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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Irish International Immigrant Center Awarded \$140,000 for New Citizens
*Boston's immigrant Welcome Center receives Fish Family Foundation grant***

January 15, 2019 – The Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) is the grateful recipient of a two-year grant of \$140,000 from the Fish Family Foundation in support of its Citizenship Engagement Program.

The Fish Family Foundation is a private family foundation located in Boston, Massachusetts. Established in 1999 by Lawrence and Atsuko Fish, the Foundation builds on the family's commitment to supporting community organizations dedicated to helping new American families improve the qualities of their lives. This work is clearly exemplified in the Foundation's support of thousands of immigrant families as they go through the naturalization process and become productive and engaged US citizens.

The Irish International Immigrant Center empowers over 3,500 immigrants and refugees annually from more than 120 countries by providing the legal, education and wellness support they need to build successful lives. Building on 30 years of welcoming newcomers and working for social justice, the Center helps immigrants find community and stands up for immigration policies that are humane and just.

"The Fish Family Foundation's vision of promoting engaged citizenship is fully aligned with IIIC's vision, values and work. Immigrants have much to offer America and becoming a US citizen is the beginning of a new journey. Immigrants are courageous, entrepreneurial, and care deeply about community. As they become fully engaged citizens these attributes will help create a much better future for us all," says Executive Director Ronnie Millar.

"The IIIC has championed immigrant issues for many years and assisted people from across the world as they make Boston their new home. This work aligns with our commitment to immigrant inclusion and we are thrilled to offer support for the IIIC's relentless work," said Larry Fish.

Grant funding will support the IIIC's Citizenship Engagement Program as they assist more than 400 new and prospective citizens with job-readiness, individualized coaching for financial success and access to becoming more civically engaged. The IIIC will also lead quarterly Citizenship Conversations in which newcomers and civic leaders can share their stories about citizenship and community.

To learn more about the Citizenship Engagement Program contact Bonnie Greenwood 617-542-7654.

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