

Restore Full Funding for Massachusetts Citizenship Programs!

Budget line item 4003-0122

U.S. citizenship is the strongest—and often the *only*—protection against deportation and family separation.

In 2025, demand for citizenship services rose by 30%.

But state funding for citizenship services has actually *decreased*—from \$2M in FY22 to only \$1.5M in FY26. MA must take action to restore funding to ensure more immigrants can become citizens at this critical time.

What is CNAP?

★ **The Massachusetts Citizenship for New Americans Program (CNAP)** is administered by the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI).

★ CNAP funds community-based citizenship programs across the state that help low-income green card holders apply for U.S. citizenship.



Why is citizenship important?

- **Protection from deportation** and family separation.
- **Family stability.** Ability to travel freely and petition for family members.
- **Greater economic opportunity.** Citizenship increases income and homeownership.
- **Greater tax contributions** from higher earning power.
- **A stronger Commonwealth:** Immigrants contribute \$116 billion/year to the MA economy.

Why do providers need increased funding in FY27?

- **Current funding levels dry up before the fiscal year ends.** Providers are regularly forced to reduce services, increase waiting lists, or divert funds from other programs.
- **Federal policy changes mean more staff time per applicant.** A more complex process puts applicants at greater risk of denial, and denials are going up.

We respectfully request that CNAP be fully funded at \$2M in FY27.

CNAP Provider Organization Endorsements

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Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

Agencia Alpha

Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands, Inc.

East Boston Community Council

Haitian-American Public Health Initiatives

Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc.

Jewish Family Services of Metrowest

Lawrence Prospera, Inc.

Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

New American Association of Massachusetts

Project Citizenship

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center