



Fact Sheet

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Contact: USCIS, Public Affairs
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Summary:

- Description

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) makes certain that the right applicant receives the right benefit in the right amount of time, while preventing the wrong individuals from accessing our benefits. USCIS is a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that facilitates legal immigration for people seeking to enter, reside, or work in the United States.

- Responsibilities

USCIS possesses the authority to grant or deny immigration benefits – approving millions of immigration benefit applications each year.

- Service to the Public

Through a network of 250 local offices, Application Support Centers, Service Centers, Asylum offices, National Customer Service Call (NCSC) Centers, Forms Centers, and the Internet, USCIS is responsible for processing benefits which range from work authorization documents, to asylum and refugee applications, to petitions for immediate relatives to immigrate to the United States.

At a Glance

Senior Leadership:
Director Eduardo Aguirre Jr.

Established: 2003

*Major Programs: Immigrant;
Nonimmigrant; Citizenship;
Asylum/Refugee; Backlog Initiative*

FY 2005 Budget Request: \$1,711M
Discretionary \$ 140 M
Mandatory \$1,571M

Employees (FTE): 9,937

FY 2005 Budget (\$M)

	FY 2004	FY 2005	+/- Change
Immigrant Services	773	765	- 8
Nonimmigrant Services	403	400	- 3
Citizenship Services	244	247	+ 3
Asylum/Refugee Services	133	139	+ 6
Backlog Initiative	100	160	+ 60
Total	1,653	1,711	+ 58

Includes both appropriated and fee-funded resources.

FY 2004 Accomplishments in Progress:

- Reducing the backlog – USCIS will achieve the President’s six-month processing time goal by FY 2006.
- Improving customer service – USCIS is streamlining the process for Child Citizenship Certificates; expanding electronic filing to additional form types; and establishing the new Office of Citizenship as required by the Homeland Security Act of 2002.
- Ensuring the security and integrity of the immigration system – USCIS continues its efforts to make travel documents more secure and establishing a new refugee corps.

FY 2005 Initiatives:

- Backlog Reduction Initiative\$160-million
To support the President’s plan to attain a six-month processing time standard for all immigration benefit applications by FY 2006, the FY 2005 budget request includes a total of \$140-million in appropriated resources that will support backlog reduction efforts and further application processing improvements. In addition, and as with past years, at least \$20-million collected from premium processing fees will also support the backlog reduction effort.

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation's security.