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## 2019 Academy for New Americans

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### Program Purpose

*The Academy for New Americans* is an award winning leadership-training program sponsored by the City of Bowling Green that empowers New Americans to understand and participate in City Government. The purpose of the program is to provide New Americans the tools necessary to successfully navigate City services, community information and resources in order to become key stakeholders in assisting their respective ethnic communities and neighborhoods. *The Academy for New Americans* is led by the International Communities Liaison Division (ICL) in the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services.

### Program Objectives

Participants to *the Academy for New Americans* will:

- 1. Gain an in-depth understanding of City government services.**  
Government services vary greatly from country to country; often times they may be non-existent or unreliable.
- 2. Have greater accessibility to existing City and community resources.**  
Language barriers, lack of knowledge, and lack of access are some of the obstacles that New Americans encounter in accessing services. *The Academy for New Americans* will help bridge the gap in accessing existing resources.
- 3. Build leadership capacity.** Leadership is viewed and interpreted in many different ways across the world. *The Academy for New Americans* will offer culturally appropriate pedagogy in leadership skills for the successful integration into American culture.
- 4. Become part of the larger community network.** Participants will connect to existing network in the community, broadening their opportunities to actively participate in leadership roles.

The program will focus on the following topics, in no particular order:

- **Leadership Development:** discussion and team-building exercises to build leadership skills.
- **City Government Services:** discussion about our City Manager form of government, and the election of Officials and their responsibilities. Overview of City Departments and services. Will include learning how to use our public transportation system.
- **Public Safety and the Courts:** Tour and presentation of Police and Fire Department. We will also have an explanation of the criminal and civil courts. Discussion on the Department of Motor Vehicle and Driver's Licenses.
- **Citizenship and Civic Engagement:** learn about the naturalization process and its importance, how to apply for U.S. citizenship, what does it mean to be a U.S. Citizen. Discussion on what civic engagement means and ways to become civically engaged.
- **Volunteerism and Community Engagement:** participants will work on a volunteer community project with a local non-profit organization. An overview on volunteer opportunities and community resources available throughout the City.



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### Schedule

The City will run one Academy per year with five sessions (February - June). The Academy consists of day long sessions held **once a month on Thursday from 9:00am – 3:00pm approximately.**

Proposed Academy Session dates for 2019:

**Session I – Thursday, February 28, 2019**

**Session II – Thursday, March 28, 2019**

**Session III – Thursday, April 25, 2019**

**Session IV – Thursday, May 23, 2019**

**Session V – Thursday, June 20, 2019**

**Class Graduation – Friday, June 21, 2019 (tentative)**

### Class Graduation

A separate class graduation lunch will be scheduled where participants who successfully complete the Academy for New Americans will be recognized along with their family members.

### Class size

The third class will be limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

### Selection of Participants

Applications are available online at: <http://www.bgky.org/new-americans>. ***The deadline to submit applications for the 2019 Class is Thursday, January 3, 2019.*** Applicants must be foreign-born individuals with legal status in the United States. Applications will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis pending that all application requirements are met. Consideration to equal representation of our diverse ethnic communities will be given when selecting applicants. Priority will be given to applicants who reside in the incorporated limits of the City of Bowling Green. There is no cost to participants to attend; however, all applicants must be committed to at least four of the five month sessions.

Once selected, each participant will receive a letter of acceptance that can be used to demonstrate to an employer active participation in the program. The City will communicate the acceptance of each participant to their respective employers to ensure that each understands the value of participation in the *Academy for New Americans*. Because the sessions will take place during regular business hours, we want to ensure that the employer will still compensate employee if the sessions take place during the employees work shift.

### For more information on the 2019 Academy for New Americans contact:

Leyda Becker  
International Communities Liaison  
707 East Main Avenue  
P.O. Box 430  
Bowling Green, KY 42102-0430  
Email: [leyda.becker@bgky.org](mailto:leyda.becker@bgky.org)  
Phone: (270)393-3766



## 2019 Academy for New Americans

### CITY OF BOWLING GREEN'S ACADEMY FOR NEW AMERICANS – 2019 APPLICATION FORM

The Academy for New Americans is a free leadership-training program sponsored by the City of Bowling Green that empowers New Americans to understand and participate in City Government.

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name:	Last Name:
Mailing Address:	
Email Address:	Phone Number:
Date of birth	Gender:
Country of Origin:	Languages Spoken:
Number of Years in the US:	Number of Years in Bowling Green:
Are you a naturalized US Citizen: If yes, date of Naturalization:	Polo T-shirt Size:

#### EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Where do you work?
What are your job responsibilities?
Will you need a letter for your employer of your involvement with the Academy? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Employer Information, please include supervisor's name and worksite address

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / LEADERSHIP

Describe your civic/community involvement, including any leadership positions.
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## 2019 Academy for New Americans

Explain why you would like to participate in Academy for New Americans and what you would hope to gain from the experience.

List three problems or issues that affect New Americans (refugees and immigrants) in Bowling Green.

1.

2.

3.

### PERSONAL REFERENCES

Please provide (2) names of individuals we can contact to give a reference on your behalf.

Name:

Contact Information:

Name:

Contact Information:

### COMMITMENT CONTRACT

- I will attend at least four of the five sessions of the Academy for New Americans
- I will participate in the Academy for New Americans honestly, thoughtfully and with an open mind.
- I will share what I learn at the Academy for New Americans with friends, family and community members.
- I will stay connected with Academy alumni after graduation through the Office of the International Communities Liaison.

**Please complete all section of the application and return by Thursday, January 3, 2019**

**to:** Leyda Becker

International Communities Liaison

707 East Main Avenue

P.O. Box 430

Bowling Green, KY 42102-0430

Email: [leyda.becker@bgky.org](mailto:leyda.becker@bgky.org)

Phone: (270) 393-3766