



2026



Academy for New Americans

APPLY NOW LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

available online Registration



LEARN HOW YOUR CITY
GOVERNMENT WORKS

FREE PROGRAM OFFERS:

- GREATER ACCESS TO CITY SERVICES
- MEETING CITY GOV. STAFF & OFFICIALS
- LEARNING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN THE U.S.
- BECOMING A BETTER LEADER!



REGISTER ONLINE AT:

WWW.BGKY.ORG/NEW-AMERICANS

**DEADLINE TO
REGISTER JAN. 9**



2026 Academy for New Americans

About the Academy for New Americans

The Academy for New Americans is a no cost, award winning leadership-training program sponsored by the City of Bowling Green that empowers New Americans to understand and participate in City Government. Our 2026 Academy for New Americans will be our 8th annual class with over 156 participants having been part of previous year's academies.

Program Purpose

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 Community Engagement Division for Neighbors and New Americans leads the Academy for New Americans* 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 cultures. *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:** training and team-building exercises to build leadership skills.
- **City Government Services:** discussion about our City Manager form of government, and the election of City Officials and their responsibilities. Overview of City Departments and services. Will include learning how to use our public transportation system.
- **Public Safety and Downtown Development:** Tour and presentation of Police and Fire Department. We will discover the many wonderful spaces that our City's downtown has to offer, including a tour of downtown attractions!
- **Workforce, Education, & Entrepreneurship:** Increase your employment and educational opportunities; learn how to start your own business.
- **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.



2026 Academy for New Americans

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 2026:

Session dates for 2026:

Session I – Thursday, February 26, 2026

Session II – Thursday, March 26, 2026

Session III – Thursday, April 23, 2026

Session IV – Thursday, May 28, 2026

Session V – Thursday, June 18, 2026

Class Graduation – Friday, June 19, 2026

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 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 2026 Academy for New Americans Class is Friday, January 9, 2026.**

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 cultural and 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 2026 Academy for New Americans contact:

Leyda Becker

Community Engagement Division Manager

707 East Main Avenue

P.O. Box 430

Bowling Green, KY 42102-0430

Email: leyda.becker@bgky.org

Phone: (270)393-3766 or Cell: (270) 935-8960



2026 Academy for New Americans

For Internal Use
Application Number:
Date Received:

CITY OF BOWLING GREEN'S ACADEMY FOR NEW AMERICANS – 2026 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 U.S.:	Number of Years in Bowling Green:
Are you a naturalized U.S. Citizen: If yes, date of Naturalization:	T-shirt Size:

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Where do you work?
What are your job responsibilities?
Will you like the City of BG to contact your employer about 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 you have held in the United States or before arriving to the U.S.



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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 Community Engagement Division for Neighbors and New Americans

Please complete all section of the application and return by Friday, January 9, 2026 to:

Leyda Becker
Community Engagement Division Manager
707 East Main Avenue
P.O. Box 430
Bowling Green, KY 42102-0430
Email: leyda.becker@bgky.org
Phone: (270)393-3766



CITY OF BOWLING GREEN
**Community
Engagement**
DIVISION
For Neighbors & New Americans