

Goal 3: Support immigrants' integration and participation in American civic culture

Objective 3.1: Enhance educational resources and promote opportunities to increase understanding of U.S. civic principles and citizenship, including its privileges and responsibilities

USCIS' civic education resources assist immigrants through each step of the journey towards citizenship. We will continue to reach out to immigrants with educational materials when they first become permanent residents, as they become eligible for naturalization and as they become new citizens. Materials for immigrants in the process of becoming citizens will seek to foster a deeper understanding of United States history and learn to identify with the basic civic values that unite us as Americans. As appropriate, we will make materials targeted toward newly arriving immigrant groups available in their native languages, and will provide materials for the classroom that are written at appropriate levels for limited English speakers.



Educating immigrants in American civic values requires close collaboration between USCIS and public and private organizations and other non-profit and service providers. Building upon our work under the President's Interagency Task Force on New Americans, we will continue to expand our network of local and national stakeholders, including government partners at the federal, state and local levels, community and faith-based groups, adult educators, and the private sector. We will also form

partnerships with community organizations to encourage volunteerism among both U.S. citizens and new immigrants. To ensure that immigrants receive the educational resources to understand the roles and responsibilities of citizenship, we will:

- Enhance our public outreach efforts and build an infrastructure to ensure nationwide promotion and dissemination of our materials, including web-based electronic training modules, and regional training sessions.
- Conduct new civics training for adult educators who teach immigrants to ensure they are equipped with a consistent message about the importance, responsibilities, and rights associated with citizenship.
- Continue to develop and disseminate complementary teaching resources to assist teachers and other service providers, including classroom materials written at levels appropriate for limited English speakers and online resources such as the *U.S. Civics and Citizenship Online: Resource Center for Instructors*.

- Develop new civics-focused educational resources for immigrants, adult educators, community organizations and public libraries, and ensure these materials accurately communicate the values of our nation and foster the sense of pride and commitment properly associated with citizenship.
- Partner with the Government Printing Office, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and state library systems to broadly distribute grants of educational products and publications.
- Continually update our *Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants* publication to ensure the currency of the information provided and expand the number of available language translations.
- Enhance our website to become a source of information for immigrants and the organizations that serve them.

Objective 3.2: Continue to ensure that the naturalization process is a meaningful experience and leaves a positive, indelible impression

Citizenship through naturalization is the ultimate privilege of our immigration system. We will continue to ensure that the process of naturalization is infused with opportunities for civic learning and clearly demonstrates the honor and importance associated with the status of United States citizenship. We have already worked to improve the naturalization test to better prepare new citizens to exercise the rights and fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship. We will also continue to strive to conduct naturalization ceremonies in a manner that leaves a lasting impression and capture the hope and optimism each new citizen offers. To promote citizenship for those serving in the military, we will continue to make military naturalization a high priority.

To ensure that the naturalization process is meaningful, we will:

- Use the revised naturalization exam, from test preparation through to the interview, as an instrument of civic learning that promotes a lasting knowledge and respect for the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- Continue to disseminate *The Citizen's Almanac* to all new citizens at naturalization ceremonies.
- Continue to honor the service of non-citizen members of the U.S. Armed Forces through domestic and overseas military naturalization ceremonies.
- Develop a standardized naturalization ceremony program for use in all our field offices that communicates a consistent message of the significance of the event in the lives of our new citizens.
- Seek additional opportunities to hold special naturalization ceremonies at historic and uniquely American sites across the United States in partnership with the National Park Service.