



**Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

**Recommendation Number: 20190429-5AIV: Fund citizenship clinics**

**Brief Title**

Citizenship/Naturalization Clinics for Austin Residents

**Describe the Issue**

The city of Austin has approximately 7,153 Legal Permanent Residents eligible to apply for naturalization to become US Citizens. Naturalization allows people to become more secure members of our community. They no longer face the risk of deportation. They can vote and participate in federal and local elections and can run for office. These are all assets to our growing population and we should provide support and education to individuals wishing to naturalize.

**Data**

Education Austin, the Equal Justice Center, Texas AFL CIO, and Casa Marianella hold regular Citizenship drives and clinics and over the past six years have helped over 1,700 eligible permanent residents apply for naturalization. They wish to expand their efforts to assist as many of the 7,153 eligible Austinites as possible.

**Recommendation to Address Issue (increase efficiency, effectiveness, and equity):**

We recommend the City of Austin allocate \$72,000 to fund one citizenship clinic per month (12 total) over the next fiscal year. Each clinic is expected to cost \$6,000 and will serve 100 Austinites seeking naturalization per month.

**Strategic Outcome areas addressed by our recommendation:**

Strategic Outcome 1:

Government that Works for All

Satisfaction with City Services  
Public Engagement and Participation  
Equity of City Programs and Resource Allocation

**Strategic Outcome 2:**

Safety

Fair Administration of Justice  
Public compliance with laws and regulations

**Strategic Outcome 3:**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability  
Ability to improve your income

**Strategic Outcome 4:**

Cultural and Lifelong Learning  
Appreciation, respect, and welcoming of all people and cultures

Date of Approval: 4/29/19

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 9-0 vote, Samuel Adair, Walid Kobrosly, and Nasario Jaimes not present

Attest: Connie H. Gonzalez