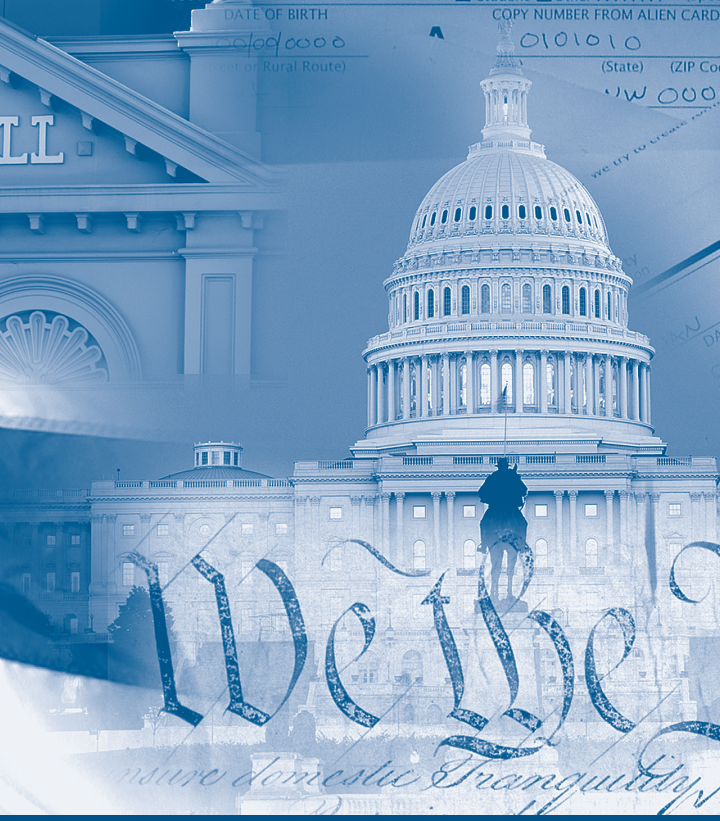


Welcome to the United States

A Guide for New Immigrants

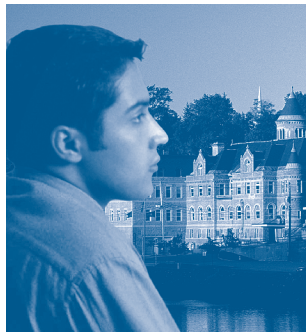
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

M-617 (rev. 09/16)

Welcome to the United States!

Congratulations on your new status as a permanent resident of the United States. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has created a guide to provide information about what you should know to get settled in the United States. It is called ***Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants***.

You can get the complete guide in: English, Spanish, Chinese (traditional), Chinese (simplified), Arabic, Haitian Creole, French, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Urdu on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/newimmigrants.



Getting Settled in the United States

It will take time to get settled, but there are resources available to help. You can get information in the guide, ***Welcome to the United States***, about:

- Finding free information in your local community and on the Internet
- Finding a place to live
- Getting a Social Security number and driver's license
- Getting a job
- Registering your children for school
- Finding healthcare
- Locating English language and adult education classes
- Preparing for emergencies
- Finding community organizations that assist immigrants

Please also visit www.uscis.gov to locate additional federal government resources available to new immigrants in the section called Settling in the U.S.

Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Permanent Resident

It is very important to understand your rights and responsibilities as a permanent resident. ***Welcome to the United States*** has information to help you understand your rights, including those in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. You can also learn about federal laws that protect you from discrimination in housing and employment. The guide will also alert you to the serious consequences for permanent residents who commit or are convicted of a crime in the United States.

It is also very important to know how to maintain your permanent resident status. **You need to know what forms to fill out, how to meet important deadlines, and what activities you should avoid if you want to become a U.S. citizen later.** ***Welcome to the United States*** tells you how to meet the requirements of:

Filing your federal taxes with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

- For more information, call 1-800-829-1040 or go to www.irs.gov.

Registering with the Selective Service (for males between the ages of 18 and 26).

- To register or get more information, call 1-847-688-6888 or go to www.sss.gov.

Giving DHS your new address within 10 days after you move.

- To get Form AR-11, call 1-800-870-3676 or go to www.uscis.gov/addresschange for information on how to report your change of address.

Maintaining your residence in the United States.

- If you plan to be out of the United States for more than 12 months, you must first apply for a re-entry permit before leaving. You can obtain Form I-131 from www.uscis.gov. Also, you should not move permanently to another country.

Getting Involved in Your Community

The U.S. government is a government of, by, and for the people. This means that people can shape the government and its policies. Each person has an important role to play in his or her local community. You can get involved in your community through local organizations, your place of worship or work, your neighborhood, or your children's schools. ***Welcome to the United States*** gives ideas for getting involved in your community and learning more about life in this country.

Becoming a U.S. Citizen

Welcome to the United States provides important information for immigrants who want to become U.S. citizens through the process of naturalization. The guide tells you how to begin the naturalization process on time, what the requirements are, and how to apply for naturalization using Form N-400.

How to Get *Welcome to the United States A Guide for New Immigrants*

You can print your own copy of ***Welcome to the United States*** from the Internet at www.uscis.gov/newimmigrants. If you do not have a computer at home, you can use one at your local public library.

For more information from USCIS:

- Visit our website at www.uscis.gov.
- Call Customer Service:
  1-800-375-5283 or
  1-800-767-1833 (hearing impaired).
- To obtain USCIS forms, call 1-800-870-3676.