



## **GUIDELINES**

### **Matthew and Hannah Keator Family Foundation Scholarship for New Americans/ circa 2019**

#### **About**

In 2018, Literacy Network of South Berkshire received a generous grant from the Matthew and Hannah Keator Family Foundation to establish the *Family Scholarship for New Americans*. The purpose of the grant is to increase access and remove barriers to citizenship for immigrants in Berkshire County, who qualify to become American citizens.

#### **Significance**

Each year, more than 700,000 become American citizens. However, the U.S. immigration system can be difficult and expensive to navigate. Once requirements for becoming a citizen have been met, individuals must submit an application with supporting documents and a \$760 fee, to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Applicants must also demonstrate their ability to read, write and speak English as well as knowledge of U.S. history and government. As a result, many who are qualified delay or never apply for naturalization.

#### **How LitNet Can Help**

Support from the Matthew and Hannah Keator Family Foundation enables LitNet to award scholarships for the screening, preparation and filing of the N-400 Naturalization Application. And most importantly, those who are selected receive ten free instructional sessions, provided by trained volunteer tutors, to prepare for the civics and English tests.

#### **\*Scholarship Support:**

The scholarship provides funding for the following three successive stages to citizenship:

- ✓ Preliminary screening
- ✓ Application preparation
- ✓ N-400 Application submission

#### **Applicant Scholarship Criteria:**

- ✓ 18 or older at the time of filing for citizenship
- ✓ Green Card holder for at least five years immediately preceding the date of filing the [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#)
- ✓ Live or work in the Berkshires
- ✓ Attend ten sessions to study for the citizenship test with a LitNet tutor
- ✓ Provide proof of receiving qualified immigration assistance from the Berkshire Immigrant Center, outside lawyer or legal representation

**For more information please contact LitNet at [info@litnetsb.org](mailto:info@litnetsb.org) or 413-243-0471.**

\*Applicants who have completed screening and application preparation with a certified legal representative, may apply directly for support for the N-400 application. Applicants do not need to be current LitNet students to apply for the scholarship.