Transforming the Path to Citizenship

Increasing Rates of Naturalization

The New Americans Campaign is the leading collaborative devoted to increasing rates of naturalization among eligible residents. Over nine million lawful permanent residents are eligible for citizenship, yet less than one million apply to naturalize each year. By promoting fair naturalization policies and connecting permanent residents to our network of trusted legal advisors and naturalization experts — at more than 200 organizations across 20+ cities nationwide — we are transforming the way aspiring citizens become new Americans.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>606,000+</th>
<th>$665 million</th>
<th>10,600+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>citizenship applications completed by immigrants from all regions of the world</td>
<td>in legal and application fees saved by aspiring citizens</td>
<td>naturalization events held</td>
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Our Network

Our partners are trusted, non-profit community organizations that provide direct citizenship services in their local communities to increase the number of lawful permanent residents applying for citizenship. They include legal services providers, immigration and faith-based organizations, and immigrant rights groups. We equip our partners with innovative best practices, legal expertise, funding, policy advocacy, and civic engagement tools.

National Partners

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
- 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

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Benefits of Citizenship

**Economic advancement**
Naturalized citizens earn 8-11% more than lawful permanent residents, are twice as likely as noncitizens to own a home, and are more likely to have a bachelor’s degree or higher.

**Civic engagement**
Naturalized citizens can make their voices heard by voting in local, state, and federal elections and running for office.

**Family ties**
Children under 18 become citizens when their parents naturalize. Citizens also have more opportunities to file immigration petitions for non-citizen family members.

**Better health**
Naturalization removes the stress that comes with the fear of deportation or family separation that non-citizens may feel. Citizens are also more likely to be enrolled in health insurance.

**Freedom to travel**
Naturalization provides the freedom to travel outside the United States without restrictions.

**Protection from deportation**
For lawful permanent residents, there are still certain criminal convictions that can lead to deportation.

Overcoming Barriers

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<th>Cost</th>
<th>Legal Expertise</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<td>A $725 filing fee and the cost of legal assistance can add up quickly.</td>
<td>The application form is 20 pages. Fee waiver requests or special circumstances add even more complex paperwork.</td>
<td>Navigating the application process is even more difficult for those without English proficiency.</td>
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José Arturo Torres, new American

Born in a small town in Mexico, José came to the United States in 1990 with his wife and children. He started a bicycle business with his brother, but despite their success, José couldn’t afford the naturalization filing fee. He turned to our partner Centro CHA in Long Beach, where he learned he qualified for a fee waiver. He also took citizenship classes at the center and in 2020 he became a citizen. Now, he can visit his siblings in Mexico with ease and continue growing his business to support his family and community.

"Gaining citizenship was worth it; now we feel tranquility."