



IT Program Assessment

USCIS- Baseline Automation Support Infrastructurefor Citizenship Services (BASICS) (2010)

Review

The DHS CIO conducted a comprehensive program review of the USCIS - Baseline Automation Support Infrastructure for Citizenship Services (BASICS) program on February 19, 2010. BASICS provides the IT infrastructure that supports all USCIS business applications and office operations. During the review, the Program and Project Managers discussed the objectives of the program, including, specifically, that BASICS:

- Enables USCIS to move from legacy INS IT infrastructure to a modern infrastructure;
- Allows USCIS to better control & manage the Department's IT security posture;
- Enables the ongoing efforts of the Transformation Program Office (TPO) to provide for Comprehensive Immigration Reform;
- Provides USCIS with improved security, management, and monitoring capabilities over its infrastructure; and
- Enables USCIS to support the DHS One Family, as BASICS migrates its IT Infrastructure services to the DHS Data Centers.

In the near term, the BASIC Program includes:

- Active Directory (Perimeter firewalls and DNS/DHCP devices deployed)
- HSPD-12 (logical access has started; program is ready to issue cards to DHS personnel in NYC)
- IDAM
- Email Archiving, Exchange (Using ICE infrastructure) (DHS E-Mail as a service may replace Component e-mail services during FY 2011)

Assessment:

The USCIS BASICS Program is well structured and planned to provide the infrastructure needed to support the USCIS Transformation Program and Immigration Reform. Goals and objectives of the program to date are on-schedule. The support planned for the USCIS Transformation Program is projected to also support Immigration Reform as that effort would become a focus for the USCIS Transformation Program. The success of USCIS BASICS hinges on planning a timely and coordinated recompetition of support contracts in order to prevent interruptions of service, which would adversely impact the planned schedule. Cost and scope risks are under control, but potential schedule delays need to be avoided. DHS OCIO, the USCIS CIO, and the BASIC Program Manager are working to schedule contract actions to mitigate the risks.

Score: 4