



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



USCIS Celebrates Citizenship Day
Interagency Strategy for
Promoting Naturalization

The Biden-Harris administration is committed to making the naturalization process welcoming and accessible to all who are eligible. As part of that effort, President Biden issued [Executive Order 14012: Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration System and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans](#).

Sections 5(c) and (d) of the Order established the Interagency Naturalization Working Group (NWG), comprising 11 federal agencies, and directed the NWG to submit a strategy to the President outlining steps the federal government should take to promote naturalization. USCIS published the NWG's [Interagency Strategy for Promoting Naturalization](#) on July 2, 2021.

The interagency strategy is evidence-based and data-driven. It employs a whole-of-government approach by leveraging federal partner agencies' diverse networks and by working collaboratively at the federal, state, and local community level. Since the strategy's publication, the NWG has moved forward on several key areas for promoting naturalization and removing barriers for noncitizens.

Ways to Access USCIS Services and Information

- **[Online Naturalization Eligibility Tool](#)**: Users can check their eligibility to file for naturalization at uscis.gov or your myUSCIS account. This new tool walks users through a series of simple questions to help them decide whether they may be eligible to submit the Application for Naturalization (Form N-400). After receiving an application, once all the preliminary processes on the case are complete, USCIS will schedule an interview with the candidate to complete the naturalization process. The Eligibility Tool also serves as a gateway to the USCIS account and online filing process.

[Redesigned Naturalization Application Webpage](#): USCIS has launched a [redesigned naturalization application](#) that encourages applicants to apply online. There are many benefits to online filing, including the ability to immediately review case status alerts, secure messages, and receive all correspondence electronically.

- **Enumeration Beyond Entry**: USCIS and the Social Security Administration (SSA) have collaborated to automate the Social Security number application processes for noncitizens residing in the United States. Noncitizens can now request a new or replacement Social Security card through USCIS Forms I-485 and I-765, avoiding the need to visit a local SSA office. USCIS and SSA are working to implement this new process for Form I-140 as well.
- **Public Information Releases** – New USCIS Reports and Stakeholder Listening Session: USCIS is releasing the following reports on trends in naturalization and will host a listening session with stakeholders in October to collect information on data and statistics of interest to the public:

[The Trends in Naturalization Rates Report](#) – This report provides data on cohorts of the eligible-to-naturalize population from 1973 to 2018 and assesses patterns in naturalization based on length of time spent in lawful permanent resident (LPR) status, country of birth, and class of admission. The [Trends in Naturalization Rates report](#) was last updated in 2016.

[The Characteristics of People Who Naturalized Report](#) – This report provides data on the characteristics of people who naturalized over the last five years (FY 2015 – FY 2020), including region and country of birth, state and core-based statistical area of residence, time spent in LPR status, age, gender, marital status, and class of admission. The [Characteristics of People Who Naturalized](#) report was last updated in 2016.

Citizenship Statistics Public Webpage – USCIS has developed a new public webpage focused on citizenship statistics. The webpage highlights FY 2020 naturalization statistics, including naturalization pass rates, naturalization by months, country of birth, age, and gender, among other statistics. Along with the [military naturalizations](#) webpage, this is one of the first webpages USCIS has published with infographics.

Outreach Tools and Educational Materials

- **New Educational Resources: USCIS is launching several new educational resources:**
 - *A More Perfect Union: The USCIS Civics Test Guide to the Monuments and Memorials on the National Mall* – An interactive educational resource that walks users through U.S. civics and history monument by monument at the U.S. National Mall and Memorial Park, developed in cooperation with the NPS.
 - *Ellis Island Expeditions* – Developed for students, this five-part video series explores the history and significance of Ellis Island. Park rangers guide viewers through the creation of the first federal immigration inspection station and share the experiences of many immigrants who were processed there at the turn of the twentieth century.
 - [Welcome to Ellis Island](#)
 - [The Transatlantic Journey](#)
 - [The Medical Inspection](#)
 - [The Legal Inspection](#)
 - [The Stairs of Separation](#)
 - *Guidance on the Taking of the Oath* – An educational handout that explains the principles in the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America, section by section, for adult citizenship educators and learners.
 - *Two-Generation Family Approaches to Citizenship Education* – A tip sheet that helps K-12 systems and adult education providers develop approaches to citizenship education that involve both parents and children in the learning process.

Additional Online Resources: While not new, USCIS also wants to highlight the collection of free educational resources and outreach materials available at uscis.gov in electronic format and for download, including posters, brochures, flyers, study guides and more. See the [Citizenship Resource Center](#) and the [Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign](#).

Eligible organizations may also request a free print copy of the [USCIS Civics and Citizenship Toolkit](#). The Toolkit contains educational materials and publications to help LPRs learn more about the United States and prepare for the naturalization process.

- **Citizenship Story Highlights – Coming Soon:** Hear the immigrant histories and stories of U.S. officials and New Americans. These videos, hosted on uscis.gov, will showcase America’s rich and vibrant immigrant history and encourage citizen and noncitizen participation in civic life.

Honorees, Grantees, and Public Outreach Activities

- **Special Naturalization Ceremonies and the Outstanding Americans By Choice (ABC) Initiative:** USCIS hosted a number of special naturalization ceremonies earlier in the year, including Independence Day ceremonies with President Joe Biden, Deputy Homeland Security Secretary John Tien, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Mike Gilday, and U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (July 1-2); an overseas military naturalization ceremony for USAG-Bavaria also in honor of Independence Day with Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas (June 30); a frontline workers ceremony with USCIS Acting Director Tracy Renaud and former President George W. Bush live on The TODAY Show (April 20); a naturalization ceremony at the New York Public Library-Lincoln Center with Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas (April 28); an Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month ceremony with White House Deputy Cabinet Secretary Cristóbal Alex (May 27), and a World Refugee Day ceremony at the New York Historical Society with the Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff (June 20).

USCIS has 10 special naturalization ceremonies planned around Citizenship Day featuring U.S. officials, notable speakers, and honorees.

The Outstanding Americans by Choice (ABC) Initiative, revitalized this year, recognizes the outstanding achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens. Through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship, recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to this country and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans. USCIS has recognized the following individuals at FY 2021 naturalization ceremonies: Sandy Hoa Dang, Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, and Immaculée Ilibagiza.

The following individuals will be recognized during Citizenship Day naturalization ceremonies:

- **Sergeant Aquilino Gonell**, at George Washington's Mount Vernon with USCIS Director Ur Jaddou; and
- **Judge Rya W. Zobel**, at the U.S. District Court in Boston, MA.

Full biographies for the recent Outstanding ABC recipients are available on the [Outstanding Americans by Choice page](#).

FY21 Citizenship and Integration Grants Program: USCIS has awarded nearly \$10 million in grants to 40 organizations in 24 states for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country, including new partners that work with traditionally underserved communities as identified in EO 14012. Grant recipients will provide citizenship preparation services to approximately 25,000 LPRs originally from more than 50 countries. See the [USCIS Citizenship Grantee Program](#) webpage for more information.