

The Cárdenas - Ros-Lehtinen New American Success Act

This bill proposes to streamline a national integration strategy, cutting red tape and waste by coordinating multi-agency initiatives at the federal and state levels to help eligible immigrants become successful and contributing members of our society. Through the use of private donations, this bill would channel funding to provide Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) with better access to English language and civics programs and support through the naturalization process.

- **Initial Entry, Adjustment, and Citizenship Assistance Grant Program**

The bill would create a grant program for Initial Entry, Adjustment, and Citizenship Assistance. Under this grant program, community based organizations and public or private nonprofit entities (or a combination of these) would receive competitive grant funding to help immigrants with the legal aspects of the naturalization process. These grants are primarily intended to promote the design and implementation of programs centering on citizenship and civics education, all with the aim of preparing eligible immigrants to naturalize.

- **Integration Success Grants**

Integration Success Grants would allow states and local governments (and a limited number of partnerships between municipalities and non-profits) to compete for grant funding by coming up with comprehensive plans for linguistic, civic, and economic integration. The precise programmatic details have been left open to encourage innovation and flexibility.

- **Integration Success Fund**

The bill would allow the Department of Homeland Security to solicit and accept private donations. The funds would be put into the Integration Success Fund. Grant funding would come directly from this account.

- **Reduced Barriers to Naturalization**

The dream of American citizenship will become available to a larger group of older Legal Permanent Residents who are not yet fully proficient in English.

The proposed bill encompasses larger themes surrounding integration with the primary goal of helping eligible immigrants to become naturalized American citizens. This bill recognizes that immigrants' energy, creativity, and entrepreneurship help us succeed as a nation in an increasingly complex and globalized world. In order to harness the best that immigrants can and wish to offer to the United States, we must help them embrace American culture and defend the liberties this nation celebrates by strengthening the systems through which they acquire the skills and knowledge to succeed.