



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
 600 Washington Street • Boston, MA 02111

DEVAL L. PATRICK
 Governor


JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
 Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
 Lieutenant Governor

JULIA E. KEHOE
 Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 2007-55
October 5, 2007

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From:  John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: EAEDC – Agencies Helping Noncitizen Clients Become Citizens

Overview The Department is issuing a current listing of agencies which help our noncitizen clients become citizens. These agencies are grouped by region.

Agencies Attachment A is the list of organizations that provide assistance with the naturalization process in the form of citizenship classes and assistance with completing the N-400 Application for Naturalization form. These organizations receive *some* state funding through the Citizenship for New Americans Program.

The services are not limited by the nationality of the client. However, it is important to note that many of these agencies receive limited funds, have waiting lists, and are generally not able to pay the naturalization fees or costs of transportation for individual clients.

IMPORTANT: Many of these agencies have “wait lists” due to lack of funding and a large demand for service. Be sure to call the community agency to confirm the scope of services and open enrollment before referring EAEDC clients.

Obsolete Field Operations Memo This Field Operations Memo obsoletes Field Operations Memo 2004-35.

**AU Manager
Responsibilities**

Policy states that EAEDC applicants who are legal permanent resident (LPR) noncitizens must be working towards becoming citizens (see 106 CMR 320.620 (B)(1)(b)) if they are eligible for citizenship within the next three years. There are benefits to becoming a U.S. citizen, including voting privileges, certain program eligibility, retirement benefits for spouses under RSDI, and other medical or housing benefits. A noncitizen who intends to remain in the U.S. should give careful consideration to becoming a citizen.

EAEDC applicants who are legal permanent residents and EAEDC clients whose status is adjusted to an LPR must be given the list of agencies (Attachment A) that assist clients with the citizenship application process. During the interview with an EAEDC client, the AU Manager must:

- Help the client find the appropriate agency on the list (Attachment A);
- Be sure to highlight the applicable regional information on the agency list and give it to the client; and
- Call the agency before referring the client for information or assistance with the citizenship application process.

Reminder

Although all noncitizen applicants should be working towards naturalization, failure to do so is NOT a reason for DTA to deny an EAEDC application (see 106 CMR 320.620 (B)(3)). Therefore, when generating a VC-1, do not list “Effort to Become a Citizen” as required verification at initial application. If otherwise eligible, these LPRs should be approved for EAEDC regardless of naturalization efforts.

EAEDC noncitizen clients should be advised of available community services to help with naturalization and encouraged to use them whenever possible. An EAEDC client who has LPR status and otherwise meets the criteria to naturalize - but refuses to cooperate without good cause - may face termination of benefits. Remember, good cause exceptions to this requirement may include but are not limited to financial hardship (i.e., inability to afford citizenship application or other legal fees), illness or disability of the noncitizen, lack of transportation to get to the provider, lack of available slots in the programs listed or unavailability of community resources to assist with the citizenship application.

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.

Agency	Contact	Street	City/State/ Zip	Telephone/FAX	E-mail
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition	Eva Millona	105 Chauncy Street # 901	Boston, MA 02111	617-350-5480 / 617-350-5499	emillona@miracoalition.org
Boston					
Eritrean Community Center	Ogbai Ghebre-Medhin	590 Shawmut Ave.	Boston, MA 02119	617-285-6975	ogmedhin@yahoo.com
Haitian American Public Health Initiatives	Jean Marc Jean Baptiste	10 Fairway Street	Mattapan, MA 02126	617-298-8076 / 617-296-1570	jeanmarc.inbaptiste@haphi.org
Irish Immigration Center	Moira Lucey	59 Temple Pl. S.1010	Boston, MA 02111	617-542-7654 / 617-542-7655	mlucey@iicenter.org
Jewish Vocational Service	Kelly Tessitore	29 Winter Street	Boston, MA 02108	617-399-3203 / 617-542-3992	ktessitore@jvs-boston.org
Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center	Naima Agalab	31 Heath Street	Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	617-238-2430	somaliwca@aol.com
Russian Community Association of MA	Sergey Bologov	215-B Harvard Ave.	Brighton, MA 02135	617-731-7789 / 617-731-6788	rcam-boston@comcast.net
Somali Development Center	Abdi Yusuf	203 Greet Street	Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	617-522-0700	aayusuf@sdcbboston.org
Vietnamese American Civic Association	Duy Pham	1452 Dorchester Ave.	Dorchester, MA 02122	617-288-7344	dvpham@vacbboston.org
Voice and Future Fund/SEIU	Anna Zambrano	60 Canal Street, 6th fl	Boston, MA 02114	617-878-7483 / 627-742-4896	azambrano@seiu615.org
Greater Boston					
Centro Latino de Chelsea	Juan R. Vega	267 Broadway	Chelsea, MA 02150	617-884-3238 / 617-884-4646	jvega@centrolatino.org
Ethiopian Mutual Assistance Association	Binyam Tamene	552 Massachusetts Ave.	Cambridge, MA 02139	617-492-4232 / 617-492-7685	binyam.ecmaa@gmail.com

Agency	Contact	Street	City/State/ Zip	Telephone/FAX	E-mail
Massachusetts Alliance for Portuguese Speakers	Paolo Pinto	1046 Cambridge Street	Cambridge, MA 02139	617-864-7600 / 617-864-7621	ppinto@maps-inc.org
North East					
Bosnian Community Center for Resource Development	Alica Arsic	298 Union Street	Lynn, MA 01901	781-593-0100 / 781-599-3329	aarsic@minlib.net
Lawrence Family Development	Peter Kamberelis	32 West Street	Lawrence, MA 01841	978-689-9863 / 978-689-8133	pkamberelis@lfdcs.org
Russian Community Association of MA	Alla Brikman	298 Union Street	Lynn, MA 01901	781-593-0100 / 781-599-3329	mbrikman@comcast.net
Southern Sudanese Solidarity Organization	James Modi	298 Union Street	Lynn, MA 01901	781-593-0100 / 781-599-3329	smamawoh@aol.com
South East					
Immigrants Assistance Center	Helena Marques	58 Crapo Street	New Bedford, MA 02740	508-996-8113 / 508-735-1953	mrq729@aol.com
Metro West					
Jewish Family Services of Metrowest	Diana O'Brien	475 Franklin Street	Framingham, MA 01702	508-875-3100 / 508-875-4373	dobrien@jfsmw.org
Central Massachusetts					
Catholic Charities of Worcester	Madelyn Hennessy	10 Hammond Street	Worcester, MA 01610	508-860-2261 / 508-797-5659	mhennessy@ccworc.org
Lutheran Community Services SNE/ Worcester	Jozefina Lantz	30 Harvard Street	Worcester, MA 01608	508-754-1121 / 508-734-0859	jlantz@lcssne.org
Western Massachusetts					
Berkshire Immigrant Center	Hilary Greene	1531 East Street	Pittsfield, MA 01201	413-445-4881 / 413-445-4802	hilary@berkshireic.com
Boat People S.O.S.	Khanh Nguyen	85 Oakland Street	Springfield, MA 01108	413-846-6300	khanh.nguyen@bpsos.org

Agency	Contact	Street	City/State/ Zip	Telephone/FAX	E-mail
Lutheran Community Services SNE/ Springfield	Helen Czernie- jewski	593 Main Street	West Springfield, MA 01089	413-787-0725 / 413-734-0859	helenc@lcssne.org
Russian Community Association of MA	Mila Dubinchik	425 Union Street	West Springfield, MA 01089	413-726-1352	Mila_Dunbinchik@comcast.net