

INTEGRATION  
*and*  
IMMIGRATION  
REFORM



## SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP FOUNDATION

In the Integration Title of S.744, the Border Security,  
Economic Opportunity, and Immigration  
Modernization Act of 2013

### BACKGROUND

Immigration reform, U.S. citizenship, and integration efforts are a responsible use of taxpayers' dollars that further American values and strengthen our economy. The amount of federal discretionary funding for these efforts has declined in recent years, and taking account of competing demands for public funds, an alternative source of funding is needed to supplement them.

### SENATE PROPOSAL

An innovative private-public partnership, the U.S. Citizenship Foundation (USCF), would assist the federal government in meeting the civic integration needs of newcomers in a more cost-effective manner. The USCF would be authorized to accept private donations, which would be used to underwrite immigration, naturalization, and immigrant integration assistance; and to develop creative solutions to reduce barriers to naturalization. The USCF would also provide financial support to two competitive grants programs: the Initial Entry, Adjustment, and Citizenship Assistance (IEACA) Grant Program for eligible public or private nonprofit organizations to provide direct assistance to immigrants applying for immigration services; and a pilot grant program that would expand the capacity of local and state entities to help integrate new immigrants.

### NALEO EDUCATIONAL FUND REQUEST

The NALEO Educational Fund strongly supports the Senate's proposal to create the U.S. Citizenship Foundation. We urge Congress to enact the bill as written to include this important public-private partnership which creates an innovative new funding source for key integration federal programs.

Additionally, we ask Congress to maintain the bill's allocation of \$100 million over 5 years to fund the IEACA Grant Program and a pilot local and state grant program to help integrate new immigrants.