

# **Report to the Legislature**

## **Naturalization Services**

As required by ESSB 6002, Chapter 221,  
Laws of 2014, Section 207

December 2014

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6002, Chapter 221, Laws of 2014, Section 207 requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS or the Department) to report to the Legislature on all sources of available funding for naturalization services during the current fiscal year, amounts expended to-date by service type and funding source, the number of participants served, and program outcome data.

This report reflects data from SFY 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014), due to limited available data for SFY 2015.

## ***Program Overview***

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. Citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act. To qualify for naturalization, an immigrant must be a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) for five years, have good moral character, and demonstrate knowledge of U.S. Civics and English by passing a written and oral exam.

Washington State law (RCW 74.08A.13) requires the Department to make an affirmative effort to identify and proactively contact legal immigrants receiving public assistance to facilitate the citizenship process. DSHS's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) fulfills this requirement by contracting statewide with approximately 17 community-based organizations (CBOs) who have provided citizenship services to more than 21,000 eligible immigrants over the past six years.

Naturalization services include:

- Intake eligibility screening
- Application assistance and representation
- Preparing fee waiver requests
- Assistance in obtaining medical disability exemption for disabled and elderly clients medically unable to pass the exam.
- Citizenship preparation classes
- Interview preparation and assistance

All service contractors have ties to ethnic communities and provide bilingual services in culturally appropriate ways to immigrants seeking naturalization services. Many CBOs hire and train immigrants and former refugees from the same or similar ethnic or geographic background to serve new arrival groups. Citizenship classes are held in convenient locations such as at the CBO, community colleges, neighborhood

community centers, church facilities, and public housing multi-purpose rooms. Class times and locations, teaching techniques, and transportation assistance are tailored to the needs of the participants.

Attention is given to address special needs in the target population. For example, elderly immigrants may suffer from age related memory loss, lack of concentration and may have difficulty learning a new language. They often require more class time to practice and study before they can successfully pass the naturalization test. Contractors can also assist individuals who are currently receiving state-funded Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) or federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to waive English Language proficiency requirements based on age and length of legal permanent resident (LPR) status requirements for naturalization.

The application process for naturalizing is very complicated, and even a simple mistake can delay processing. It is also very costly; the current naturalization fee is \$680 per person. Low income immigrants find the cost for professional assistance combined with the naturalization fees prohibitive, and without these free services many may not attempt to apply to naturalize. Through ORIA's Naturalization Program, DSHS brings critically needed services to the low-income immigrant community.

### ***Program Costs***

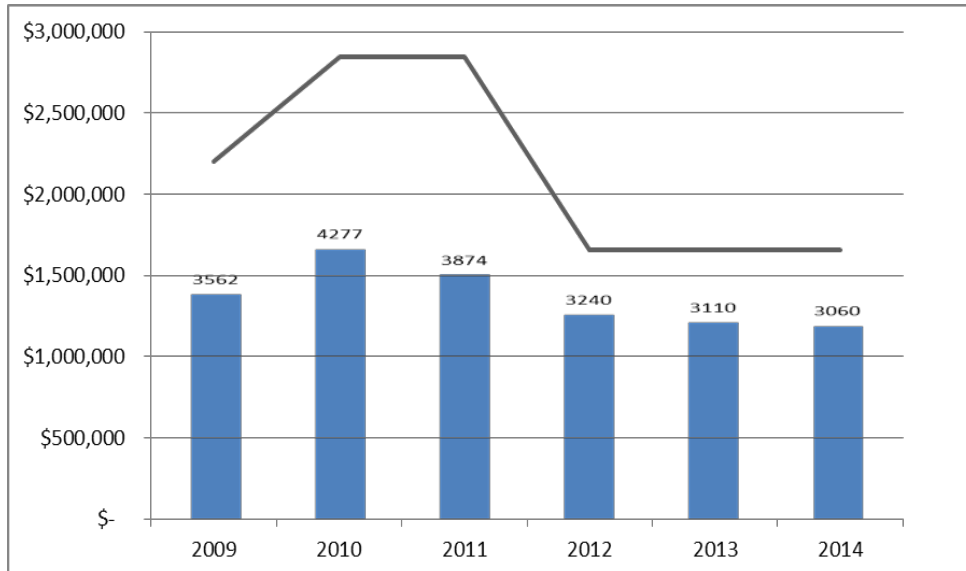
Naturalization services funded by the Department are provided solely with general state funds. In 2013, the Legislature appropriated \$1.657 million for SFY 2014.

Contractors are given 45 days after the end of each service month to submit their invoices and an additional final invoice after their June submission to close out the program service year. ORIA has 30 days from the date of receipt to process an invoice for payment. In SFY 2014, the Naturalization Program expended approximately \$1.62 million, as of October 1, 2014.

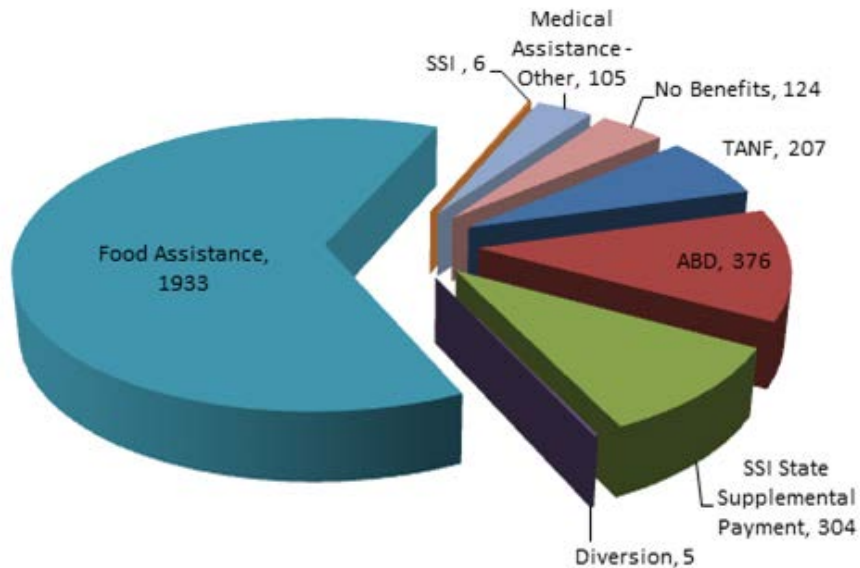
### ***Program Caseloads***

State law, RCW 74.08A.130 (**Exhibit B**) requires DSHS to facilitate naturalization applications for legal immigrants who receive public assistance. Clients who enroll into Naturalization Services while on public assistance can continue to receive services even if their public assistance benefits end. The number of participants served has varied over the last six years, depending on the amount of funding available.

## Number of Unduplicated Participants Served and Annual Budget SFY 2009-2014



The chart below shows a breakdown of benefits received by the total number of unduplicated naturalization clients<sup>1</sup> served in SFY 2014. If the client was in more than one public assistance program, the client was counted once using the following program hierarchy order: Cash, Food, and then Medical.



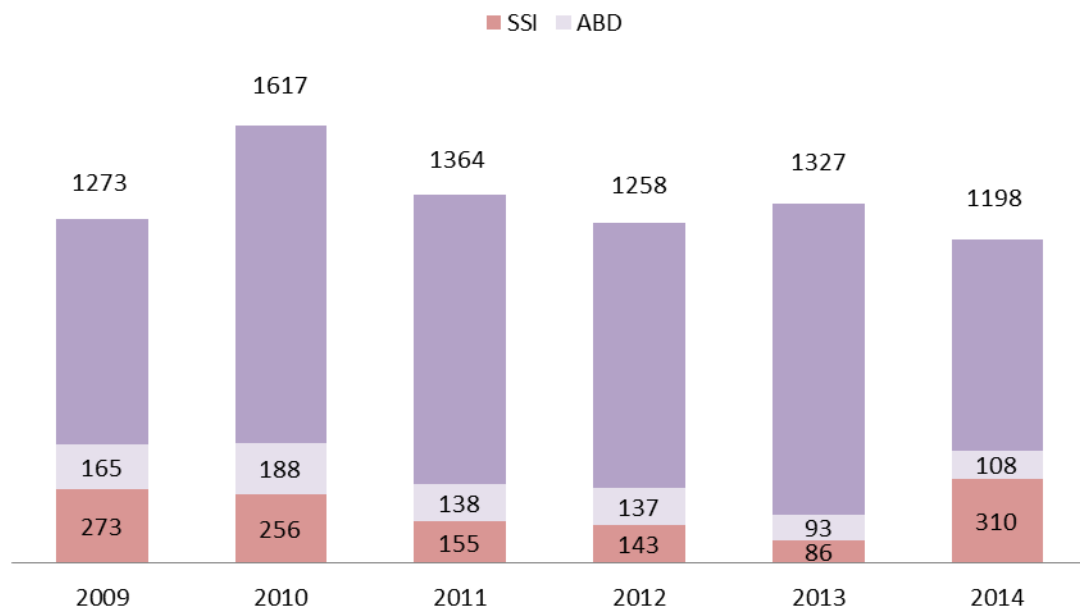
<sup>1</sup> Clients who are no longer receiving public assistance can continue receiving naturalization services if they were on public assistance at the time of program enrollment.

## Program Outcomes

Refugees who receive SSI or state-funded ABD benefits are considered a target group for the Naturalization Program and are designated as “Outreach” clients.

Refugees are only eligible for SSI for up to seven years unless they naturalize. If they fail to become a U.S. citizen, they will lose their SSI cash benefits (a monthly income of \$720). Once they lose SSI, they are eligible for the Washington State ABD program, which is a monthly cash benefit of up to \$197. Naturalizing these individuals allows SSI recipients to keep or regain their benefits, which is a higher monthly income.

### Total Number of Naturalized Participants, SFY 2009-2014



Naturalization outcome and expenditure data is captured on a state fiscal year basis. Although the main outcome for this program is completed naturalizations, given the challenges and complexities of this process for many of the clients, the program also tracks specific activities associated with the naturalization process as outcomes and pay points for billings.

Many providers report that the need for naturalization services in the community extends beyond the funding provided. One indicator of this is the expenditure rate; most providers expend funding within the first six to nine months of the contract year. To avoid gaps in services, providers marry state dollars with other funding resources, such as grants from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or nominal fees to the clients.

Regardless of the varied funding streams, providers report waiting lists for their services.

The following outcome data reflects all reported outcomes for SFY 2014, at the time of this Report writing.

### SFY 2014 Outcomes

Service	Number of Services <sup>1</sup>
Intake Screening	1,815
Outreach Enrollment	127
Assistance with USCIS N-400 Application	1,638
Fee Waiver Request	1,628
USCIS Fingerprint Fee	2
USCIS N-400 Application Fee	2
Disability Exception Assistance - USCIS N648 Form	193
Citizenship Training Hours	24,624 Hours
Naturalization Completion Follow-up	1,198
Outreach Naturalization Completion	95
Appeals	4
Interview Preparation	568
Interview Assistance	138

<sup>1</sup> A program participant may receive multiple services. The numbers for SFY 2014 on this legislative report are not final as ORIA continues to receive and process contractors' invoices at the time of this report's writing.

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# SFY 2014 REPORT ON NATURALIZATION SERVICES

## BACKGROUND

Washington State has a large and dynamic immigrant community. According to the 2012 U.S. Census estimate, 18.2% of the families in Washington speak a language other than English<sup>2</sup>. In King County, the state's most populous county, 25.4% of the families residing in the county speak a language other than English at home<sup>3</sup>. These numbers reflect a two percent increase over the 2010 U.S. Census numbers.

Washington State resettles a significant number of refugees which contributes to the ethnic diversity in our communities. According to the U.S. Department of State; Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration; Office of Admissions – Refugee Processing Center's Refugee Arrivals data for FY 2014 through August 31, 2014, Washington State is ranked tenth in the nation in resettling new refugees. Only Texas, California, New York, Michigan, Florida, Ohio, Arizona, Georgia, and Pennsylvania resettled more refugees than Washington<sup>4</sup>.

Naturalization is often viewed as the hallmark of successful integration. Immigrants who naturalize receive the same rights as other citizens – including the right to vote and the ability to participate in civic engagement. Under current federal law, dependent children automatically become citizens if at least one parent naturalizes. Other benefits include: full protection of the U.S. Constitution, freedom to travel abroad, and eligibility for federal benefits such as Social Security benefits and Medicare.

Legal immigrants who fulfill requirements established under the Immigration and Nationality Act may become naturalized U.S. citizens. General requirements for naturalization include:

- A period of continuous residence and physical presence in the U.S.
- An ability to read, write, and speak English
- A knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government
- Good moral character
- Attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution
- Favorable disposition toward the U.S.

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<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau, Quick Facts: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53000.html>

<sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau, Quick Facts: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53/53033.html>

<sup>4</sup> Refugee Processing Center: <http://www.wrapsnet.org/Reports/AdmissionsArrivals/tabid/211/Default.aspx>

**Exhibit A** provides basic information on the naturalization process and requirements.

Most legal immigrants, including refugees, must reside in the U.S. for five years before they are eligible to become citizens. There are some exceptions: immigrants who obtained permanent residency through marriage to a U.S. citizen can apply after residing in the U.S. for three years, and applicants who served in the U.S. armed forces during war may obtain citizenship without first becoming a permanent resident if they were in the U.S. upon enlistment into the U.S. military.

State law, RCW 74.08A.130 (**Exhibit B**), requires DSHS to facilitate naturalization applications for legal immigrants who receive public assistance. DSHS contracts with public and private resources statewide to ensure immigrants are referred to or otherwise offered citizenship training classes, obtain appropriate test exemptions and other exemptions in the naturalization process as permitted under federal law, and receive other assistance needed to complete the naturalization process.

Refugees who receive federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or state-funded Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) benefits are considered a target group for the Naturalization Program and are designated as “Outreach” clients. Refugees are only eligible for SSI for up to seven years unless they naturalize. If they fail to become a U.S. citizen, they will lose their SSI cash benefits (a monthly income of \$720). Once they lose SSI, they are eligible for the Washington State ABD program, which is a monthly cash benefit of up to \$197. Naturalizing these individuals allows SSI recipients to keep or regain their benefits, which is a higher monthly income.

## NATURALIZATION SERVICES

DSHS’s Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) provides naturalization services through contracts with approximately 17 community based organizations (CBO) (**Exhibit C**). Some service contractors hold multiple naturalization contracts because they provide services at different locations statewide.

All service contractors have ties to ethnic communities and provide bilingual services in culturally appropriate ways to immigrants seeking naturalization services. Many CBOs hire and train immigrants and former refugees from the same or similar ethnic or geographic background to serve new arrival groups. Citizenship classes are held in convenient locations such as at the CBO, community colleges, neighborhood community centers, church facilities, and public housing multi-purpose

rooms. Class times and locations, teaching techniques, and transportation assistance are tailored to the needs of the participants.

Attention is given to address special needs in the target population. For example, elderly immigrants may suffer from age related memory loss, lack of concentration and may have difficulty learning a new language. They often require more class time to practice and study before they can successfully pass the naturalization test. Contractors can also assist individuals who are currently receiving ABD or SSI to waive English Language proficiency requirements based on age and length of legal permanent resident (LPR) status requirements for naturalization. Finally, some contractors are able to provide tutoring for participants who are homebound.

The Department leverages existing community resources when possible to maximize access to naturalization services. For example, DSHS contracts with the City of Seattle for naturalization services in King County. This partnership allows the state to take advantage of services the City already provides through its New Citizens Program, such as legal assistance and consultation from immigration attorneys, training to citizenship service contractors on subjects such as new U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) forms and policies where participation is open to any state funded provider in the state, and training for citizenship class teachers.

### ***A. Stakeholder Engagement***

Quarterly provider meetings are held throughout the program year, for staff and contractors to discuss outreach to clients, program successes and challenges, billing processes and specific contracting topics, as well as structure for upcoming contract years.

Outcomes from these meetings include:

- Restructuring pay point amounts in response to increased complexity and changes in completing the USCIS Application for Naturalization form
- Discussing strategies focused on Outreach clients and continued program priorities and goals
- Considering and analyzing billing and contract structures

### ***B. Services Provided***

During SFY 2014, contractors entered into a performance-based contract that was structured on completed naturalization outcomes. Contractors earned 95% of their contract amount by billing for specific services and

earned the remaining 5% by achieving a negotiated completion goal. This contracting model meets the performance based outcome criteria for contracting required by the Governor's Executive Order 10-02, Performance Based Contracting.

Naturalization services provided through DSHS contracts include:

- Intake screening to determine suitability for naturalization and make referrals as necessary to an attorney or a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited person to address legal and good moral character<sup>5</sup> issues associated with an application for naturalization.
- Assistance with completion and submittal of the USCIS Application for Naturalization form (form N-400). The form is lengthy and difficult for many participants to complete.
- Assistance in obtaining a fee waiver (form I-912) to USCIS.
- Citizenship preparation training and instruction including classes in American History and civics and USCIS interview preparation.
- English language training needed for the citizenship test.
- Assistance with completion and submittal of the USCIS Medical Certification for Disability Exception (form N-648).
- Assistance in obtaining other test exemptions when appropriate.
- Interview Preparation which includes practice in answering USCIS interview questions, information from the application and diction.
- Interview Assistance for participants to apply for special accommodations at the interview.
- Referrals to legal assistance or representation, such as Appeals if necessary. In most cases, issues can now be addressed in-house.
- Reimbursement of the fingerprint fee for all participants age 75 years and under who do not meet USCIS criteria for fee waivers have received a denial of eligibility of their waiver request from USCIS based on ineligibility.

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<sup>5</sup> Some items USCIS will consider for good moral character include: criminal record, lying to gain immigration benefits, and failing to pay court-ordered child support.

- Reimbursement of the USCIS N-400 application form processing fee when participant is ineligible for a fee waiver. This requires written approval of an Exception to Policy from the DSHS ORIA.

### ***C. Test Exemptions and Accommodations***

CBO staff assists applicants to apply for test exemptions and accommodations to ensure that they have the best support to pass the naturalization test successfully. The process to obtain exemptions and accommodations is often complex and lengthy thus assistance from trained CBOs is vital to the successful completion of the naturalization process.

Common exemptions include:

- **English and Civics Examination**  
There are two general exemptions: 50/20 (50 years of age and residing in the U.S. for at least 20 years) and 55/15 (55 years of age and residing in the U.S. for at least 15 years). Meeting either criterion means the applicant can waive the requirement to read and write a sentence correctly in English during the naturalization examination. The applicant still needs to take the American civics exam in English unless further waiver is given to take the same exam in the applicant's native language. The applicant is responsible to bring an interpreter to the interview if the civics exam is given in a language other than English.
- **Medical Disability**  
It waives the English and civics examination for qualified applicants. Form N-648 is completed by a licensed medical or osteopathic doctor, or licensed clinical psychologist to verify the applicant's disability due to a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more. Contractors have reported an increase in denials from the USCIS and have been meeting to strategize on appropriate strategies to address this concern.

Common accommodations include:

- **Disability**  
USCIS has an obligation under federal law and policy to provide accommodations for physical and mental impairments that make it difficult for applicants to complete the naturalization process, including the examination.

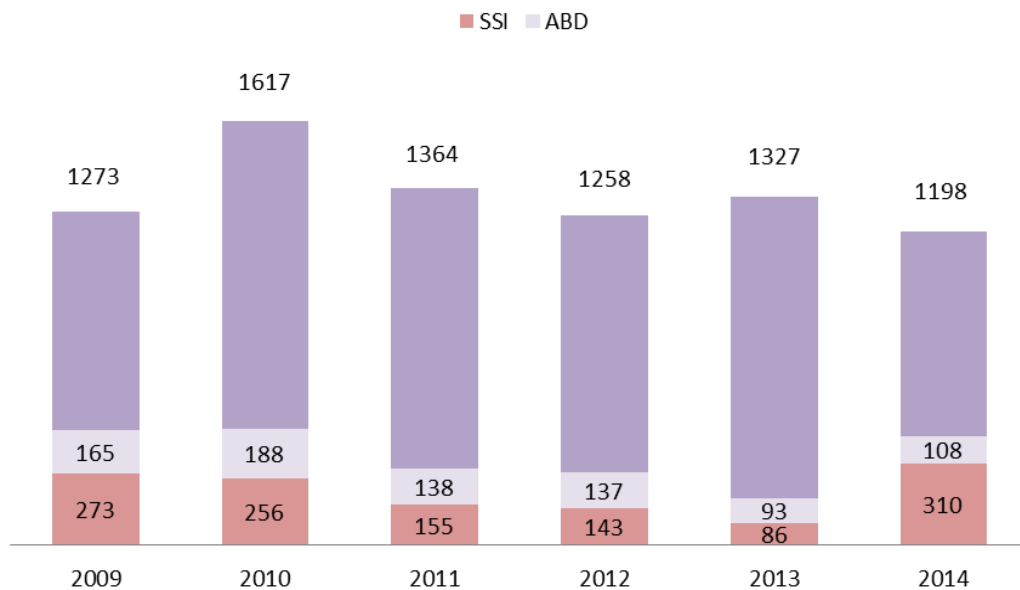
- **Age 65 and Older**  
 In some cases, applicants who are 65 years of age and older and have resided in the U.S. for 20 years or more (does not require continuous presence) may be given a shortened version of the naturalization civics examination in the applicant's native language. This waiver does not require the applicant to be disabled.

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The Naturalization Facilitation program began in April 1997 and about 15,347 program participants successfully completed the naturalization process as of SFY 2014. The actual number of naturalized individuals is likely much higher than captured here, because participants may neglect to report their naturalization to service contractors. Failure to report a change in status may be due to a number of factors such as multiple attempts before a successful naturalization, relocation during the process, and naturalizing on their own after receiving services through a contractor.

Refugees who receive SSI or state-funded ABD are considered a target group for the Naturalization Program and are designated as “Outreach” clients. Refugees are only eligible for SSI for up to seven years unless they naturalize. If they fail to become a US citizen, they will lose their SSI cash benefits (a monthly income of \$720). Once they lose SSI, they are eligible for the Washington State ABD program, which is a monthly cash benefit of up to \$197. Naturalizing these individuals allows SSI recipients to keep or regain their benefits, which is a higher monthly income.

**Total Number of Naturalized Participants, SFY 2009-2014**



Although it may take years for some clients to become naturalized, providers continue to report significant levels of completion rates for clients enrolled in these services.

Naturalization outcome and expenditure data is captured on a state fiscal year basis. Although the main outcome for this program is completed naturalizations, given the challenges and complexities of this process for many of the clients, the program tracks specific activities associated with the citizenship process as pay points and outcomes for billings.

### SFY 2014 Outcomes

Service	Number of Services <sup>6</sup>
Intake Screening	1,815
Outreach Enrollment	127
Assistance with USCIS N-400 Application	1,638
Fee Waiver Request	1,628
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Disability Exception Assistance - USCIS N648 Form	193
Citizenship Training Hours	24,624 Hours
Naturalization Completion Follow-up	1,198
Outreach Naturalization Completion	95
Appeals	4
Interview Preparation	568
Interview Assistance	138

<sup>6</sup> A program participant may receive multiple services. The numbers for SFY 2014 are not final as ORIA continues to receive and input final reports and invoices from contractors even after this legislative report was written.

## BARRIERS TO NATURALIZATION

The current naturalization examination format was changed in SFY 2013 to move away from civics trivia to emphasize instead, the basic concepts of U.S. government structure and American history and geography. To pass the test, applicants must have a more detailed understanding of U.S. history and civics. For example the examination will test the applicant's knowledge of the federalist papers and how they influenced ratification of the U.S. Constitution. USCIS hoped that the new test will encourage attachment to the principles of citizenship<sup>7</sup>.

The Department and service contractors are working to mitigate barriers to the naturalization process by helping participants overcome anxieties and barriers to the naturalization process including:

- Age-related memory problems and their impact on learning civics and history
- Inability to speak English under the pressure of the citizenship interview
- Citizenship classes tailored for “everyone” regardless of English capabilities
- Difficulty in obtaining test exemptions and/ or accommodations
- High costs related to the naturalization process: \$595 application fee and \$85 for the mandatory fingerprint fee

The high cost of application fees can be a barrier to individuals applying for citizenship. However, USCIS will waive this fee for low-income applicants such as those on public assistance. Service contractors are required by contract to assist participants submit a fee waiver request and help them gather the documentation they need to support their request. In SFY 2014, contractors helped participants submit approximately 1,628 fee waiver requests to USCIS. While there is great benefit in seeking waivers, filing waiver requests is a significant workload for both the service provider and the applicant. Submitting a fee waiver request will generally increase the processing time by about two months.

Another barrier in the naturalization process is related to Medical Disability waivers. Over the last couple of years, contractors have been experiencing an increased level of disability waiver denials by USCIS. A

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<sup>7</sup> Alphonso Aguilar, Chief of the Office of Citizenship, Press Conference on New Naturalization Test, September 27, 2007, [http://www.uscis.gov/files/pressrelease/natzrndtbl\\_72sep07.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/files/pressrelease/natzrndtbl_72sep07.pdf)



disability waiver allows disabled clients, particularly those with mental health issues, to either take a simplified citizenship test or have the test waived. The “spike” in denials is not unique to our state and has been recognized by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and the USCIS, both who have previously organized discussions on this topic. The concern is that USCIS requires medical documentation to support the disability request and USCIS agents, who are not medically trained, are overriding the medical evidence based on their own perception of the client’s disability. ORIA continues to work with contractors to help facilitate and articulate concerns from a statewide perspective to USCIS.

## PROGRAM FUNDING

Naturalization services are provided solely through state funds. Although some federal funds have been used in the past for naturalization, the current priority has been to allocate these resources for employment services for refugees.

In 2013, the Legislature appropriated \$1.657 million for SFY 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014). The following chart lists budget information by funding source for SFY 2009-2014:

State Fiscal Year	Federal	State	Total
2009	\$12,000	\$2,186,000	\$2,198,000
2010	-0-	\$2,842,000	\$2,842,000
2011	-0-	\$2,842,000	\$2,842,000
2012	-0-	\$1,657,000	\$1,657,000
2013	-0-	\$1,657,000	\$1,657,000
2014	-0-	\$1,657,000	\$1,657,000

Many providers report that the need for naturalization services in the community extends beyond the funding provided. One indicator of this is the expenditure rate; most providers expend funding within the first six to nine months of the contract year. To avoid gaps in services, providers marry state dollars with other funding resources, such as grants from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or nominal fees to the clients.

Regardless of the varied funding streams, providers report waiting lists for their services.

## PROGRAM DISBURSEMENTS

Contractors are given 45 days after the end of each service month to submit their invoices and an additional final invoice after their June submission to close out the program service year. ORIA has 30 days from the date of receipt to process an invoice for payment.

In SFY 2014, the Naturalization Program expended approximately \$1.62 million, as of October 1, 2014.

### Program Expenditures, SFY 2014

Service	Expenditures
Intake Screening	\$193,133
Outreach Enrollment	\$52,600
Assistance with USCIS N-400 Application	\$244,029
Fee Waiver Request	\$245,663
USCIS Fingerprint Fee	\$85
USCIS N-400 Application Fee	\$595
Disability Exception Assistance - USCIS N648 Form	\$48,500
Citizenship Training Hours	\$237,704
Naturalization Completion Follow-up	\$421,586
Outreach Naturalization Completion	\$28,600
Appeals	\$1,000
Interview Preparation	\$57,200
Interview Assistance	\$13,900
Annual Performance Outcome Goal Achievement	\$73,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,617,793</b>

The following chart shows total program disbursement for SFY 2009-2014:

State Fiscal Year	Total Budget	Total Distribution	Balance
2009	\$2,198,000.00	\$2,179,294.00	\$18,706.00
2010	\$2,842,000.00	\$2,810,886.00	\$31,114.00
2011	\$2,842,000.00	\$1,951,547.48	\$890,652.52 <sup>8</sup>
2012	\$1,657,000.00	\$1,631,619.00	\$25,381.00
2013	\$1,657,000.00	\$1,656,273.00	\$727.00
2014	\$1,657,000.00	\$1,617,793.00 <sup>9</sup>	\$39,207.00

## PROGRAM CASELOADS

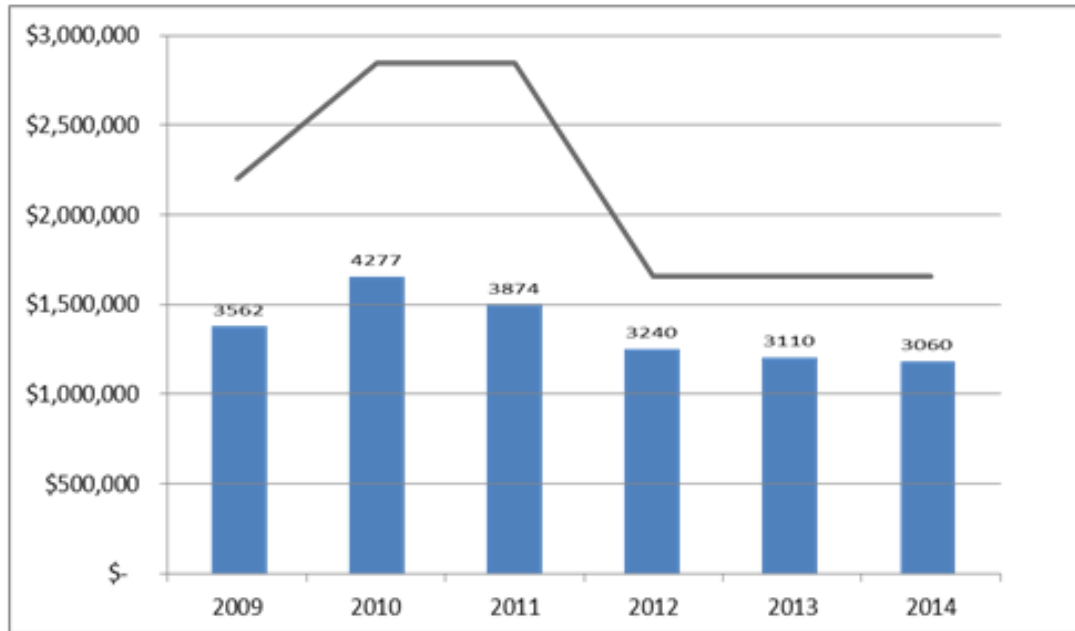
State law, RCW 74.08A.130 (**Exhibit B**) requires DSHS to facilitate naturalization applications for legal immigrants who receive public assistance. Clients who enroll into the Naturalization Services program while on public assistance can continue to receive services even if their public assistance benefits end.

The number of participants served varied over the last six years and has fluctuated with the amount of funding available.

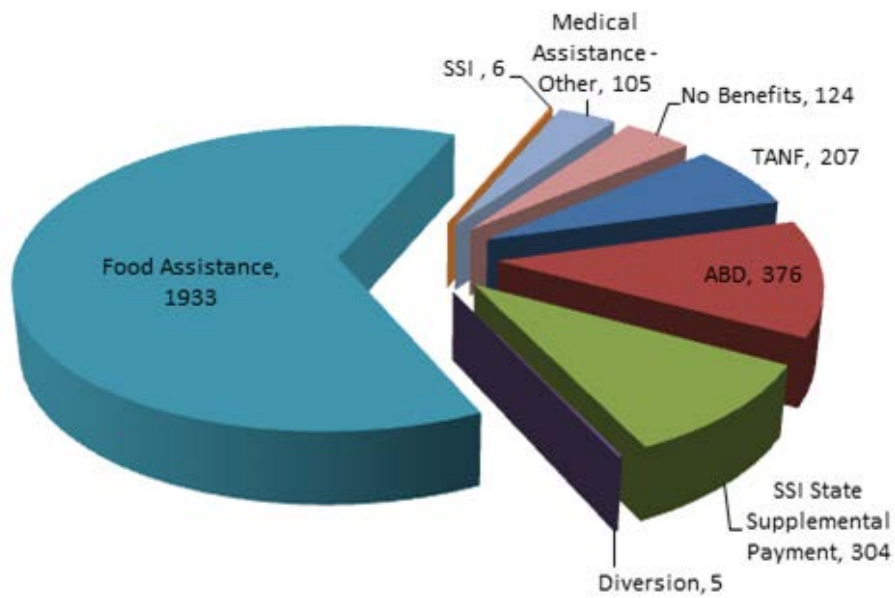
<sup>8</sup> The Naturalization Program was terminated effective November 30, 2010 in an effort to address a significant budget shortfall and preserve state funds. Of the \$2.8 million allocated to the program, \$1.9 million was expended before the program ended. A reduction of approximately \$890,652 in planned spending was achieved as part of DSHS' budget reduction requirements. In SFY 12, the Legislature appropriated just over \$1.6 million for Naturalization Services and the program resumed in July 2011.

<sup>9</sup> As of October 1, 2014.

## Number of Unduplicated Participants Served and Annual Budget SFY 2009-2014



This chart shows the total unduplicated naturalization clients served in SFY 2014. If the client was in more than one public assistance program, the client was counted once using the following program hierarchy order: Cash, Food, and then Medical.



# EXHIBIT A

## BASIC INFORMATION ON BECOMING A UNITED STATES CITIZEN

### Who is eligible?

Legal permanent residents (LPR) who have resided in the U.S. for five years (three years if married to a U.S. citizen). LPR status is indicated on the applicant's USCIS-I-551 Permanent Resident Card (also known as a "green card"). Refugees are eligible to apply for LPR status one year after arriving in the U.S.

### Requirements to apply for citizenship - Applicant must:

- Have been present in the U.S. for at least half of the 5 years (three years if married to a U.S. citizen);
- Be able to pass a test on speaking, understanding, reading and writing basic English;
- Be able to pass a U.S. history and government test;
- Have good moral character;
- Understand and accept the oath of allegiance to the U.S.; and
- Not have a citizenship-related legal problem.

### Exceptions in the testing requirements

For applicants that meet certain age and time in the U.S. criteria, the USCIS makes exceptions to the testing procedures. This may include allowing the applicant to bring an interpreter for the English test, or asking the applicant 10 history and U.S. government questions instead of 20. For applicants who meet the USCIS criteria for disability, both tests are waived.

### What is the process?

If the applicant meets all the eligibility requirements, he or she may file a USCIS Application for Naturalization form with required photos and a money order or check for the application fee (\$595) and fingerprint fee (\$85) to the USCIS. The process takes approximately 4 months from the date of the application to date of interview with USCIS.

### Are there any resources available to help?

There are community based organizations in the state that provide services to eligible applicants including assistance in completing the citizenship application and disability waiver requests, providing applicants

with the USCIS fees, or assisting them to request the USCIS to waive the fees for low income families. These agencies also provide citizenship preparation classes.

### **What are the benefits?**

Many SSI clients that have not naturalized or cannot show they have 40 work quarters will lose their SSI benefits when they reach their 7 year time limit. By becoming citizens, they can maintain their benefits and become eligible for a full range of other public benefits. Citizens can apply for more family members to immigrate to the U.S. and often more quickly than lawful permanent residents. Children, who are under 18 and live at home at the time one or both of their parents naturalizes, automatically become U.S. citizens. Citizens can vote, can travel abroad without worrying about re-entry permits, are protected from deportation and can apply for certain government jobs.

## **EXHIBIT B**

### **RCW 74.08A.130**

#### **Immigrants - Naturalization facilitation.**

The department shall make an affirmative effort to identify and proactively contact legal immigrants receiving public assistance to facilitate their applications for naturalization. The department shall obtain a complete list of legal immigrants in Washington who are receiving correspondence regarding their eligibility from the social security administration. The department shall inform immigrants regarding how citizenship may be attained. In order to facilitate the citizenship process, the department shall coordinate and contract, to the extent necessary, with existing public and private resources and shall, within available funds, ensure that those immigrants who qualify to apply for naturalization are referred to or otherwise offered classes. The department shall assist eligible immigrants in obtaining appropriate test exemptions, and other exemptions in the naturalization process, to the extent permitted under federal law.

**EXHIBIT C**  
**SFY 2014 NATURALIZATION CONTRACTS**

<b>CONTRACTORS</b>	<b>AWARD AMOUNT</b>
City of Seattle, Dept. of Human Services	\$ 355,537
East African Community Services	\$ 29,441
International Rescue Committee	\$ 49,161
Korean Women's Association	\$ 51,896 – DSHS Region 2 \$ 74,490 – DSHS Region 3
Lutheran Community Services NW (Clark)	\$ 134,151
Lutheran Community Services NW (King)	\$ 44,161
Multicultural Self Sufficiency Movement	\$ 73,636
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project	\$ 36,000 – DSHS Region 1 \$ 14,270 – DSHS Region 2
Ready by Five	\$ 42,500
Refugee Federation Service Center	\$ 118,600
Refugee & Immigrant Services NW	\$ 153,512
Somali Community Services Coalition	\$ 29,441
Somali Youth & Family Club	\$ 29,441
Tacoma Community House	\$ 67,438
Ukrainian Community Center of WA	\$ 44,161
World Relief (Kent)	\$ 119,134
World Relief (Spokane)	\$ 135,000
World Relief (Tri Cities)	\$ 55,030
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,657,000</b>