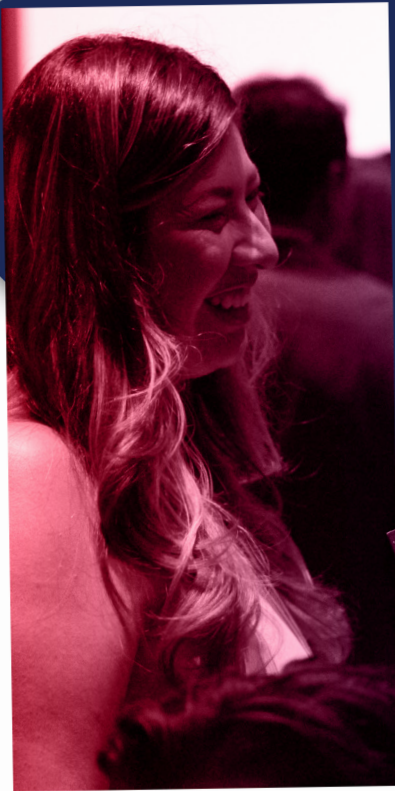


2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



FROM THE DIRECTOR



2023 was another successful year for the New Americans Campaign (NAC). NAC partners have empowered thousands of people in their path to citizenship, found new ways to engage immigrants on the importance of naturalization and civic engagement, and engaged in efforts to advocate for more equitable and just naturalization policies. We are thankful for all NAC partners' collaborative efforts to help realize the dream of U.S. citizenship around the country.

Our team's highlight of the year was [the NAC conference](#). Seeing so many faces in person and the enthusiasm and commitment you bring to naturalization was inspiring.

As we embark on this new year, we invite you to review our year-end report highlighting the NAC's achievements in 2023. We are excited to further the impact of the NAC into 2024 and beyond.

Thank you for your partnership,

Lucia Martel-Dow



“The day of the oath ceremony, I also registered to vote, and it was a privilege and an honor to vote for the first time in November. Citizenship is an important step to take if you want to fully be immersed in the U.S.”

-**Elsa Barletta**, Immigration Legal Assistant with the [International Institute of Akron](#). To read Elsa's full story, [click here](#).

FROM THE NAC TEAM

Eric Cohen, Executive Director, ILRC – Thank you to the entire NAC network for another incredible year. It was wonderful to be with you all in Houston for the Conference this year and to learn from so many innovative naturalization practitioners working in the field. I am looking forward to the year ahead and to continuing our work to advance the dream of citizenship for immigrants across the country.



Ben Brokaw, NAC Associate Director – Many thanks to all NAC partners for your commitment to serving aspiring citizens everywhere. I am always impressed and inspired by NAC organizations' ability to innovate and adapt to serve the needs of immigrants in their communities. I'm excited to continue working with you all to propel the NAC forward and looking forward to seeing what great things the NAC will do in 2024.



Amber McChesney-Young, Best Practices Manager – I am incredibly grateful for the hard work of all our NAC partners this past year. It is an honor to work together and witness the incredible impact that partners have on the lives of people applying for citizenship. I am especially thankful for the opportunity to gather and learn from each other at our recent NAC conference. I look forward to a productive year ahead!



Leah Muse-Orlinoff, Data and Strategy Consultant – NAC partners are committed to changing people's lives for the better. By providing naturalization services, NAC partners and staff create stronger communities, united families, and healthier generations. When NAC partners support new citizens to become voters, they help strengthen our democracy and make sure all immigrant communities' voices can be heard. It is an honor to be a part of this amazing network of organizations!



Philip Smith, Finance Consultant – It was great to see the NAC community in Houston in 2023. Over the last eight years, I've learned so much from the dedicated organizations working to bring the benefits of citizenship to the members of their communities. As we face the challenges of the year ahead, it's good to know we're in this together.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

FROM 2011-2023

627,000

Citizenship applications completed

222,000

Fee waivers (full and partial)

\$693,000,000+

Total savings (legal costs and USCIS filing fees)

FROM JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

44,200

Citizenship applications completed

17,900

Fee waivers (full and partial)

\$56,948,100

Total savings (legal costs and USCIS filing fees)

“It gives me such peace of mind that my mother is now a United States citizen, and she is so proud, and now she wants to apply for a U.S. passport, so that’s what we are working on now. This represents freedom for her, as it did for me when I became a citizen.”

-**Reena Vinda** speaking about her mother Savitaben Vinda’s recent naturalization. Savitaben was assisted by the [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\) Atlanta](#).

BEST PRACTICES AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Houston NAC Conference - October 2023

Last year's NAC Conference in Houston, Texas, was a huge success. The Conference was well attended, with over 260 individuals participating. A representative from the City of Houston presented a proclamation recognizing the work of the NAC. The Conference featured two days of informational sessions, panel discussions, and substantive naturalization legal trainings. The Conference also offered an opportunity to volunteer at a naturalization workshop organized by the Houston NAC site, which had impressive participation from NAC partners. Many thanks to our Houston NAC partners for making this year's Conference a success.

"The NAC Conference is the only Conference that focuses on all parts of the naturalization process - from fundraising for legal services, outreach to legal issues, naturalization test preparation, and civic engagement."

-Conference participant

San Francisco NAC Convening - May 2023

In May 2023, the NAC hosted a Convening meeting of funders, national partners, and site leaders in San Francisco. It was the first in-person Convening since the pandemic started. It featured strategic planning discussions, best practice sharing on hybrid and virtual workshop models, and an all-day facilitation training to help site leaders enhance collaboration at their sites. National partners also had in-depth conversations with funders to discuss new funding strategies for the NAC.



Supporting the Field: Trainings and Technical Assistance

NAC national organizations help partners expand and improve their naturalization programs to better serve lawful permanent residents. In 2023, the NAC offered the following support to local NAC programs across the country:

- National Partners Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), Catholic Legal Immigration Network, INC. (CLINIC), National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) provided 15 substantive legal and programmatic trainings and webinars to 2,800 plus NAC registrants
- ILRC provided over 120 naturalization-related Attorney of the Day Consultations to legal staff from partner organizations
- NALEO Educational Fund and AJSOCAL responded to over 8,600 calls from community members seeking information and resources on naturalization
- CLINIC worked with 25 NAC partners to provide consultations and review applications for the Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation (DOJ R&A) program, resulting in the approval of 16 applications. Congratulations to NALEO Educational Fund for obtaining DOJ recognition in 2023!



Innovation Grant

In 2023, NAC partners advanced creative projects funded by the 11th round of NAC Innovation Grants. These projects included guiding people through the naturalization process with multilingual informational videos, using technology to improve efficiency in intake processes and at naturalization workshops, and building volunteer capacity through online trainings and resource libraries.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The NAC, in conjunction with UnidosUS, continues to support 20 NAC local partners in their Civic Engagement (CE) work. CE partners are using various methods to reach out to new citizens, including using texting platforms, phone banks, round tables, and community events, to educate newly naturalized and prospective citizens on

the importance of voting and ways to be civically engaged. They are also providing information and referrals to non-partisan partner organizations that can help new citizens register to vote. In NAC fiscal year 2023, over 1600 newly naturalized people who received assistance with their naturalization application from NAC partners were connected to voter registration and civic engagement opportunities.

NATURALIZATION POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The NAC continues to combat naturalization barriers nationally through the Naturalization Working Group (NWG). Recently, the NWG made significant progress in reducing USCIS processing backlogs. Processing times to adjudicate naturalization cases have improved remarkably; the median processing times were cut in half – going from one year to just six months. Furthermore, the advocacy work of the NWG helped to secure an additional \$5 million for the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program in FY 2023.

Red, White, and Blue Campaign

The National Immigration Forum continues to lead the NAC's Red, White, and Blue Campaign to inform LPRs traveling through airports about the benefits of citizenship and to connect them with naturalization resources, both through local NAC site engagement with airports and through a DHS partnership. In partnership with USCIS and CPB, brochures and informational videos are now available at 12 airports across the country. Members of the campaign met nearly monthly in 2023 to update each other, discuss strategy, and periodically met with CPB and USCIS to provide input and maximize impact.





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

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

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE NAC:

