

# STRATEGIC 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

A key aspect of our mission to make the immigration process more meaningful, and impart a greater appreciation of American values to our newest citizens. Through the Office of Citizenship, USCIS is working to provide immigrants with the information and tools necessary to successfully integrate into American civic culture. The release of several USCIS educational products helps facilitate a smoother and simpler transition for immigrants into American life and make their immigration journey a successful one.



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As a lead component of the President’s Task Force on New Americans, USCIS led over a dozen outreach events to promote citizenship and civic integration initiatives, particularly its two flagship projects, [WelcometoUSA.gov](http://WelcometoUSA.gov) and the New Americans Project. USCIS also launched a public service campaign to promote volunteerism and the New Americans Project by producing foreign language broadcast announcements to reach a combined circulation of eight million individuals.

USCIS continued to improve upon previously organized citizenship education efforts with the publication *Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants* in two new languages, Polish and Urdu, for a total of 13 volumes. This publication was distributed along with more than 15,000 Civics and Citizenship Toolkit to libraries, community and faith-based organizations, and adult education sites.



USCIS recognized 15 foreign-born Naturalized Citizens as Outstanding Americans by Choice at high-profile naturalization ceremonies nationwide. In conjunction with this effort, the agency continued to promote the historical contributions of immigrants through a poster series on the contributions of immigrants to the U.S., highlighting prominent foreign-born Americans.

Educational efforts included hosting training conferences and workshops for volunteers and adult educators on the revised naturalization test, techniques for teaching civics and citizenship, and the naturalization process in general. To date, USCIS has trained more than 2,000 individuals in over 25 conferences and workshops nationwide. USCIS field offices across the United States presented more than 40 “Immigration 101” seminars.

**OBJECTIVE 3.2: CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS IS A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE AND LEAVES A POSITIVE, INDELIBLE IMPRESSION**

USCIS sponsored more than 450 special naturalizations ceremonies in scenic and historic venues across the U.S., from Ellis Island to the deck of the USS Midway in San Diego Harbor, to highlight the naturalization process to general public audiences.

USCIS officers traveled to military bases throughout the world, including war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan, and naturalized over 1,500 military service members and their qualified family members overseas.



USCIS coordinated with the Department of Defense to accomplish the largest overseas military naturalization ceremonies since the implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004, naturalizing 252 military service members in Balad, Iraq, on November 11, 2007; and 259 military service members in Baghdad, Iraq on April 12, 2008.

