



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

The Path to U.S. Citizenship Can Start at Libraries

Federal Depository Library Conference

Arlington, VA • October 18, 2016

Overview

- About USCIS
- Immigration to the United States
- Partnering with libraries
- Online resources from USCIS
- Supporting immigrant patrons



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About USCIS

USCIS will secure America's promise as a nation of immigrants by providing accurate and useful information to our customers, granting immigration and citizenship benefits, promoting an awareness and understanding of citizenship, and ensuring the integrity of our immigration system.



Photo courtesy of USCIS

Source: Facebook.com/uscis

Naturalization ceremony on President's Day



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About USCIS

What we do

USCIS is a component of the Department of Homeland Security. We are comprised of 19,000 government employees and contractors working at 223 offices across the world. Some of the services we provide include:

- Citizenship (includes the naturalization process)
- Immigration of family members
- Working in the United States
- Verifying an individual's legal right to work in the United States (E-Verify)
- Humanitarian programs
- Adoptions
- Civic integration
- Genealogy



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Immigration to the United States

On average, the United States welcomes approximately one million lawful permanent residents (LPRs) and more than 700,000 new citizens each year.



*Photo courtesy of USCIS
Source: Facebook.com/uscis
Naturalization ceremony*



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Immigration to the United States

8.8 Million LPRs Eligible to Apply for Citizenship

STATE OF RESIDENCE	
California	2,440,000
New York	1,050,000
Texas	950,000
Florida	830,000
Illinois	370,000
New Jersey	360,000
Massachusetts	200,000
Washington	180,000
Arizona	180,000
Virginia	160,000



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Immigration to the United States

8.8 Million LPRs Eligible to Apply for Citizenship

COUNTRY OF BIRTH	
Mexico	2,670,000
Philippines	340,000
China	310,000
Dominican Republic	300,000
Cuba	290,000
Canada	260,000
El Salvador	250,000
India	250,000
United Kingdom	240,000
Vietnam	200,000



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USCIS Partners with Libraries

Institute of Museum and Library Services

- In 2013, USCIS formed a partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS); recently renewed in September 2016
- Goal is to provide information, educational materials, and training resources on immigration and citizenship to local libraries.
- USCIS and IMLS seek to ensure that librarians have the necessary tools to refer their customers to accurate and reliable sources of information on immigration-related topics.



Photo courtesy of the American Library Association
Former USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas and former IMLS Director Susan Hildreth sign a formal agreement.



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USCIS Partners with Libraries

Why libraries?

- Welcoming spaces
- Convenient locations
- Internet access
- Support for lifelong learning
- Information navigators
- More than 55 percent of people who immigrated to the United States within the last 15 years use the public library at least once per week



Public Domain
Library road sign



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Resources from USCIS

eGov Resources from USCIS

Tools

Before you file:



- File an application online. Available for some forms. Check www.uscis.gov/file-online for updates.



- Find a doctor



- Check office case processing times



- Check filing fees



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Manage your case:



- Check case status online



- Get automatic updates about your case



- Submit an online request about your case



- Change your address online



- Ask a question - Emma

eGov Resources from USCIS

Other Services



- Find a USCIS office



- Infopass – Schedule an appointment with USCIS



- Make a genealogy request



- Verify your eligibility to work in the United States



- Search if an employer uses E-Verify



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Citizenship Education Resources

Citizenship Resource Center

- www.uscis.gov/citizenship
- Citizenship preparation materials and resources
- Organized by the following categories:
 - ❖ Learners
 - ❖ Teachers
 - ❖ Organizations



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A screenshot of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Citizenship Resource Center website. The page features a blue header with the USCIS logo and navigation links for Home, Contact Us, and Email Updates. A search bar is located in the top right. Below the header is a main navigation bar with tabs for HOME, LEARNERS, TEACHERS, ORGANIZATIONS, and OTHER LANGUAGES. The main content area is titled "Citizenship Resource Center" and includes a sub-header "Educational Tools and Information for Citizenship Preparation". A descriptive paragraph states: "Providing learners, teachers, and organizations with a one-stop resource for locating citizenship preparation materials and activities." Below this are three columns of content, each with a header and a list of resources:

- LEARNERS:** "Prepare for U.S. Citizenship" with a list including: "Should I Consider U.S. Citizenship?", "Learn About Naturalization", "Apply for Citizenship", "Study for the Test", "Find Help in Your Community", "Attend an Information Session", "Understand Rights and Responsibilities", and "Naturalization Resources in Spanish".
- TEACHERS:** "Welcome Teachers" with a list including: "Educational Products", "Lesson Plans and Activities", "Training Seminars", "Training and Professional Development", "Naturalization Information", "Add Your Program to America's Literacy Directory", and "Supplemental Resource Links".
- ORGANIZATIONS:** "Information for Organizations" with a list including: "Grant Program", "Promising Practices", "Training and Professional Development", "Add Your Program to America's Literacy Directory", "Supplemental Resource Links", "Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Initiative", and "Civics and Citizenship Toolkit".

The footer contains links for "About Us", "Plugins", "Privacy and Legal Disclaimers", "Accessibility Policy", "Contact Us", "Site Map", "© 2015 gov", and "Welcome! 54 gov".

Citizenship Education Resources

For Learners



- A Guide to Naturalization



- 100 Civics Questions and Answers for the Naturalization Test



- Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons



- Civics Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test



- Vocabulary Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test



- Preparing for the Naturalization Test: A Pocket Study Guide



- The USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test Video



- Civics Practice Test and Interactive Practice Tests



- Preparing for the Oath: U.S. History and Civics for Citizenship



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Citizenship Education Resources

For Learners

- Find Help in Your Community page
- Contact information for community organizations and social service providers that offer English and citizenship classes
- **Home > Learners > Find Help in Your Community**



The screenshot shows the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website. At the top left is the Department of Homeland Security logo. To its right is the text "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services". In the top right corner, there are links for "Home", "Email Updates", and "Contact Us", along with a search bar and a "SEARCH" button. Below the header is a navigation menu with tabs for "HOME", "LEARNERS" (which is highlighted), "TEACHERS", "ORGANIZATIONS", and "OTHER LANGUAGES". Under the "LEARNERS" tab, there is a breadcrumb trail "Home > Learners" and a "Print This Page" icon. The main heading is "Find Help in Your Community". Below this, there is a paragraph of text: "Many community organizations and social service providers offer citizenship classes and assistance with the naturalization process. Classes are often held in the evenings and on weekends. In many cases, these programs provide additional support and referral services as well." This is followed by another paragraph: "If you need help with an immigration issue, you can use the services of a licensed immigration attorney or accredited representative of a Board of Immigration Appeals recognized organization. Be sure to review the 'Legal Assistance' section below so you can make the right decision about what kind of legal help you need." Below that is a paragraph: "Other resources may be available in your community. See the [NALEO Educational Fund's directory of Citizenship Centers](#) or [CitizenshipWorks](#) for a selection of service providers in each state." There are three sub-sections: "English and Citizenship Classes" with a link to "Find an English and/or Citizenship Class" and a description "Search by zip code or address to find an English and/or citizenship class in your area."; "Legal Assistance" with a link to "Find Legal Advice" and a description "Learn about immigration attorneys and accredited representatives"; and "More Information" with a list of four bullet points: "Free Naturalization Information Sessions", "Find an English and/or citizenship class in your area", "Search NALEO's Citizenship Centers directory", "CitizenshipWorks", and "New Americans Campaign Service Providers". In the bottom right corner, there is a photograph of a man in a white shirt standing and pointing at a table with several people sitting around it, looking at documents.



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Citizenship Education Resources

For Teachers



- Lesson Plans and Activities for Citizenship Classes



- Understanding Key Concepts Found in Form N-400, Application for Naturalization: A Guide for Adult Citizenship Teachers



- Guide to the Adult Citizenship Education Foundation Skills and Content Standards: A Framework for Developing a Comprehensive Curriculum



- The Professional Development Guide for Adult Citizenship Educators



- Adaptable Teaching Tools



- Famous Americans on the Civics Test



- Tip Sheets and Idea Boards, Podcasts



Citizenship Education Resources

For Organizations



- Expanding ESL, Civics, and Citizenship Education in Your Community: A Start-Up Guide



- Elements of Program Quality for Adult Citizenship Education



- Civics and Citizenship Toolkit

- Citizenship and Integration Grant Program
- Promising Practices



Photo courtesy of USCIS

An instructor at the Central American Resource Center in Washington, DC, shows a citizenship program participant how to use the Citizenship Resource Center.



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Citizenship Education Resources

Training

USCIS offers free training for librarians, adult educators, program directors, volunteers, and representatives from immigrant-serving organizations.

- Training Seminars
- Volunteer Training: Adult Citizenship Education Strategies for Volunteers
- Bridges to Citizenship Institutes
- Webinars



Photo courtesy of USCIS
Bridges to Citizenship Fall Institute in Seattle, WA,
September 9-10, 2015.



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Citizenship Education Resources For Libraries

- Dedicated page for libraries
- Includes helpful resources, upcoming webinars, and contact details for local USCIS community relations officers
- Guide on how to set up a citizenship corner
- **Home > Organization > Libraries**



The screenshot shows the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website page for Libraries. The page features the USCIS logo and navigation links for Home, Email Updates, and Contact Us. A search bar is present with the text "Search" and a "SEARCH" button. The main navigation menu includes HOME, LEARNERS, TEACHERS, ORGANIZATIONS, and OTHER LANGUAGES. The current page is titled "Libraries" and includes a "Print This Page" button. The main content area discusses the role of libraries in serving immigrant communities and provides information on USCIS/IMLS Partnership Goals and What Libraries Can Do to Participate. A "More Information" sidebar lists "Citizenship Corners" and "Library-Specific Training Offered by USCIS".

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Home | Email Updates | Contact Us

Search **SEARCH**

HOME LEARNERS TEACHERS **ORGANIZATIONS** OTHER LANGUAGES

Home > Organizations  Print This Page

Libraries

Libraries play a critical role in serving immigrant communities. Through our [joint effort with IMLS](#), we plan to educate librarians, and in turn their immigrant customers, on topics ranging from naturalization, the unauthorized practice of immigration law, and the importance of digital literacy.

USCIS/IMLS Partnership Goals

- Provide citizenship and other immigration-related educational materials to libraries.
- Offer training opportunities for librarians on a variety of immigration topics.
- Coordinate meaningful interaction between USCIS Community Relations Officers and libraries in their respective jurisdictions.



What Libraries Can Do to Participate

- Learn more about [available resources](#) and ways to enhance and expand adult citizenship education services within your communities by participating in free informational webinars and in-person trainings.
- Order a [Civics and Citizenship Toolkit](#) for your library's collection and consider establishing a Citizenship Corner.

More Information

- Citizenship Corners
- Library-Specific Training Offered by USCIS



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Supporting Immigrant Patrons

Supporting Immigrant Patrons

Host a Naturalization Information Session

Each session is free of charge and open to the public. Topics covered at these sessions will include:

- naturalization eligibility requirements
- the naturalization process
- the naturalization test
- rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship

Contact a community relations officer for more information at

Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov



Photo courtesy of USCIS

Naturalization information session at the Piscataway Public Library

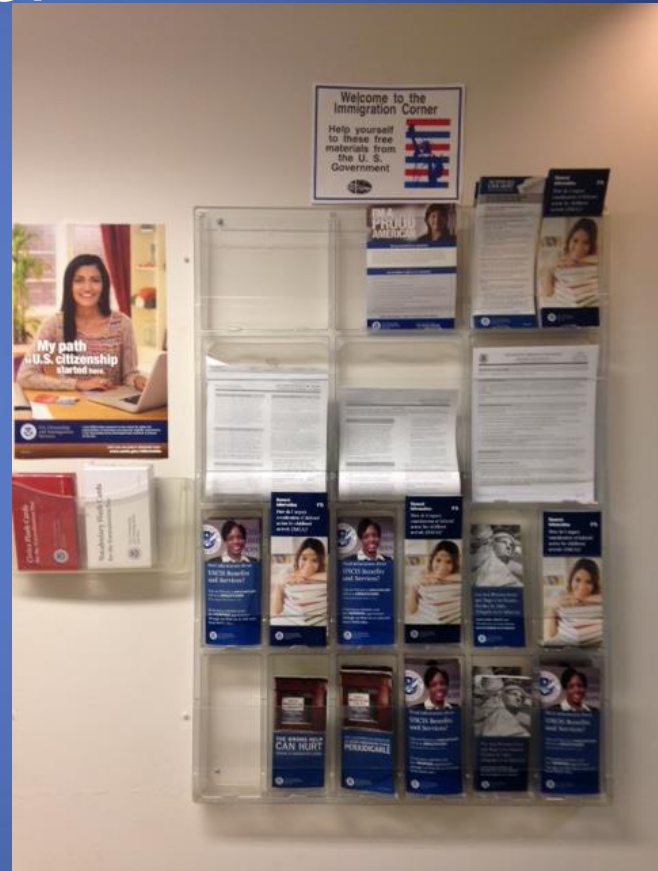


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Supporting Immigrant Patrons

Set up a Citizenship Corner

- Designated space in the library where immigrants can find information and resources on becoming a U.S. citizen
- Corner may include:
 - Citizenship test preparation materials
 - Information about the naturalization process
 - English language learning materials
 - Information on local citizenship classes



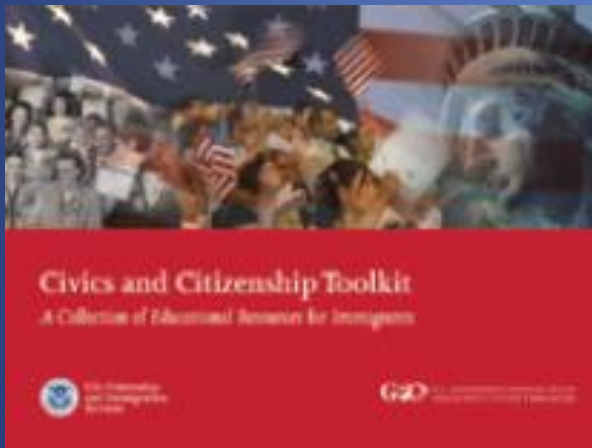
*Photo courtesy of Piscataway Public Library
Citizenship Corner*



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Supporting Immigrant Patrons

Register for a Civics and Citizenship Toolkit



- Libraries can register for one free copy
www.uscis.gov/citizenshiptoolkit
- Include in the reference section or as part of your library collection.



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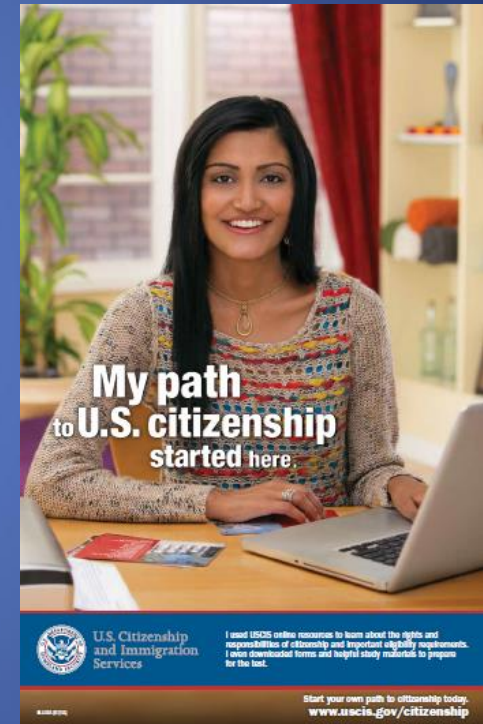
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Display a Flier or Poster

You can download and print:

- Have You Considered U.S. Citizenship? flier
- Citizenship Resource Center flier
- Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign posters
- Available at www.uscis.gov/citizenshipawareness

Home > Organizations > Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign



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Supporting Immigrant Patrons

Include Citizenship Information on Your Website

Post a USCIS widget to your website. It will direct users to trusted immigration information from USCIS.

The screenshot displays the Los Angeles Public Library website. At the top, the header includes the library name, a search bar, and navigation links. Below the header is a menu with categories like 'Collections & Resources' and 'Locations & Hours'. The main content area features a 'Citizenship Information and Resources' section. This section includes a sidebar with various user categories (e.g., 'En español', 'Kids', 'Teens') and a main area with two columns of links. The left column is titled 'Interested in U.S. Citizenship?' and lists options like 'Understand Rights and Responsibilities', 'Learn About Naturalization', 'Download Form N-400', 'Study for the Naturalization Test', and 'Find Help in Your Community'. The right column is titled '¿Le interesa la ciudadanía de Estados Unidos?' and lists corresponding Spanish-language options. Both columns feature the USCIS logo and the text 'U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services'.

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library



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Supporting Immigrant Patrons

Host a Naturalization Ceremony

- Find out if your library is in a jurisdiction where you can host a naturalization ceremony
- USCIS conducts the ceremony
- Contact a community relations officer for more information at Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov



Photo courtesy of Denver Public Library



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Keep In Touch

Sign Up for Updates from USCIS

- Sign up for updates geared towards libraries
- Go to www.uscis.gov
- Click on “Get Email Updates”
- Under the “Outreach” topic,” select:
 - Updates from USCIS-IMLS



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Questions?



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