



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Task Force on New Americans:

An Overview, and How Libraries Can Get Involved

October 27, 2015

Task Force on New Americans

- November 2014: President Obama announced executive actions on immigration
- Established White House Task Force to:
 - Develop a coordinated federal strategy to better integrate immigrants into communities;
 - Support state/local efforts to do the same



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Who: Co-Chairs

- Co-chairs:
 - Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council
 - Secretary of Homeland Security (delegated to USCIS Director)



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Who: Federal Agencies/Offices

- Sec. of State
- Attorney General
- Sec. of Agriculture
- Sec. of Commerce
- Sec. of Labor
- Sec. of Health and Human Services
- Sec. of Housing and Urban Development
- Sec. of Transportation
- Sec. of Education
- CEO of Corporation for National and Community Service
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- Administrator of the Small Business Administration
- Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement
- Director of the National Economic Council
- Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism
- Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy



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Who: Community

- State and local governments
- Non-profits, such as community-based organizations and faith-based organizations
- Business leaders
- Elected officials



Purpose of Establishing the Task Force

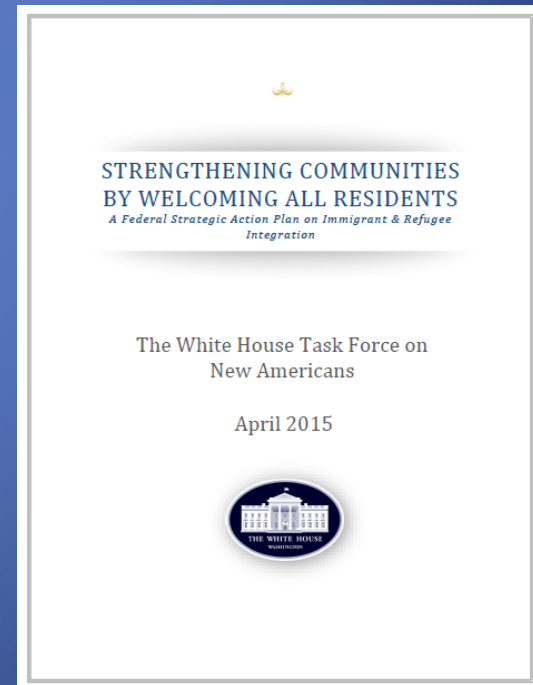
- **Identify and support** effective local integration efforts
- **Expand and replicate** successful models
- **Engage** with communities
- **Ensure** federal programs and policies are serving diverse communities that include new Americans



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Report to President Obama

- April 14, 2015: action plan report
- A federal immigrant integration strategy
- 16 core goals and 48 recommendations to help:
 - Build welcoming communities
 - Strengthen civic integration
 - Support economic integration
 - Expand linguistic integration
- December 2015: status update report due



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Key USCIS Civic Integration Initiatives

- Launch a Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign
- Expand citizenship preparation programs in communities through the USCIS grant program
- Allow naturalization applicants to pay fees with credit cards
- Identify opportunities to inform permanent residents of their potential eligibility to naturalize
- Assess the feasibility of increasing USCIS mobile services



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Key USCIS Civic Integration Initiatives (Cont'd)

- Develop online naturalization preparation and application filing tools
- Provide access to critical information for new citizens
- Expand citizenship outreach partnerships
- Provide individuals with settlement resources before they arrive, or upon arrival, in the U.S.
- Assess the potential for a partial fee waiver



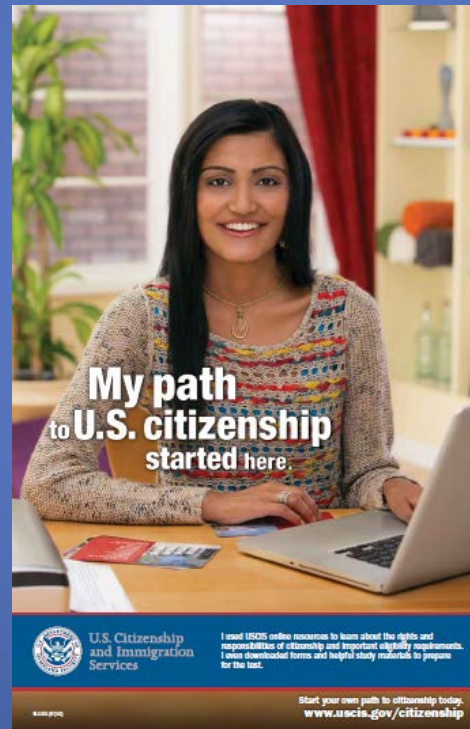
How You Can Get Involved

- Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign
- Building Welcoming Communities Campaign



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Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign



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Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign

Overview

The Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Initiative promotes awareness of the rights, responsibilities, and importance of United States citizenship, and the free citizenship preparation resources available to permanent residents and immigrant-serving organizations. The goals are to:

- Invite permanent residents to learn more about U.S. citizenship
- Ensure permanent residents and stakeholders have access to official, trusted sources of information through USCIS and community-based channels
- Provide those on the path toward citizenship with referrals and access to direct service providers



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Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign

- Place a USCIS widget on your organization's website



Becoming a U.S. Citizen

- I am a Permanent Resident
- I am Married to a U.S. Citizen
- I am Serving in the U.S. Military
- I am the Child of a U.S. Citizen

 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [LEARN MORE](#) >



INTERESTED IN U.S. CITIZENSHIP?

Visit the Citizenship Resource Center >

 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services



¿Debo considerar solicitar la ciudadanía estadounidense?

LOS CIUDADANOS ESTADOUNIDENSES PUEDEN:

- Viajar con un pasaporte estadounidense
- Traer sus familiares a los Estados Unidos
- Votar en las elecciones federales
- Solicitar empleos en el gobierno federal

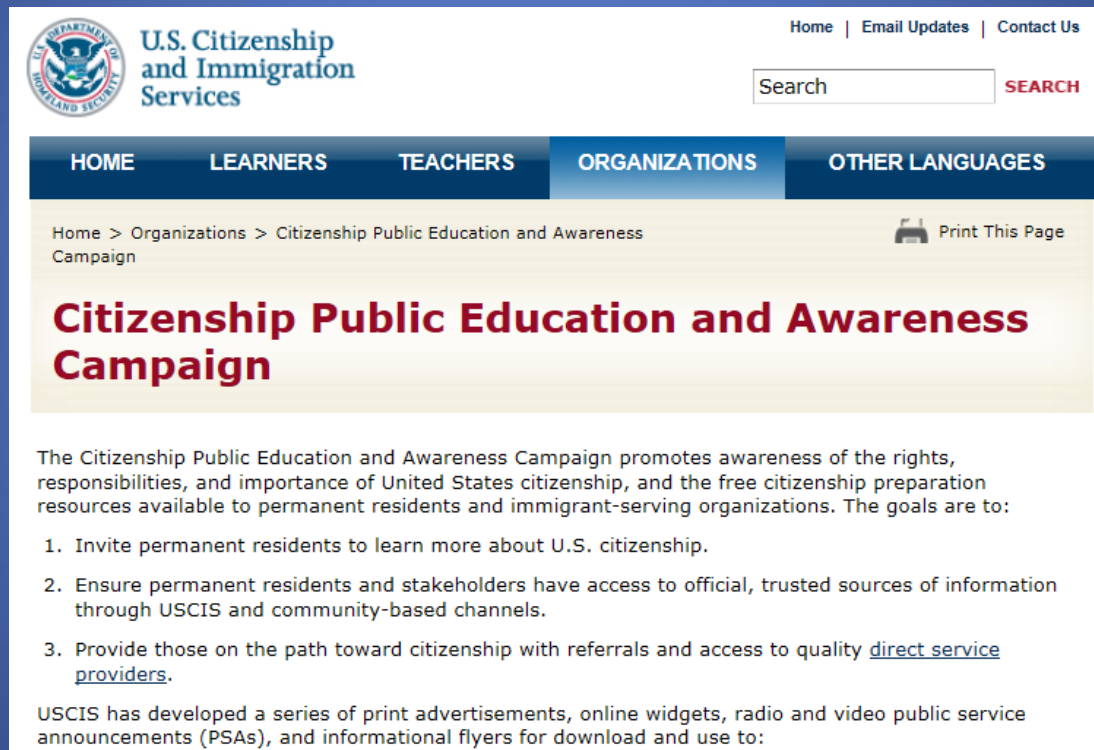
 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [APRENDA MÁS](#) >



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Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign

➤ Link to the campaign's resources from your website



The screenshot shows the USCIS website header with the logo, navigation links (Home, Email Updates, Contact Us), and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with tabs for HOME, LEARNERS, TEACHERS, ORGANIZATIONS (selected), and OTHER LANGUAGES. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Home > Organizations > Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign. A printer icon and 'Print This Page' link are visible. The main heading is 'Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign' in large red font. Below this is a paragraph describing the campaign's purpose and goals, followed by a numbered list of three goals. The text concludes with a statement about USCIS resources.

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Home | Email Updates | Contact Us

Search **SEARCH**

HOME LEARNERS TEACHERS **ORGANIZATIONS** OTHER LANGUAGES

Home > Organizations > Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign  Print This Page

Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign

The Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Campaign promotes awareness of the rights, responsibilities, and importance of United States citizenship, and the free citizenship preparation resources available to permanent residents and immigrant-serving organizations. The goals are to:

1. Invite permanent residents to learn more about U.S. citizenship.
2. Ensure permanent residents and stakeholders have access to official, trusted sources of information through USCIS and community-based channels.
3. Provide those on the path toward citizenship with referrals and access to quality [direct service providers](#).

USCIS has developed a series of print advertisements, online widgets, radio and video public service announcements (PSAs), and informational flyers for download and use to:



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Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign

- Distribute the campaign's informational fliers to the public



I'M A PROUD AMERICAN

★
Have you considered U.S. citizenship?

Permanent residents have most of the rights of U.S. citizens. However, there are many important reasons to consider U.S. citizenship. When you become a citizen, you will receive all the rights of citizenship. You also accept all of the responsibilities of being an American. Citizenship opened up great opportunities for me and my family. I am now able to fully contribute to my community and this nation.

★
Are you eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship?

In general, you must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Be at least 18 years old.
- ✓ Be a permanent resident for at least 5 years.*
- ✓ Demonstrate continuous permanent residence in the United States for at least 5 years.*
- ✓ Show that you have been physically present in the United States for 30 months.*
- ✓ Show that you have lived for at least 3 months in the state or USCIS district where you apply.
- ✓ Be able to read, write, and speak basic English.
- ✓ Have a basic understanding of U.S. history and government (civics).
- ✓ Be a person of good moral character.
- ✓ Demonstrate an attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

* This requirement may change if you are married to a U.S. citizen.

I chose opportunity. I chose to become a U.S. citizen.

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Learn more about U.S. citizenship.
www.uscis.gov/citizenship
1-800-375-5283

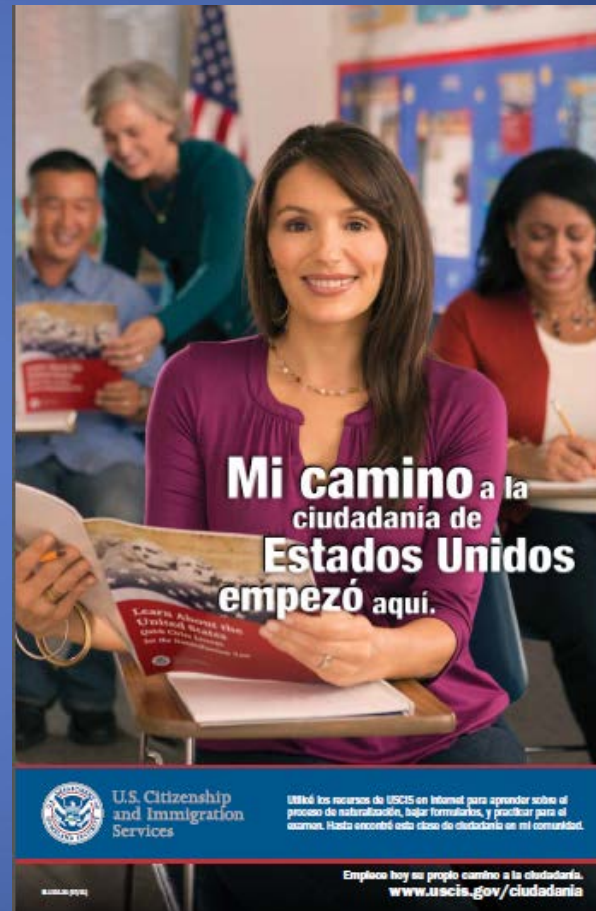
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Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign

- Post USCIS print advertisements (posters) in your public spaces



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Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign

➤ Refer aspiring citizens to the Citizenship Resource Center

The screenshot displays the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website. At the top left is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security logo and the text "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services". To the right are links for "Home", "Email Updates", and "Contact Us", along with a search bar containing the word "Search" and a "SEARCH" button. Below this is a navigation menu with tabs for "HOME", "LEARNERS", "TEACHERS", "ORGANIZATIONS", and "OTHER LANGUAGES". The main content area features a large banner for the "Citizenship Resource Center" with the subtitle "Educational Tools and Information for Citizenship Preparation". The banner includes a photo of a man speaking and text stating: "Providing learners, teachers, and organizations with a one-stop resource for locating citizenship preparation materials and activities." Below the banner are three colored buttons: "LEARNERS" (blue), "TEACHERS" (maroon), and "ORGANIZATIONS" (green). Under each button is a corresponding image: a man reading a book for "Prepare for U.S. Citizenship", a woman for "Welcome Teachers", and an open book for "Information for Organizations".



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Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign

- Inform local media outlets about the availability of USCIS radio and video PSAs



Radio PSA (Chinese)



Download MP3 file (1.20 MB)
Download transcript (197 KB)



Radio PSA (Spanish)



Download MP3 file (1.20 MB)
Download transcript (106 KB)



Video PSA (English)



Download WMV file (4.59 MB)
Download MOV file (3.57 MB)
Download transcript (75 KB)



Video PSA (Spanish)



Download WMV file (3.80 MB)
Download MOV file (4.61 MB)
Download transcript (78 KB)



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Citizenship Public Awareness Campaign

- Start a citizenship corner:
 - ✓ USCIS citizenship test preparation materials
 - ✓ Information about the naturalization process
 - ✓ Information about relevant community resources
 - ✓ English teaching materials



Madison Branch Library, Nashville, Tennessee
Courtesy of the Nashville Public Library



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Building Welcoming Communities Campaign



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Building Welcoming Communities Campaign

- Task Force recommendation
- Encourage communities to develop integration strategies
- USCIS will provide technical assistance on citizenship education and outreach, and guidance on avoiding immigration services scams (uscis.gov/avoidscams)



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Building Welcoming Communities Campaign

- Akron, OH
- Allegheny County, PA
- Anchorage, AK
- Atlanta, GA
- Austin, TX
- Baltimore, MD
- Boise, ID
- Boston, MA
- Buffalo, NY
- Charlotte, NC
- Chicago, IL
- City and County of San Francisco, CA
- City of Dodge City, KS
- City of Jersey City, NJ
- Clinton Township, MI
- Columbus, OH
- Crete, NE
- Dayton, OH
- Decatur, GA
- Denver, CO
- Detroit, MI
- Grand Forks, ND
- High Point, NC
- Houston, TX
- Lincoln, NE
- Los Angeles, CA
- Louisville, KY
- Macomb County, MI
- Montgomery County, MD
- Nashville, TN
- Newark, NJ
- New Orleans, LA
- New York, NY
- Oakley, CA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Salt Lake County, UT
- San Jose, CA
- Sante Fe, NM
- Schuyler, NE
- Seattle, WA
- St. Louis, MO
- St. Louis County, MO
- Sterling Heights, MI
- Toledo-Lucas County, OH
- York, PA



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Building Welcoming Communities Campaign

- If you think your municipality may want to sign up:
 - Contact your local government officials
 - Have them email NewAmericans@who.eop.gov and include a point of contact on their staff



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Additional Resources for Local Governments

USCIS has developed a [list of resources](#) for municipal governments interested in supporting citizenship and preventing immigration scams. Below are ways we can work together to strengthen civic integration efforts in your community:

- Outreach Events/Community Engagement
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Citizenship Education and Naturalization Preparation Grants
- Educational Resources



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Online Resources

- Citizenship Resource Center:
www.uscis.gov/citizenship

- White House New Americans Project:
whitehouse.gov/newamericans



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Questions?



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About this Presentation

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