

September 2023



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

USCIS Celebrates Citizenship Day 2023

Naturalization Promotion Highlights

President Biden issued [Executive Order 14012](#), *Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans*. Since then, USCIS has taken a number of steps to reduce barriers to naturalization in our nation's legal immigration system and promote U.S. citizenship, including creating and implementing a national strategy on naturalization promotion. Read [USCIS' Interagency Strategy for Promoting Naturalization](#) to learn more about our efforts, progress and accomplishments at [USCIS.gov](#).

As we mark and celebrate Citizenship Day and Constitution Week 2023, Sept. 17-22, USCIS is pleased to share some of its most recent naturalization promotion accomplishments.



NATURALIZATIONS AND CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

- **New U.S. Citizens** – USCIS will welcome more than 6,900 new citizens in over 130 naturalization ceremonies across the country between Sept. 18-22. Please visit [Celebrating Constitution Day and Citizenship Day 2023 with Naturalization Ceremonies | USCIS](#) for a list of all the ceremonies taking place across the country.

CITIZENSHIP PROMOTION HIGHLIGHTS

- **FY 2023 Citizenship and Integration Grants Program** - With an increased congressional appropriation, this year USCIS will award up to \$25 million in grants to organizations across the country for citizenship preparation and educational support programs. USCIS accepted applications under four Notices of

Funding Opportunities and anticipates making approximately 76 grant awards. See the [Citizenship Grantee Program webpage](#) for more information.

- **USCIS Citizenship Ambassadors Initiative Expansion** – USCIS launched the initiative in July 2022, collaborating with eight community leaders to promote naturalization in their local communities. Through citizenship ambassador efforts, USCIS has been able to extend our reach, promoting naturalization to thousands of people in diverse locations across the country. Given the initiative’s success, USCIS is expanding from eight to eleven citizenship ambassadors, further diversifying geographic locations and represented communities. Learn more about what the Citizenship Ambassador Initiative means to two current ambassadors: [Pao Yang](#) (Fresno, CA) and [Luis Shephard](#) (Boston, MA). For more about the initiative and introductions to all citizenship ambassadors, see [our website](#).
- **Civics Season** – Beginning with World Refugee Day on June 20 and culminating with Constitution Week, Sept. 17 – 22, USCIS has undertaken a variety of projects and activities to amplify the importance of citizenship. Some highlights from this year’s Civics Season include:
 - A special World Refugee Day Naturalization Ceremony at the North Carolina Executive Mansion with Governor Roy Cooper on June 20.
 - Adult Citizenship Teacher Education training sessions in Houston, TX; Seattle, WA; Anchorage, AK; Detroit, MI; Bentonville, AR; and Washington, DC.
 - Publication of the Multilingual Naturalization Process Presentations on YouTube in 13 languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Burmese, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Farsi, Haitian Creole, Korean, Kurdish, Somali, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpNZsaiyFfG1RDfOlfapq1Wlmnuj-p7hM>
 - Recognitions of Citizenship Teachers – USCIS will recognize the critically important role that citizenship educators play in supporting lawful permanent residents on their path to naturalization through the production and dissemination of a *Celebrate Citizenship Educators* poster for display in the classroom.
- **Naturalization Policies** - USCIS reaffirms its commitment to promoting citizenship and making the naturalization process accessible to all who are eligible. The following efforts occurred this year:
 - On March 22, 2023, USCIS published guidance to provide that only applicants for naturalization under Section 328 or Section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who are currently serving in the U.S. armed forces are required to file Form N-426, [Revision of Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service](#), along with their Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
 - On April 4, 2023, USCIS published [Venues for Administrative Naturalization Ceremonies](#), to clarify the types of venues USCIS may use for administrative naturalization ceremonies and the considerations for accepting offers to donate use of facilities.
 - On April 21, 2023, USCIS published [Citizenship for Adopted Children](#) guidance to clarify how citizenship and naturalization provisions apply to adopted children.
 - On Aug. 24, 2023, USCIS published [Access to Voter Registration Services during Naturalization Ceremonies](#) guidance to increase awareness and expand access to voter registration during naturalization ceremonies.

-USCIS-