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

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JOHN A. WAGNER  
Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 2004-35**  
**September 1, 2004**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff

**From:**  Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

**Re:** **Citizenship Outreach Project for Noncitizen EAEDC Applicants and Recipients: Updated Provider's List**

**Overview**

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The Department and the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) continue working together to address the issue of assisting current noncitizen EAEDC recipients with the citizenship process for becoming U.S. naturalized citizens.

ORI has brought together a network of community-based providers to participate in a *Citizenship Outreach Project* for noncitizen EAEDC applicants and recipients. These providers screen EAEDC applicants and recipients for citizenship eligibility, assist EAEDC applicants and recipients with the naturalization process (including application and disability waivers) and/or make appropriate referrals. Through this project the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) will provide training and on-going technical support to participating providers.

**Purpose of Memo**

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The purpose of this memo is to provide an updated list of community-based providers throughout Massachusetts who will assist EAEDC noncitizens with the naturalization process. See Attachment A.

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**AU Manager  
Responsibilities**

As stated in Field Operations Memo 2004-25, in addition to the EAEDC regulation that requires a noncitizen be engaged in efforts to become a U.S. citizen unless he or she has good cause (106 CMR 320.620(B)(1)), 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 resident and EAEDC recipients whose status is adjusted to a legal permanent resident must be given the citizenship outreach material. During the interview with an EAEDC applicant or EAEDC recipient, the AU Manager must:

- Give the applicant who is an LPR or the recipient who becomes an LPR, the Citizenship Outreach Project material (Attachment A) that includes a brief description about becoming a U.S. citizen and the list of agencies that will assist in the citizenship process;
- Help the recipient find the appropriate agency on the list. The list is sectioned by region and ethnicity. If the recipient lives in an area that does not service his or her language, such as a Russian recipient living in the Merrimack Valley area, he or she can go to any of the other agencies in the Merrimack Valley area or choose to go to the closest agency that has Russian-speaking workers, such as New American Center in Lynn;
- Be sure to highlight the applicable regional information on the agency list and give it to the applicant or recipient; and
- Encourage the applicant or recipient to call the agencies for information or assistance with the citizenship application process.

**Questions**

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

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## Citizenship Outreach Project

The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance and the Office for Refugees and Immigrants are working together in the *Citizenship Outreach Project* to help an applicant or recipient of EAEDC who is not a U.S. citizen to become a citizen. The Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI) works with a network of community-based organizations who will screen the individual for citizenship eligibility, help the individual with the naturalization process (including application and disability waivers) and/or make appropriate referrals.

Generally you need to have been a legal permanent resident for five years (three years if married to a US citizen) before you are eligible for citizenship. You can apply 90 days before you have met the five year requirement. It is important to get assistance before you apply for citizenship. If you want to talk with someone who could help you with the application process to become a U.S. citizen, there are agencies across the state of Massachusetts that have people to help you.

You will need to demonstrate knowledge of English and some US history, unless you qualify for a waiver because you have a mental or physical disability that prevents you from being able to learn. The agencies can help you with classes to learn English and to learn about the history of the U.S. It generally takes about 18 months to apply and get a citizenship interview. Additional background checks due to increased security may mean that it can take longer. You may want to think about starting the process now.

A list is attached to this letter that has the names of the agencies, the addresses, phone numbers and the name of a person to call. Find the agency that is near where you live. Some agencies have staff that work with people of a particular ethnicity or that speak a certain language. These organizations will screen for citizenship eligibility, provide assistance with the naturalization process and/or make appropriate referrals.

If you have any questions about which agency to call, you can call your worker or call one of the agencies for answers.

**Greater Boston**

**Asian America Civic Association (AACA)**

Service Population: Chinese  
 200 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116  
 Phone: 617-426-9492, FAX 617-482-2316  
 Email: emilydamiano@aaca-boston.org  
 Contact: Emily Damiano

**Centro Presente**

Service Population: Spanish-speaking  
 54 Essex Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl, Cambridge, MA 02139  
 Phone: 617-497-9080, FAX: 617-497-7247  
 Email: cpaniagua@cpresente.org  
 mreyes@cpresente.org  
 Contact: Carmen Paniagua, Mirna Merced

**Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association (ECMAA)**

Service Population: Ethiopian and other African  
 552 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139  
 Phone: 617-492-4232, Fax: 617-492-7685  
 Email: btamene@aol.com  
 Contact: Mr. Binyam Tamene

**Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center (GBCGAC)**

Service Population: Chinese  
*Head office:*  
 25 Stuart St, 5/F, Boston, MA 02116  
 Phone: 617-357-0226, Fax: 617-423-7672  
 Email: wwong@gbcgac.org  
 Contact: Wendy Wong

**Quincy Tower (GBCGAC)**

5 Oak St. West, Boston, MA 02116  
 Phone: 617-423-7560, FAX: 617-482-8367  
 Contact: Dora Wong

**Brighton House (GBCGAC)**

677 Cambridge St, Brighton, MA 02135  
 Phone: 617-789-4289, FAX: 617-789-5623  
 Email: lmei@gbcgac.org  
 Contact: Lilly Mei

**Haitian America Public Health Initiative (HAPHI)**

Service Population: Haitian  
 10 Fairway St, Mattapan, MA 02126  
 Phone: 617-298-8076, Fax: 617-296-1570  
 Email: Ivy6710@aol.com  
 Contact: Ives Rose Chrispin

**Irish Immigration Center (IIC)**

Service Population : Irish, etc.  
 59 Temple Place, Suite 510, Boston, MA 02111  
 Phone: 617-542-7654 x15, FAX: 617-542-7655  
 Email : citizenship@iicenter.org  
 Contact : John Rattigan

**MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)**

Service Population : Portuguese-speaking  
 1046 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02139  
 Phone: 617-864-7600, FAX : 617-864-7621  
 Email : mmatos@maps-inc.org  
 Contact : Maria Matos

**Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC)**

Service Population: African  
 31 Heath Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
 Phone: 617-522-8364, Fax: 617-522-8345  
 Email: somaliwca@aol.com  
 Contact: Ms. Miriam Gas, Sadia Fadil

**Russian Community Association of Massachusetts (RCAM)**

Service Population: Russian-speaking  
 215-B Harvard Avenue, Boston, MA 02134  
 Phone: 617-731-7789, Fax: 617-731-6788  
 Email: rcam-boston@comcast.net  
 Contact: Sergey Bologov

**Somali Development Center (SDC)**

Service Population: Somali and other African  
 203-205 Green Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
 Phone: 617-522-7484, Fax: 617-522-6300  
 Email: aayusuf@sdcbboston.org  
 Contact: Ahmed M. Mohamoud

**Vietnamese American Civic Association**

Service Population: Vietnamese  
 1452 Dorchester Ave. 3F, Dorchester, MA 02122  
 Phone: 617-288-7344, Fax: 617-288-4860  
 Email: dvpham@vacaboston.org  
 Contact: Mr. Duy Pham

## North Shore

**New American Center (NAC, Lynn)**  
Service Population: Bosnian, Russian, Somali, Sudanese and other African  
298 Union Street, Lynn, MA 01901  
Phone: 781-593-0100 x17, Fax: 781-599-3329  
Email: a.brikman@jfcsboston.org  
Contact: Alla Brikman

**North Shore Community Action Program, Inc.**  
Service Population: Spanish and Portuguese-speaking  
98 Main Street Peabody, MA 01960  
Phone: 978-531-0767, FAX 978-531-1012  
E-mail: bhogan4079@aol.com  
Contact: Beth Hogan

## Southeast

**Immigrants' Assistance Center (IAC)**  
Service Population: Portuguese and Spanish-speaking, Cape Verdean  
58 Crapo Street, New Bedford, MA 02740  
Phone: 508- 996-8113, FAX: 508-984-4157  
Email: Mrq729@aol.com  
Contact: Lucilia Oliveira, Philomene Tavares

**Self Help, Inc.**  
Service Population: Cape Verdean, Spanish-speaking  
425 Pleasant Street, 2FL, Brockton, MA 02310  
Phone: 508-559-8821, FAX: 508-587-6118  
Email: outreach@selfhelpinc.org  
Contact: Grace Perez

## Metro North

**Tri-City Comm. Action Program, Inc.**  
Service Population: Spanish-speaking, Chinese, Haitian  
110 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148  
Phone: 781-322-4125, FAX: 978-534-5146  
Email: eengerman@tri-cap.org  
Contact: Elizabeth Engerman

**Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center (GBCGAC)**  
Service Population: Chinese  
*Head office :*  
25 Stuart St, 5/F, Boston, MA 02116  
Phone: 617-357-0226, Fax: 617-423-7672  
Email: ychin@gbcgac.org  
Contact: Yolanda Chin

## Central Massachusetts

**Lutheran Community Services of Southern New England (LCSSNE)**  
Service Population: Russian-speaking, Afghani, Bosnian, Liberian and other African, Vietnamese  
30 Harvard Street, Worcester, MA 01608  
Phone: 508-754-1121, Fax: 508-754-1393  
Email: lcsdphan@earthlink.net  
Contact: Dung Phan

**International Rescue Committee (IRC)**  
Service Population: Afghani, Bosnian, Somali,  
332 Main Street, Suite# 501, Worcester, MA 01608  
Phone: 508-797-1154, Fax: 508-753-5392  
Email: giao@their.org  
Contact: Giao

**Spanish American Center, Inc.**  
Service Population: Spanish and Portuguese-speaking  
112 Spruce Street, Leominster, MA 01453  
Phone: 978-534-3145, FAX: 978-534-5146  
Email: NeddyL@choiceonemail.com  
Contact: Neddy Latimer

<u>Western Massachusetts</u>	<u>Merrimack Valley</u>
<p><b>Boat People S.O.S.</b> Service Population: Vietnamese 85 Oakland St., Suite # 1, Springfield, MA 01108 Phone: 413-846-6300, FAX: 413-846-6336 Email: khanh.nguyen@bpsos.org Contact: Khanh Nguyen</p>	<p><b>City of Haverhill / Minority Affairs</b> Service Population: Spanish-speaking 4 Summer St., Haverhill, MA 01830 Phone: 978-372-0530, FAX: 978-697-3160 Email: gongolie@aol.com Contact: Mari Carmen Cintron</p>
<p><b>Casa Latina</b> Service Population: Spanish-speaking 140 Pine Street, Rm 6, Northampton, MA Phone: 413-586-1569, FAX:413-586-1597 Email: casa1@map.com Contact: Lillian Torres</p>	<p><b>Asian Center of the Merrimack Valley, Inc. (ACMV)</b> Service Population: Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese, Indian One Ballard Way, So. Lawrence, MA 01843 Phone: 978-683-7316, FAX: 987-683-9075 Email: elana.killilea@verizon.net Contact: Elana Killilea</p>
<p><b>The Center for New Americans(CNA)</b> Service Population: all refugees &amp; immigrants 17 New South Street, Suite 310, Northampton, MA 01060 Phone: 413-587-0084, FAX: 413-585-0908 Email: info@cnam.org Contact: Maureen McMahon</p>	<p><b>Lawrence Council on Aging</b> Service Population: Spanish-speaking 155 Haverhill Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 Phone: 978-794-5886, FAX: 978-794-1303 Email: L_marmolejos@cityoflawrence.com L_Rosado@cityoflawrence.com Contact: Lisa Marmolejos, Luz Rosado</p>
<p><b>Greenfield Office for CNA</b> Greenfield Public Library Service Population: all refugees &amp; immigrants 402 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 Phone: 413-772-1592, FAX: 413-772-1543 Email: cnagreenfield@yahoo.com Contact: Deborah Shaeffer-Valvo</p>	<p><b>MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers</b> Service Population : Portuguese-speaking 11 Mill St. Lowell, MA 01852 Phone: 978-970-1250 FAX : 978-970-0843 Email: orodrigues@maps-inc.org Contact : Osvalda Rodrigues</p>
	<p><b>Notre Dame Education Center</b> Service Population: Spanish-speaking 301 Haverhill St., Lawrence, MA 01842 Phone: 978-682-6441 x204, FAX: 978-974-9840 Email: gtpsnd@comcast.net Contact: Sr. Gwynette Proctor, S. N. D.</p>
	<p><b>St. Julie Asian Center</b> Service Population: Cambodian, Vietnamese, Chinese 236 Westford Street, Lowell, MA 01852 Phone: 978-454-7663, FAX: 978-454-7663 Email: stjulieasc@yahoo.com Contact: Sr. Janet Deaett, S.N.D.</p>