education for lawful permanent residents (LPRs) in Miami - Dade County. This research based project will assist the targeted population by providing intensive citizenship education and naturalization application preparation services. The **Fast Track to Citizenship Program** will help LPRs successfully pass the naturalization test and oral interview in order to become US citizens. **Fast Track to Citizenship** will be offered at three locations, north, south and central, where there is a large population of LPRs. A minimum of 150 participants will be serviced through the citizenship education component and 100 through the naturalization application preparation component. Services will be provided for LPRs who have submitted their naturalization application or are ready to apply within the year.

Since there is now a shorter turnaround time for the naturalization process (average - 5 months) the need to provide intensive citizenship education to ensure that LPRs can successfully complete the naturalization process became a priority. This project will provide LPRs with the tools and resources necessary to successfully attain U.S. citizenship. Intensive instruction offered to LPRs will be above and beyond the regular citizenship classes open to the general adult student population. The justification for the design of the **Fast Track to Citizenship** is based on adult learning research that indicates that intensity and duration of instruction is the number one factor that positively impacts student performance.

M-DCPS is proud to be a recipient of this much-needed grant.

Highlights of Fast Track to Citizenship Program

- Participating LPRs will receive four hours per week of intensive citizenship instruction
- State of Florida adult certified teachers will be trained in the content area and mentored by an experienced adult teacher / trainer
- Teachers will provide whole group instruction using the State of Florida Citizenship Curriculum Standards <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/rft/Citizenship.rft>
- Teachers will use supplemental resources such as; videos, flashcards, and vocabulary lists provided by the USCIS Office of Citizenship
- Prior to entry, students will take a pre-test to establish an English language proficiency baseline . (The Comprehensive Assessment System for Adult Students is the language proficiency test used by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools)
- The students' assessment results will be used to differentiate instruction
- One-on-one or small group instruction will be provided by volunteers and/or tutors
- A blended instructional model will be used, students must engage in a minimum of one additional hour per week of distance learning using prescribed resources based on individual needs and goals.
- Portable MP3 players, containing resources targeting English language acquisition and content knowledge needed to pass the naturalization exam, will be provided to the students

Project Partnerships

The **Fast Track to Citizenship Program** will further support the students by providing assistance with the naturalization application process through its partnership with **Catholic Legal Services of Miami, Inc. (CLS)**. Through this partnership, presentations will be provided at adult centers on the naturalization application process and para-legal services will be offered to eligible students. The Catholic Legal Services paralegal will be available one evening per week to meet with individual clients to help as needed. The paralegal will also organize application workshops throughout the grant cycle and refer clients who need legal advice to a group of pro-bono attorneys.

The **Fast Track to Citizenship Program** will also work with the Cuban National Council, Univision 23, Telefutura 69, Univision Radio, and Univision23.com to market the program to Spanish speakers. Entravision Communication and WLQY will be used to reach out to the Haitian community.

Collaboration will be in the form of public service announcements, educational/informational vignettes, stories, and profiles, interview segments and community presentations.

Student Intake Procedures and Requirements

1. Prospective students must demonstrate that they are lawful permanent residents.
2. Registration staff will confirm eligibility and input into the M-DCPS Vocational Adult System (VACS) which will create an online record to be used for audit purposes and for future tracking of program completion.
3. Students will be given a CASAS placement test and registered for Fast Track to Citizenship
4. Classroom teacher will receive student and administer a Naturalization Practice Test to inventory strengths and weaknesses and differentiate instruction as needed.
5. Teachers will conduct a brief oral interview to gather data on the student's timeline for citizenship evaluate oral proficiency and discuss barriers to student attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes for the 10-week cycle.

Student Recruitment

- ♦ The **Fast Track to Citizenship Program** will be marketed using diverse media such as flyers, radio, television, websites and community newspapers. (See: elnuevoherald.com. jueves 28 de octubre del 2010. "Facilitan camino a la ciudadanía")
- ♦ A flyer in English, Haitian-Creole, and Spanish will be created with information about the program; locations, eligibility and a schedule of available classes. Flyers will be distributed to community and faith-based organizations
- ♦ Presentations will be made at The Parent Academy, the Bilingual Parent Outreach Program, and the Office of Parental Involvement
- ♦ Presentations will be made at district wide meetings for staff, adult education principals, assistant principals, ESOL chairs, counselors, case managers, and community liaison specialists that work with targeted student populations
- ♦ The **Fast Track to Citizenship Program** will be maintained on the district's website, www.FreeEnglishclasses.net. Up-to- date schedules and locations of classes.
- ♦ A centralized phone number, **(305)-579-0340**, will direct interested students in three languages to the **Fast Track to Citizenship Program** classes

Useful Websites

- www.uscis.gov • **U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**
- www.immigrationdirect.com - **Immigration Direct**
- <http://www.uscitizenship.info/> - **U.S. Citizenship.info**
- www.elcivics.com/civics.html - **Learning ESL Civics**
- www.floridatechnet.org/lib-esol.html - **Florida Tech Net**

Location for Fast Track to Citizenship Classes
Beginning January 2011

Hialeah Adult Center ♦ 251 E. 47 Street Hialeah, Florida 33010 (305) 822-1500
North Miami Adult Center ♦ 800 N. E. 137 Street North Miami, Florida 33161 (305) 891-6590
Miami Sunset Adult ♦ 13125 S.W. 72 Street Miami Florida 33183 (305) 385-4255

Free Citizenship Classes in Our Community
(Please call each center for detailed information)

American Adult Center	(305) 557-3770	Monday – Thursday
Coral Gables Adult Center	(305) 443-4871	Monday – Thursday
D.A. Dorsey Adult Center	(305) 639-2490	Monday – Thursday
English Center	(305) 445-7731	Monday – Sunday
Hialeah Adult Center	(305) 822-1500	Monday – Saturday
Hialeah Miami Lakes Adult Center	(305) 823-1300	Monday – Thursday
Lindsey Hopkins Adult Center	(305) 324-6070	Monday – Friday
Miami Coral Park Adult Center	(305) 226-6566	Monday – Thursday
Miami Senior Adult Center	(305) 649-9800	Tuesday – Thursday
Miami Sunset Adult Center	(305) 385-4255	Monday – Thursday
Miami Springs Adult Center	(305) 885-3583	Monday and Tuesday
Southwest Adult Center	(305) 274-0181	Wednesday and Friday
W.H. Turner Tech Adult Center	(305) 691-8324	Thursday and Saturday