

July 2nd, 2019

Cities for Citizenship Grant Review Committee
Address
City/State

Cities for Citizenship Grant Review Committee,

The Yakima City Council is pleased to provide this letter in support of La Casa Hogar's application for a Cities for Citizenship grant. La Casa Hogar's citizenship program has established itself as an extraordinary pathway to citizenship for more than 1,200 community members here in the Yakima Valley. Securing a Cities for Citizenship grant will allow La Casa Hogar to build on the tremendous success its citizenship program has already accomplished.

In summer 2018, the Yakima City Council authorized the City of Yakima to become a member of Cities for Citizenship. Additionally, to recognize the importance of citizenship, the Council formally declared October 2nd, 2018 "New Citizens Day" as a way to celebrate the many Yakima Valley community members who have invested the time, energy, and effort to achieve their goal of becoming U.S. citizens.

Today, more than 12,000 lawful, permanent residents of Yakima County are eligible to become U.S. citizens. However, various barriers make it more difficult for those Yakima-area residents to naturalize than their counterparts in other parts of Washington State. By securing a Cities for Citizenship grant, La Casa Hogar will be better able to provide those Yakima-area community members with the tools they need to realize their dream of becoming U.S. citizens.

In direct support of La Casa Hogar's grant application, the City of Yakima will:

- Support U.S. citizenship for eligible, lawful, permanent Yakima-area community members
- Utilize City communications platforms to share information about citizenship resources available in the Yakima area
- Annually proclaim New Citizens Day
- Encourage City staff and volunteers to participate in Cities for Citizenship training opportunities
- Regularly communicate with La Casa Hogar staff regarding the La Casa Hogar Citizenship Program and receive quarterly reports on its progress

The Yakima City Council looks forward to continuing to grow its partnership with La Casa Hogar. Thank you for your careful consideration of the La Casa Hogar application for a Cities for Citizenship grant.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kathy Coffey