

USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program

Promising Practices

Organization Name:	Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton
Location:	Stockton, CA
USCIS Grant Program:	FY 2010 Citizenship and Integration National Capacity Building Grant Program

Establish a Partnership with a University

Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton received USCIS funding in fiscal year 2010 as a sub-awardee under a National Capacity Building grant to the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). Under the program, Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton created a mutually-beneficial partnership with a local university. Through the partnership, Catholic Charities Diocese of

Stockton gains access to volunteers, teacher training, and educational resources, all of which directly benefit English language learners (ELLs). By establishing a cooperative partnership with other educators in the community, Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton has considerably enhanced the quality of citizenship preparation services.

Purpose

Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton established a partnership with a local university in order to

strengthen its existing citizenship education program and expand its professional capacity to serve ELLs.

Process

Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton initiated a partnership with a local university by reaching out to a professor in the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) program. The professor and program director exchange resources in a manner that benefits both the university and the citizenship education program.

The professor and program director assign TESOL student teachers to assist citizenship instructors with their classes. This gives the student teachers an

opportunity to complete their TESOL course field work requirement. During volunteer sessions, the student teachers provide ELLs with individualized citizenship instruction and support the citizenship instructor.

In exchange, the university provides Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton with professional development opportunities. For example, the university professor has invited Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton instructors to take the TESOL course at the university

free of charge. The professor has also provided Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton with educational materials

applicable to students of all proficiency levels.

Challenges

Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton finds it challenging to coordinate the activities of the student teacher volunteers. Since the volunteers must travel

several miles to the citizenship classes, coordinating transportation can often be difficult.

Overcoming Obstacles

Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton has reduced volunteer coordination challenges by increasing communication with the partner organization. The

student teachers also organize carpools to citizenship classes in order to resolve transportation challenges.

Outcomes

Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton has expanded its professional expertise in citizenship education by exchanging knowledge and training with a local university. For the Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton, partnering with a university provides access to teacher training, resources, and student teacher volunteers. As for the university, a partnership with

Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton creates an opportunity for college students to gain hands-on experience in a classroom setting. Most importantly, this collaboration directly benefits ELLs, who gain individualized and specialized citizenship instruction from both citizenship instructors and student teacher volunteers.

Contact Information

Rosie D'Arcy, Program Coordinator
Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton
1106 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202
Website: <http://ccstockton.org>
Phone number: (209) 444-5910