

## WASHINGTON NEW AMERICANS

A nonprofit partnership between OneAmerica (formerly Hate Free Zone), the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the state of Washington to provide citizenship services.

## Washington New Americans Program



### Introduction

The Washington New Americans (WNA) program is a partnership between the State of Washington and OneAmerica (formerly Hate Free Zone), a non-profit dedicated to advancing justice and equality. WNA was one of only 13 naturalization programs in the country chosen out of almost 300 applications to be awarded a \$100,000 grant from US Citizenship and Immigration Services in 2009.

Washington has approximately 160,000 legal permanent residents eligible for citizenship, who have not yet naturalized because of numerous barriers, such as prohibitive costs, access to legal and other services, lack of information, and fear of the process. Our goal is to promote successful immigrant integration by connecting eligible Legal Permanent Residents ("green card" holders) to the information and services they need to successfully pursue citizenship and become active members of our community.

### Services

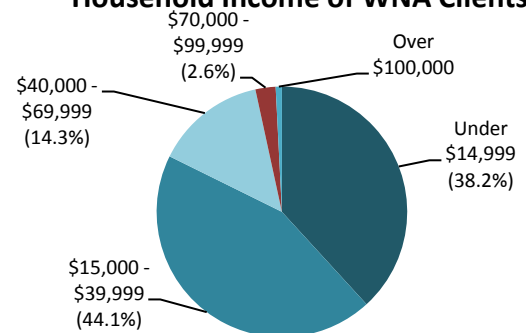
We work in partnership with the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and community organizations across Washington to provide the following services at no cost:

- Information about the naturalization process
- Citizenship application assistance
- Legal review of applications by a volunteer attorney or accredited representative

**WNA meets people where they are.** WNA, in partnership with AILA, hosted four Citizenship Days at 15 sites across Washington from October 2009 through October 2010. Immigrants were able to complete applications with pro bono lawyers at these events. Citizenship Days focus on areas with limited access to legal assistance.

**WNA helps working families become citizens who would otherwise not have access to the process, and builds and supports the infrastructure of service providers.** Since 2009, WNA has helped more than 2,000 legal permanent residents complete their citizenship forms. An estimated 93.1% of clients served came from households under 300% FPL (for median family of 3\*).

### Household Income of WNA Clients



\*Family size ranged from 1-12, with a median of 3

**WNA provides culturally and linguistically appropriate services.** WNA disseminated information about the citizenship process through a hotline in 20 languages, a website in six languages, and translated materials.



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### Subcontractor Services

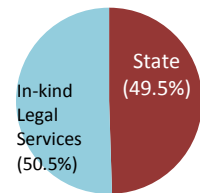
In 2010 WNA awarded seven grants to seven agencies across the State, including in Eastern WA, for Outreach, Education and Naturalization Services, providing training to all subcontractors. Our subcontractors provide free assistance with the citizenship applications outside of citizenship days and offer ESL and Citizenship Preparation classes.

**WNA promotes civic engagement and democracy.** WNA has developed a Naturalization Curriculum with the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations (NWFCO) that is effective but not intimidating and emphasizes civic involvement *beyond* citizenship and participation in the democratic process. This curriculum is used by all of our subcontractors.

### Funding

**WNA is a statewide program that leverages the best elements of public-private partnership and brings additional dollars to the state.** WNA leverages key relationships with nonprofit agencies and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), matching nearly 100% of the State’s dollars. (See graph, right)

### WNA Funding Sources (2010)



### New Americans Program FY 2010 Goals and Results

Source: 2010 Department of Commerce Report

Goal	Target	Outcome
Help legal permanent residents make progress toward naturalization	Assist 1,000 individuals	1,899 individuals assisted
Use Citizenship Day events to assist legal permanent residents with naturalization	Host 3 Citizenship Day events	3 Citizenship Day events were held in 12 locations statewide
Distribute media materials to multiple ethnic media outlets	Distribute information to 50 organizations	Materials distributed to 88 organizations
Use multilingual marketing materials to make legal permanent residents aware of program	Review/Develop and distribute 20,000 Materials	66,705 materials distributed
Assist qualified residents submit applications for citizenship	Assist with the completion of 500 N-400 federal naturalization applications	678 N-400 applications completed

**WNA is an effective and efficient program—it works.** WNA leveraged 3,240 volunteer hours and \$254,700 in in-kind legal services from AILA lawyers to successfully meet and exceed all contract delivery goals.

#### For more information, please contact:

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