

Citizenship “Greatest Hits”

Successes & Lessons Learned



Training Overview

Grant history and objectives

Successes and Lessons learned about:

- Recruiting Citizenship Students
- Curriculum
- Mock Interviews & other Volunteer Activities
- Assisting students with applications
- Federal Grants



Grant Objectives & History



Purpose of Grant



Build capacity

for “sub-applicant” ABE programs to implement successful citizenship education programs



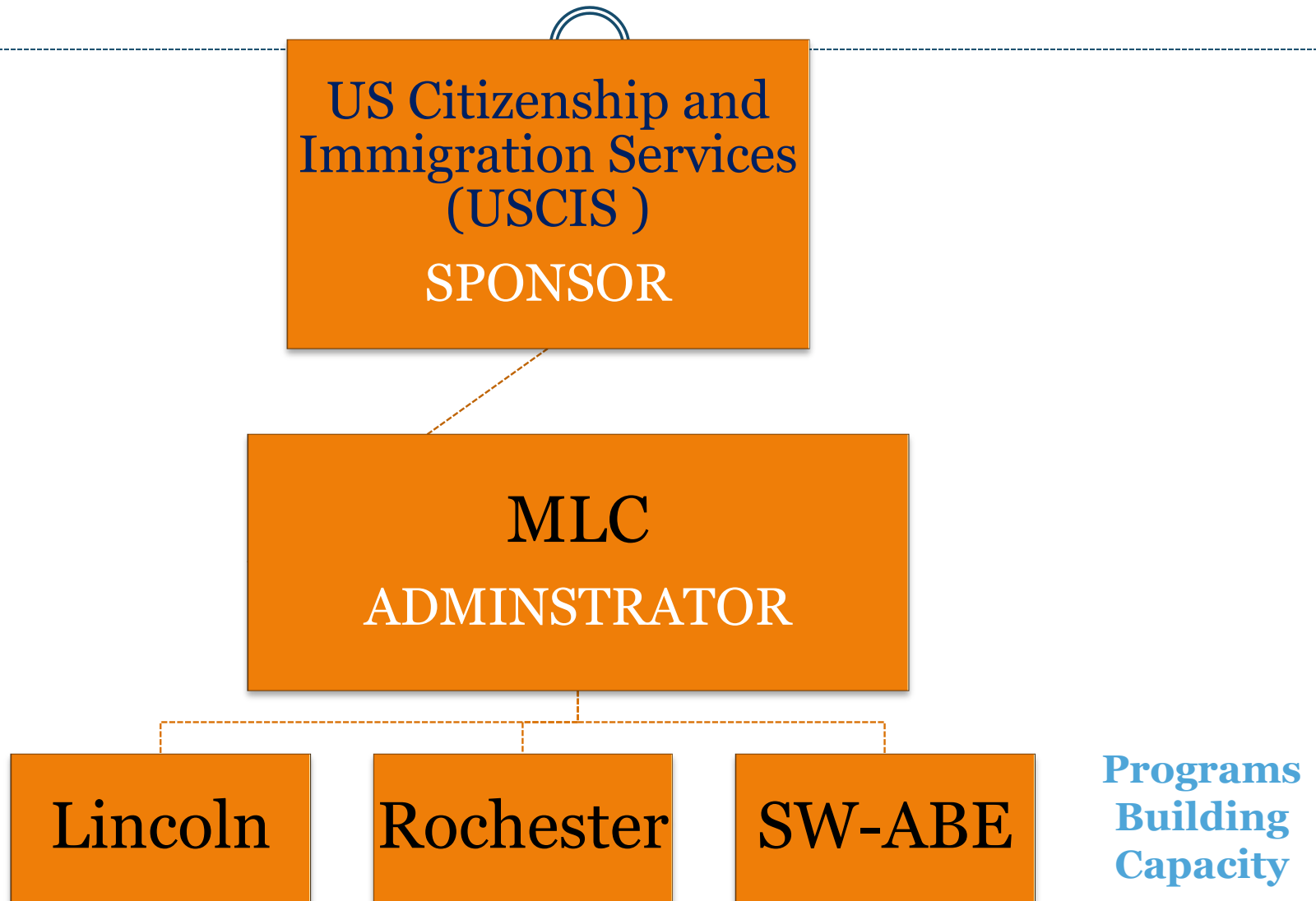
Grant Timeline



- 2 year grant
- Started Oct 1, 2010
- Ends Sept 30, 2012



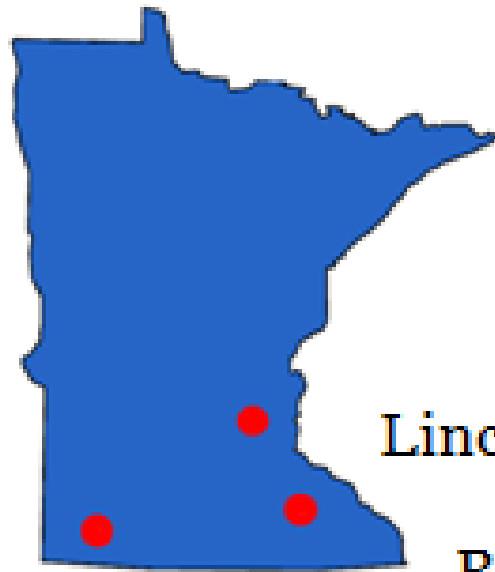
Who is involved?



Rural Town, Smaller City, and Large City



Sub-Applicants



Lincoln ABE (Mpls)

Rochester ABE

Worthington ABE

Overarching Goal #1



Increased number of Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) that become American Citizens

LPR= “Greencard”



Overarching Goal #2



Strong Curriculum and Instruction



Overarching Goal #3



Improve Data Management

Intake, outreach records, report training



Overarching Goal #4



Improve volunteer programs:

Recruitment, training, support,
and evaluation



Citizenship Basics



Naturalization Eligibility



- 18+ years old and a lawful permanent resident (LPR or "green card" holder)
- LPR for 5 years (3 years if married to U.S. citizen)
- Demonstrated "good moral character"
- Knowledge of U.S. history and government*
- Ability to read, write, speak, & understand English*

*some exceptions, but very few

Contents of the Test



1) Review of Application Questions

- Must ensure you are of “good moral character”
- Truthful in application

2) Oath Requirements

- swear allegiance, will fight for U.S. (if needed)

3) Answer 10 of 100 Civics Questions

4) Reading Ability

- Ex: *What is the capital of the United States?*

5) Writing Ability

- Ex: *George Washington is the father of our country.*

Some really tough questions!!!*



Challenging language

Very personal questions

Don't usually know civics answers without studying

Important Note: \$680 to apply for citizenship;
only **2** chances to pass test

Benefits of Citizenship



- Right to vote
- Ability to reunite families
- Never Deported
- Easier Travel
- Children <18 automatic citizens
- **Pride in being part of your new country**

Topics of Interest



Curriculum



Important Lessons Learned:

- ALL content should relate to the 100 questions, other portions of the interview (reading, writing, vocabulary, N-400 applications)
- Dictation is a very important part of preparation
- It's most helpful to integrate the interview and application information into each unit, rather than into one unit
- It's important to have a process for orienting new students, so they won't feel lost if they don't start at the beginning of the curriculum
- Mock interviews are ESSENTIAL- not just 2 weeks before

Let's take a look at how some of these resources were integrated into MLC's Citizenship Curricula- A & B

Mock Interviews & other Volunteer Activities



- Important throughout the process
- If you have enough volunteers, very helpful as initial assessment tool
- “Pull outs” are helpful
- Videos available online for stus and volunteers



Let's check out some resources for volunteers!

Recruiting Citizenship Students



Important Lessons Learned:

- Internal promotion is the best place to start
 - Citizenship teachers doing presentations
 - Posters up all over- instruct how to find out info
- Word of mouth is still key
- Smaller town successes:
 - Mailings
 - Networking with immigrant leaders
 - Community Connectors

Assisting students with applications



Citizenship Resources for Educators



“Citizenship Instruction” on www.mnliteracy.org

- Curriculum
- Tons of classroom resources
- Citizenship Application info
- Legal resources



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