



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the end of the year approaches, I am thankful for my time serving as the Director of the New Americans Campaign (NAC). It has been a privilege to see our partners overcome economic and public health barriers and continue to help people become US citizens. On the heels of a global pandemic, our NAC partners met their naturalization goals, advocated for critical policy changes, engaged in innovative practices, and worked on civic engagement.

One of the highlights of 2022 was the Naturalization Practitioners Conference held in Jersey City last spring. After a long hiatus, bringing people in person and seeing you all learn from each other was inspiring to us. We are grateful to everyone who made it happen. Here is a [video](#) with some highlights.

We invite you to review our year-end report celebrating your 2022 accomplishments, and we look forward to next year, determined to increase the number of people who can enjoy the benefits of citizenship.

Best wishes to all in 2023,

*Lucia Martel Dow*



## FROM THE NAC TEAM

### ERIC COHEN

Executive Director, ILRC

Looking back to 2011, when we started the NAC, I am so thrilled that we have exceeded our original dreams of increasing the number of people applying for naturalization and building the capacity in the field to assist with naturalization applications. We have enjoyed such an amazing amount of success because of the hard work of all of you, the NAC partners, and the funders. Thank you to all of you!

### MANAL ALI

Senior Program Manager, NAC

The challenges that come with the work you all do is never-ending, yet each year the NAC continues to be a success thanks to all your hard work and dedication. To overcome these challenges while ensuring your communities have access to free naturalization workshops, support in complex naturalization cases, and advocating for policy changes, is truly admirable. Wishing you all another year full of wins.

### AMBER MCCHESENEY-YOUNG

Best Practices Manager, NAC

It has been an honor to deepen relationships with NAC partners after transitioning to my role as Best Practices Manager this year. As partners, you achieve so much despite many obstacles – one quarter of the way through the current fiscal year, you were already at 30% of your application deliverables. Thank you for the incredible impact you have in the communities you serve.



### PHILIP SMITH

Finance Consultant, NAC

It was great to see so many NAC partners in person again in 2022. I have enjoyed being a part of this community for the last seven years. I'm proud to work with such dedicated people for a cause that is so important. I wish everyone peace and rest at the end of this year and continued success in the year to come.

### LEAH MUSE-ORLINOFF

Data and Strategy Consultant, NAC

It has been exciting and gratifying to be part of the NAC team in 2022. I'm especially proud of the work we've done to transition our data and reporting processes, which will really help us understand more about the outstanding work that partners across the NAC do every quarter. As we move into 2023, it's great to see how committed, creative, and welcoming the NAC community continues to be!





## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

**\$138,418,445**

Total USCIS fees savings  
(completed I-912 and I-942)

**\$484,205,100**

Total legal fee savings  
(free or low-cost services)

**\$622,623,545**

Total savings  
(legal costs and USCIS filing fees)

**2011-2022**

**572,000+**

N-400 naturalization applications  
completed

**199,000+**

Fee waivers and reduced fee  
requests forms completed

**IMMIGRANT  
COMMUNITY  
SAVINGS SINCE 2011**





## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

JAN. 1 TO SEPT. 30  
**2022**

**34,247**

Naturalizations completed by NAC  
partners and affiliates  
(all sources of funding)

**12,990**

Fee waivers and reduced fee  
requests

**\$43,378,820**

Total savings  
(legal costs and USCIS filing fees)





**“You cannot imagine the feeling when you become a citizen of a free country. Tears came to my eyes. I cannot explain the powerful emotion, 'I did it!' I was so happy.”**

Edith Mkhitarians

*Citizen in 2021, assisted by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles*





## NAC CONFERENCE IN JERSEY CITY

Over **200 people attended** the eighth annual NAC Conference in Jersey City (the first since the pandemic started), with at least **one representative from each NAC site, affiliates, and national partners**. We received excellent feedback from participants and look forward to hosting our next conference in 2023!

## OCTOBER CONVENING

In October, we hosted a successful **two-day virtual** convening with national partners, site leaders, and funders. The NAC team and national partners highlighted the impact of the NAC in 2022.



## NEW REPORTING SYSTEM

We launched a new online reporting tool to collect data from our local partners that is more streamlined and efficient. The tool **reduces the burden on the organizations doing critical immigration work**, and on our team receiving and analyzing their data. In a survey conducted by the NAC team, 98% of partners said the form was easy to complete!





## ADVOCACY AND POLICY

The Naturalization Working Group (NWG), the ILRC team, and many other NAC partners advocated for new federal policies to increase naturalization. Some of the policy wins include the **automatic extension of the validity of Permanent Resident Cards** for lawful permanent residents who apply for naturalization; significant **improvements to the Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions Form** (N-648); **increase in funding** for the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program (an additional \$10 million in grants); and **reduction of the naturalization backlogs**.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Our Civic Engagement initiatives, coordinated by UnidosUS, supported **18 local partners** in the **District of Columbia, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia**. Data matching confirms that of 4,045 "warm hand-offs," **1,400 (34.6%) registered to vote during the Fiscal Year 2022**. Our partners educated newly naturalized citizens about voter education and conducted warm referrals to voter registration.

## INNOVATION GRANT

In 2022, NAC partners advanced creative projects funded by the 10th round of NAC Innovation Grants. These projects included **mobile naturalization labs, self-serve application kiosks, the expansion of virtual citizenship events, and a pilot of text-to-email software**.



## SUPPORTING THE FIELD

In the spring of 2022, over **100 NAC partners participated** in a NAC survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on naturalization services and understand our network's current challenges. The survey showed that organizations offering naturalization services were experiencing many challenges due to the pandemic. CLINIC, ILRC, and NPNA provided **16 trainings and webinars** responding to the needs of our local partners, covering topics such as naturalization essentials, hybrid workshop models, and the effects of absences on naturalization. The NAC also facilitated **five site leader calls** and **four virtual review** best practices calls in 2022. The ILRC hosted its first **two in-person naturalization trainings** since the start of the pandemic in Fresno, CA, and Arkansas.

The ILRC also offered the latest electronic edition of our manual *Naturalization and U.S. Citizenship: The Essential Legal Guide* (17th edition) free of charge to over **600 legal advocates, DOJ-accredited representatives, and attorneys** working on naturalization issues. The NAC periodically shared best practices and resources through the **Tips from the Field newsletters**.



**“I’m so excited  
to vote!  
Honestly, it’s a  
privilege to be  
able to vote.”**

Karen Jimenez

*Citizen in 2022, assisted by the  
Hispanic American Community  
Education and Service*



## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

The NAC supported practitioners by giving access to the ILRC's Attorney of the Day (AOD) program, which answered over **180 questions sent in by NAC affiliates** in the last year, and access to CLINIC's Department of Justice recognition (DOJ) and accreditation support which assisted over **23 organizations**. NAC's Virtual Review coordination efforts by AJSOCAL, were crucial in supporting hybrid and remote service models.

NALEO and AJSOCAL **naturalization hotlines** answered thousands of calls, Justicia Lab continued to make **Citizenshipworks** available free of cost, and the Red White and Blue Campaign initiative, led by Immigration Forum, successfully advocated for **naturalization promotion at ports of entry**.

## NATIONAL PARTNERS

Asian Americans Advancing Justice  
Southern California (AJSOCAL)  
Catholic Legal Immigration  
Network, Inc. (CLINIC)  
International Rescue Committee  
(IRC)  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
(ILRC)-Lead Agency  
Justicia Lab  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Immigration Forum  
National Partnership for New  
Americans (NPNA)  
Pro Bono Net  
UnidosUS

## FUNDERS

Beacon IA  
California Wellness Foundation  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Grove Foundation  
Houston Endowment  
John S. and James L. Knight  
Foundation  
JPB Foundation  
Open Society Foundations  
Wallace H. Coulter Foundation







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