

USCIS



Engagement with Museums

November 3, 2016

A Brief History of Immigration



U.S. Citizenship
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From Ellis Island to IRCA



Photo is in the public domain

- 1892 opening of Ellis Island
- Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
- Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986

A Brief History of Immigration



U.S. Citizenship
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USCIS Is Formed

- Terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
- Establishment of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

About USCIS



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*Naturalization Ceremony on World Refugee Day
Photo courtesy of Jewish Family and Career
Services, Inc. in Atlanta*

USCIS is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States. USCIS secures 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.

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What We Do

- 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
- International Adoptions
- Civic integration
- Genealogy

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Types of Immigration Cases USCIS Handles

- Business/Employment
- Humanitarian
- Family
- Citizenship

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Humanitarian Programs

- Refugee Program
- Asylum Program
- Victims of Human Trafficking
- Temporary Protected Status
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- Central American Minors Program

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Immigration to the United States



Naturalization Ceremony

*Photo courtesy of the Young Women's Christian
Association of Tulsa in Tulsa, OK*

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

About USCIS: Immigration to the U.S.



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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

8.8 Million LPRs
Eligible to Apply for
Citizenship
(By State of Residence)

About USCIS: Immigration to the U.S.



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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

8.8 Million LPRs

Eligible to Apply for
Citizenship

(By Country of Birth)

About USCIS: The Naturalization Test



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Civics

- U.S. History
- U.S. Government
- Integrated Civics (geography, symbols, holidays)



English

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking/Listening

*Image and photo
courtesy of
USCIS*

About USCIS: Civics Questions



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Colonists

Declaration of Independence

Constitution

Bill of Rights

Federalist Papers

Civil War

Presidents

World War I

World War II

American Indian
tribes

Women's suffrage
movement

Civil Rights movement

Branches of
government

Geography

Symbols and holidays

Rights and
responsibilities

*Photo: Scene at the Signing of
the Constitution*

*Courtesy of the Library of
Congress*



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Supporting Citizenship Education at Libraries

Citizenship Education at Public Libraries



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Why Partner with Libraries?



- Welcoming spaces
- Convenient locations
- Public Internet access
- Support for lifelong learning
- Information navigators (both inside and outside the library)
- More than 55% of people who immigrated within the last 15 years use the public library at least once per week

Citizenship Education at Public Libraries



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Institute of Museum and Library Services



Photo courtesy of the American Library Association

Former USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas and former IMLS Director Susan Hildreth sign a formal agreement.

- In 2013, USCIS formed a partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- Goal is to provide information, educational materials, and training resources on immigration and citizenship to local libraries.
- Renewed in 2016 with new focus on museums



Citizenship Education at Public Libraries



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USCIS-IMLS Accomplishments



Photo courtesy of USCIS
USCIS provides a naturalization information session at a public library.

- 12 national training webinars provided for library stakeholders
- 159 naturalization ceremonies held in public libraries
- 547 naturalization information sessions held in public libraries with 11,756 individuals in attendance
- Dedicated USCIS web page for the library community

Citizenship Education at Public Libraries



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Letters of Agreement with Cities



Photo is in the public domain
Downtown Los Angeles

- Atlanta, GA
- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Houston, TX
- Los Angeles, CA
- Nashville, TN
- New York, NY
- Seattle, WA



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Supporting Citizenship Education at Museums

Citizenship Education at Museums



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Why Partner with Museums?



- Support for lifelong learning
- Encourages civic engagement
- Often have historical significance
- Have collections and artifacts that are relevant to civics education
- Important part of the community
- Frequented by the public
- Beautiful spaces
- Opportunities to engage with the full range of museum types

Citizenship Education at Museums



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Host a Naturalization Information Session



- Free and open to the public
- Overview of the naturalization eligibility requirements and the naturalization process and test
- Contact a community relations officer for more information

Photo courtesy of USCIS

Naturalization information session at a public library

Citizenship Education at Museums



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Set Up a Citizenship Corner



Photo courtesy of Atlanta Public Library

- Designated space where immigrants can find resources on becoming a U.S. citizen
- Incorporate into exhibits
- Corner may include:
 - Citizenship test preparation materials
 - Information about the process
 - English language learning materials
 - Promotional posters

Citizenship Education at Museums



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Host a Naturalization Ceremony



Photo courtesy of Denver Public Library

- Find out if your museum is in a jurisdiction where you can host a naturalization ceremony
- May not work for all locations
- USCIS conducts the ceremony
- Contact a community relations officer for more information

Citizenship Education at Museums: Host a Naturalization Ceremony



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Photo courtesy of USCIS
Naturalization Ceremony for World
Refugee Day at the Holocaust Museum



Photo courtesy of USCIS
Naturalization Ceremony at the Smithsonian
National Museum of American History

Citizenship Education at Museums



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Promote Civics Education

- How does this fit into your museum's mission?
- Incorporate citizenship education into your exhibits
- Reach out to local citizenship and ESL programs in your community



Left: George Washington at Princeton, courtesy of the U.S. Senate Collection.
Right: Demonstrators at the March on Washington, courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Citizenship Education at Museums



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Host a Tour for Local Citizenship Classes



*Photo courtesy of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center
Woodside, NY*

- Find community-based organizations that serve immigrants in your community
- Find out if they offer citizenship classes
- Invite the class to visit your museum as part of their citizenship curriculum
- my.uscis.gov/findaclass

Citizenship Education at Museums



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Attend or Host a Teacher Training



Photo courtesy of USCIS

- USCIS provides free training workshops for adult educators on how to teach U.S. history and civics to immigrants
- Expanded trainings to include librarians – museum staff would be a great fit
- Submit a request to host a training at your museum

Citizenship Education at Museums: Host a Teacher Training



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Teacher Training
Seminar at the
Smithsonian Museum
of American History

Photo courtesy of USCIS

Citizenship Education at Museums



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Virtual Tours

- USCIS and the Smithsonian Institution developed *Preparing for the Oath*, an interactive website to learn about U.S. history and government and study for the civics test using museum artifacts.
- americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship

How to Engage with USCIS



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Community Relations Officers

- 42 Community Relations Officers in USCIS offices around the country
- Build collaborative relationships with stakeholders through regular meetings and educational presentations
- Contact your local Community Relations Officer at [USCIS-IGAO outreach@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:IGAO outreach@uscis.dhs.gov)



Photo courtesy of USCIS
USCIS Community Relations Officers provide a naturalization information session

How to Engage with USCIS



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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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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](#).
- Explore the list of available resources on the USCIS [Citizenship Resource Center](#).
- Host USCIS naturalization information sessions and administrative naturalization ceremonies in libraries.
- Check out the list of [naturalization information sessions](#) at libraries throughout the country. If you are interested in hosting a similar session at your library, contact your local USCIS [Community Relations Officer](#).

More Information

- [Citizenship Corners](#)
- [Library-Specific Training Offered by USCIS](#)

- Citizenship Resource Center
- Dedicated page for libraries
- How to start a citizenship corner
- Contact information for Community Relations Officers
- uscis.gov/citizenship/organizations/libraries

How to Engage with USCIS



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Sign Up for Updates

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

The screenshot shows the USCIS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following elements: 'A-Z Index', 'Get Email Updates' (circled in green), 'U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' logo, 'Search our Site', and 'Need Help? Ask Emma'. Below the navigation bar is a menu with 'FORMS', 'NEWS', and 'CITIZENSHIP'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'Have you moved? Update your address with USCIS.' and an image of a red mailbox with envelopes. Below the banner is a 'SERVICES' section with a list of categories: 'CITIZENSHIP', 'GREEN CARD', 'WORKING IN THE U.S.', 'FAMILY', and 'E-VERIFY'. To the right of this list are three service tiles: 'Check your Case Status' (with a folder icon), 'Find a USCIS Office' (with a globe icon), and 'Make an Appointment' (with a calendar icon). At the bottom right, there is a 'Share This Page' link.

About this Presentation



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QUESTIONS?

Contact Information :

USCIS-IGAO outreach@uscis.dhs.gov

www.uscis.gov/citizenship