



CTED |

Community, Trade and
Economic Development

Washington New Americans Program

Report on Program Outcomes and Performance Measures

December 2008

Report to the Legislature

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Overview

The Washington New Americans Program was created as a proviso in 2008 to help legal permanent residents in the state become naturalized U.S. citizens (Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2687, Section 125, 2008 supplemental budget).

The legislative authority requires annual reporting for this program's outcomes and performance measures. This report provides a status update on the development of the program and performance measures. Outcomes are not yet available. This year's activity has been dedicated to developing a competitive contracting process and selecting a qualified contractor.

Program Background

The New Americans Program required the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) to contract with an organization to provide services to state residents qualified to become naturalized citizens.

The Legislature appropriated \$344,000 of state general funds to initiate the program. The contractor will be required to provide at least a 25 percent match of non-state funding.

The proviso required CTED to:

1. Conduct a competitive process to identify a contractor.
2. Contract with an entity to provide naturalization assistance to immigrants.
3. Collaborate with the contractor to develop performance measures for the program.
4. Annually report to the Governor and Legislature on program outcomes and performance measures.
5. Retain up to five percent of the funds to administer the program.

Contractor Selection

CTED conducted a competitive request for proposals and received one response. After review, CTED, the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services found that OneAmerica met the requirements of the RFP. OneAmerica (formerly Hate Free Zone) was awarded the contract in October.

Reaching Potential New Americans

OneAmerica will provide naturalization assistance to immigrants. This assistance includes curriculum design, counseling, community outreach, application processing, legal screening, and citizenship preparation services.

OneAmerica will design and implement a media campaign that will include public service announcements, articles in newspapers, radio, and cable media advertisements. Multilingual media campaign materials will include posters, fliers, and brochures describing the citizenship process, its benefits, and contact information directing them to programs for naturalization assistance. OneAmerica will also coordinate the development of a multilingual toll-free citizenship hotline. The hotline will connect immigrants interested in the program to local service providers.

New American Curriculum

After OneAmerica reaches qualified residents interested in citizenship they will develop a naturalization and democracy class. It will include U.S. history, civics, and English classes which meet Washington State English as a Second Language (ESL) standards set by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Three-day workshops will prepare participants to take the test and interview required for naturalization.

Performance and Program Outcomes

OneAmerica is required to submit performance measures to CTED for review by December 2008. CTED will provide performance and program outcomes in the 2009 program report. Because the program is getting under way, OneAmerica has nothing to report at this time.