

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION OFFICE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 21, 2024

Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528-0075

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 12:58 pm, Aug 23, 2024

RE: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, FY 2024 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (DHS-24-CIS-010-005), Estrella del Paso

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

Members of the New Mexico Delegation write in support of Estrella del Paso's application to the Department of Homeland Security's FY 2024 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program.

Estrella del Paso has a long history serving the legal needs of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers living in west Texas and southern New Mexico. Established in 1986 as a ministry of the El Paso Diocese, they work to protect the rights of immigrants. In 2023, they provided a record 57,248 services to people from 60 countries around the globe.

Estrella del Paso, formerly Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc., proposes to add new citizenship classes and a comprehensive outreach effort seeks that will enhance its services. The organization empowers eligible individuals to take steps toward naturalization, with support from the largest provider of immigration legal services in the area. This will allow Estrella del Paso to expand its reach and provide much-needed resources to west Texas and southern New Mexico communities.

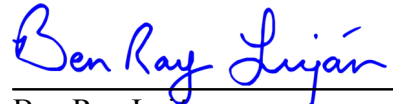
By offering citizenship instruction and outreach, Estrella del Paso will help lawful permanent residents prepare for and apply for naturalization. The project will include academic training for employees, development of curriculum, and implementation of education programs. This initiative will also involve robust community outreach to ensure that the public is aware of the available services.

We support Estrella del Paso's proposal and request that you give their application full consideration under your agency's guidelines. Please notify us when a decision has been made regarding this application.

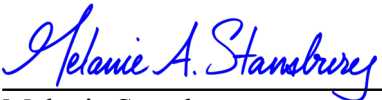
Sincerely,



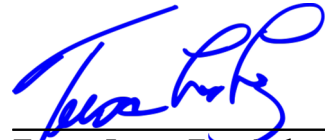
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



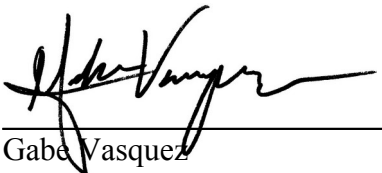
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

September 24, 2024

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your August 21, 2024 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding the application from Estrello del Paso to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (CIGP). I am responding on behalf of the Department.

As you may know, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Congress authorized \$10 million in funds to support the FY 2024 CIGP. USCIS published two Notices of Funding Opportunity under the CIGP. Through these opportunities, USCIS will offer up to \$10 million in competitive funding for organizations that help prepare immigrants for naturalization and promote civic integration through increased knowledge of English, U.S. history, and civics. The USCIS Office of Citizenship is currently conducting a technical review of grant proposals.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ur M. Jaddou" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director