



A MESSAGE FROM USCIS DIRECTOR EMILIO T. GONZÁLEZ

It is our role at USCIS to ensure that law-abiding immigrants who seek legal channels into our nation are met with the necessary scrutiny so that we do not admit individuals who seek to do our nation harm or are threats to public safety. However, once we properly vet these applicants, it is also incumbent upon USCIS to promote an awareness of U.S. citizenship to every new arrival and help cultivate an understanding of what it means to become an American.

The USCIS mission is a delicate balance of precaution and compassion. We have a dual responsibility to the American people to maintain the integrity of our national immigration system while ensuring that we remain true to our historic tradition as a welcoming nation, one that was founded by and sustained through successive generations of immigrants from every corner of the globe.

Toward the successful execution of our mission, I contend that the goals of security and integration run parallel to each other. We have seen how successful integration efforts are also critical to the safety, security and ultimate prosperity of our Nation. Citizenship programs that promote a common civic unity and collective American identity within immigrant populations are just as important as the background checks and identity screens we employ at USCIS.

The discussion of assimilation and patriotic integration has become an increasingly vital component of any immigration debate. USCIS naturalizes 650,000 individuals on average each year, and since our establishment in 2003, more than 2 million legal permanent residents have become Americans by choice. I use the phrase, "Americans by choice" because our government doesn't force people to naturalize. Becoming an American is a deeply personal decision and shouldn't be coerced. However, once the decision is made to naturalize, USCIS is committed to helping legal permanent residents understand the rights and responsibilities that accompany citizenship, build an appreciation for our institutions and recognize their personal connection to the shared history of our nation.

President Bush affirmed his commitment to immigrant assimilation through the establishment of the [Task Force on New Americans](#). This federal effort focuses government resources to promote public-private partnerships that will encourage businesses to offer English and civics education to workers, identify ways to expand English and civics instruction classes, including through faith-based and community groups, and find ways to promote volunteer community service and enhance cooperation among Federal, State, and local authorities responsible for the integration of legal immigrants.

The advantage that America has over other immigrant destinations, is that our political system is not based on defined cultural identities, but on common civic principles and ideals, and our shared history as a nation. We are E Pluribus Unum – One, out of many. Moving forward, our nation must ensure that every new citizen identifies with the constitutional principles that define the term "American," understands their rights and responsibilities and embraces our history as their history by participating in the great democratic experiment we call America.

The patriotic assimilation of those who choose to live and work here remains the best way to preserve one common American civic identity and ensure that the spirit of every citizen, both native-born and naturalized, can be harnessed to drive the next chapter of our great American story and continue our historic legacy as a nation of immigrants.

MAY 2007

“USCIS: Investing in our Future”

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PROMOTING CITIZENSHIP ENRICHING AMERICA

President Bush, along with Director Gonzalez and a host of community leaders, participated in a meeting on Immigration and Assimilation at Asamblea de Iglesias Cristianas, Centro Evangelistico, in Washington, D.C. on May 3. During this event, President Bush and Director Gonzalez met with members of the local community who are promoting, teaching and learning English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

The patriotic assimilation of immigrants is one of the President's five principles of comprehensive immigration reform. "One aspect of comprehensive immigration reform is to help people assimilate into America," President Bush said. "Part of that is to have a comprehensive strategy to help people learn the English language and to learn the history and traditions of the United States."



President George W. Bush (center) addresses a meeting on immigration and assimilation at the Asamblea de Iglesias Cristianas, Centro Evangelistico in Washington, D.C.

CITIZENSHIP RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON USCIS.GOV

[Civics and Citizenship Study Materials](#)
[Resources for Adult Educators](#)

[Resources for Public Libraries](#)
[Resources for New Immigrants](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE... FROM USCIS [COMMUNICATIONS](#)



[Secretary Chertoff Extends Temporary Protected Status for Eligible Hondurans, Nicaraguans and El Salvadorans](#) - 05/02/2007

[Proposed Rule for Special Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Religious Workers](#) - 04/24/2007

[USCIS Updates Count of FY 2008 U.S.-Earned Masters Degree H-1B Cap Filings](#) - 04/23/2007

[Change in H-1B Procedures Trims Weeks Off Final Selection Process](#) - 04/19/2007

[USCIS Proposes Revisions for Religious Worker Visa Classifications](#) - 04/19/2007

[Mrs. Lynne Cheney Addresses Special Naturalization Ceremony](#) - 04/17/2007

[New USCIS Office Enhances Internal Security](#) - 04/17/2007

[USCIS Runs Random Selection Process for H-1Bs](#) - 04/13/2007

[USCIS Announces Flexible Response Times for Notices of Intent to Deny and Requests for Evidence](#) - 04/12/2007

[USCIS Announces Extension of Filing Time for Two Nonimmigrant Petitions](#) - 04/11/2007

[USCIS Conditions on Availability of Premium Processing for H-1B Petitions Subject to the FY 2008 Cap](#) - 04/09/2007

[USCIS Welcomes More Than 6,000 New Citizens](#) - 04/04/2007

[Update: USCIS Reaches FY 2008 H-1B Cap](#) - 04/03/2007

[USCIS Opens New Atlanta Field Office](#) - 04/03/2007

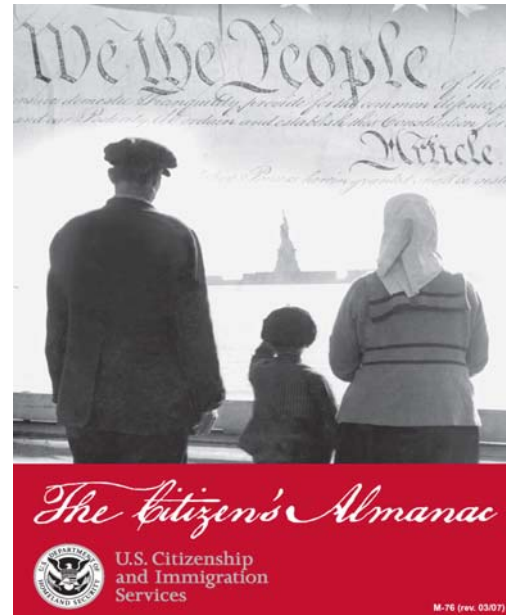
USCIS: ENHANCING NATIONAL SECURITY

USCIS INTRODUCES THE CITIZEN'S ALMANAC

PUBLICATION TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT ALL NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

USCIS has released [The Citizen's Almanac](#), a publication specifically developed for new citizens. [The Citizen's Almanac](#) is a collection of America's most cherished symbols of freedom and liberty. The Almanac links our newest citizens with the rich civic history we all share as Americans. In an effort to enhance the naturalization process for the more than 700,000 new citizens the United States welcomes each year, USCIS will distribute [The Citizen's Almanac](#) at all naturalization ceremonies beginning this month.

"[The Citizens Almanac](#) is a valuable resource, helping remind our nation's newest citizens that great responsibilities accompany the privilege of citizenship," said USCIS Deputy Director Jonathan "Jock" Scharfen. "By continuing to learn about the founding ideals, achievements and history of the United States, our new Americans will preserve and ensure freedom and liberty for future generations."



Fundamental Documents of American Democracy

Endorsed by the National Endowment for the Humanities and reviewed by U.S. history experts, the publication includes information on:

- Rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship;
- The history behind many of America's most patriotic anthems and symbols;
- The creation of our most important founding documents;
- Landmark decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court;
- Biographical details on several prominent foreign-born Americans and;
- Important presidential and historic speeches.

A pocket size version of the [Declaration of Independence](#) and the [Constitution of the United States](#) also accompanies The Almanac to encourage new citizens to learn more about the rights and responsibilities they now enjoy as U.S. citizens. Both the Almanac and the pocket size version of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States are available for download at www.uscis.gov.

ON ANY GIVEN DAY AT USCIS...

...the **16,000** federal and contract employees of USCIS accomplish the following at our **250** offices worldwide:

- Welcome **2,100** new citizens
- Welcome **3,500** new permanent residents
- Naturalize **20** individuals serving in the United States military

Check the next issue of [USCIS Today](#) or the [USCIS Day in the Life](#) profile for more statistics on what we do every day to effectively and efficiently administer our nation's immigration system.

DON'T WAIT IN LINE, GO ONLINE AT WWW.USCIS.GOV

OUTSTANDING AMERICANS BY CHOICE

The [Outstanding American by Choice](#) initiative recognizes the achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens. Through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship, recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to the country and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans. Throughout the year, USCIS Director González will continue to recognize naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to both their communities and adopted country.



DINA HABIB POWELL



Dina Habib Powell was nominated by President Bush to be Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs on April 29, 2005, and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 24, 2005. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has also designated her as Deputy Under Secretary and principal deputy to Ambassador Karen Hughes, the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

Assistant Secretary Powell leads the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), the team that administers exchange programs that are among the most effective tools of public diplomacy. Previously, Assistant Secretary Powell served as Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel, a senior staff member at the White House. Assistant Secretary Powell is currently a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Member of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders. Assistant Secretary Powell graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin. She was born in Cairo, Egypt.

Farooq Kathwari is Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc. He has been President of the Company since 1985 and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since 1988. In 1989, he formed a group to purchase Ethan Allen and took the company public in 1993. Under Mr. Kathwari's leadership, Ethan Allen has transformed into a leading manufacturer and retailer of home furnishings in the United States.

Mr. Kathwari was born in Kashmir and earned his undergraduate degree from Kashmir University in English literature and political science and a graduate degree in business administration from New York University. He serves on several not-for-profit organizations, including Chairman of the National Retail Federation, Refugees International, and the Kashmir Study Group. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a Trustee of the World Conference of Religions for Peace, a Trustee of Freedom House, a Director of the Henry L. Stimson Center, and a Director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University.

FAROOQ KATHWARI





ADOPTED VALOR: IMMIGRANT HEROES

FOREIGN BORN MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

SERGEANT LOUIS CUKELA - WWI

Louis Cukela was born at Split, Dalmatia, in Austria-Hungary, and emigrated to the United States in 1913, but he rarely spoke of his heritage. Instead Cukela referred to himself simply as an "American Marine."

In September 1914, a year after settling in Minnesota, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was serving as a corporal in Company H, 13th Infantry when he was honorably discharged in June of 1916. Seven months later, Cukela enlisted in the Marine Corps. Following the United States' entry into WWI, he went to France and took part in all the engagements in which the 5th Marines fought.

He was awarded Medals of Honor by both the Army and the Navy for the same action near Villers-Cotterets, France, on the morning of 18 July 1918, during the Soissons engagement. Cukela, a gunnery sergeant in 66th Company, was advancing with a group of Marines through the Forest de Retz when they were held up by an enemy strong point. Despite the warnings of his men, Cukela crawled out from the flank and advanced alone towards the German lines. Getting beyond the strong point despite heavy fire, Cukela captured one gun by bayoneting its crew. Picking up their hand grenades, he then demolished the remaining portion of the strong point from the shelter of a nearby gun pit. He took four prisoners and captured two undamaged machine guns.



Name: Louis Cukela
Rank: Major
Branch: Marine Corps
Nation of Birth: Austria-Hungary

In addition to the two Medals of Honor, Cukela was awarded the Silver Star by the Army; the Médaille militaire (he was the first Marine officer ever to receive this medal), the Légion d'honneur in the rank of Chevalier, the Croix de guerre with two palms, another Croix de guerre with silver star, all by France; the Croce al Merito di Guerra by Italy; and Commander's Cross of the Royal Order of the Crown of Yugoslavia. He also received three Second Division citations.

After the war, Cukela served at overseas bases in Haiti, Santo Domingo, the Philippines, and China, and at domestic stations in Quantico, Virginia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Norfolk, Virginia; Hampton Roads, Virginia; Mare Island, California; Washington, D.C.; Nashville, Indiana, and Fort Knox, Kentucky. He retired as a major in June 1940, but was recalled to active duty a month later as hostilities again escalated in Europe and the Pacific. During World War II, Major Cukela served stateside at Navy installations in Norfolk and Philadelphia. He finally returned to the inactive retired list on May 17, 1946 after the conclusion of WWII. In total, Cukela served a few days less than 32 years of active duty in the Army and Marines.

A colorful Marine officer known for his misuse of English, Cukela was likewise admired and feared by his comrades. Having served for more than three decades at stations across the world, many Marines came in contact with Cukela. Today he is remembered as one of the "Giants of the Corps," and his name and picture can be found at many Marine bases around the world. On March 19, 1956, Cukela died at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland. Following services at St. Jane Frances de Chantel Church, Bethesda, he was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

MILITARY RECORDS SHOW THAT 715 OF THE 3,410 CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY--MORE THAN 20 PERCENT--HAVE BEEN IMMIGRANTS TO THIS NATION.



“HOW DO I...?”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
AT USCIS

HOW DO I... CHANGE TO A DIFFERENT NONIMMIGRANT STATUS?

Nonimmigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals who intend to remain in the United States (U.S.) for, depending on the particular nonimmigrant classification, a temporary period or otherwise less than permanent period of time. There are more than 40 nonimmigrant U.S. visa categories; each is used for a different, but very specific purpose. For example, some authorize temporary employment in the U.S.; others permit tourists to visit, students to study, and diplomats to serve their home country's interests.

We understand that plans can change. If your original reason for coming to the U.S. changes, you may be required to change your nonimmigrant status to a different one before you may lawfully begin to engage in the activities you want to pursue.

You may apply to change your status in the U.S. if you:

- Were lawfully admitted into the U.S.; and
- You have not committed any act that would make you ineligible to receive an immigration benefit; and
- There is no other factor that, in the sole discretion of USCIS, would warrant requiring you to depart the U.S. prior to making a reentry pursuant to a different classification (for example, a USCIS officer may determine for any number of reasons that you should obtain a new visa prior to being readmitted into the U.S.); and
- You submit an application for a change of status before the expiration date on your Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record.

Please note: Your passport must be valid for your entire requested period of stay in the new nonimmigrant classification in the U.S.

How you apply depends on the nonimmigrant status to which you want to change. If you want to change your status to an employment-based nonimmigrant category, your prospective employer should file a [Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker](#) on your behalf before your Form I-94 expires. This form serves two purposes: it is used to establish that (1) you will be performing the type of work covered by the new nonimmigrant classification for the petitioner, and (2) you personally meet the requirements for changing your status. You cannot begin work in the new classification until we approve the change of status.

Each of the employment-based categories has specific requirements and limits, including those on length of stay in this country. For more information, contact the employer that has offered you temporary employment or qualified immigration counsel.

Please note: If your prospective employer files a [Form I-129](#) to change your status, and your husband/wife and/or unmarried children under age 21 also want to change status to remain as your dependents, they will need to file a [Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status](#).

Note that they can all be included on one [I-539](#). It is best to file the [I-129](#) and [I-539](#) forms together, so that they may be adjudicated on or about the same time. Remember, though, that they are separate applications, and, therefore, you and your family members (and your employer) should follow the instructions and file all the supporting documents with each application, even when filing forms together.

If your status expired before you filed an application with USCIS to change your status, or if you have otherwise violated the terms of your status, such as by working without authorization, then you are out of status. If you have fallen out of status, except in certain limited instances related to circumstances beyond your control, we cannot change your status. Staying longer than the period of time for which you were granted admission may also have a negative effect on your ability to get other benefits or to return to the U.S. at a later time. If you fall out of status, we recommend you leave the U.S. as soon as possible to avoid, or at least minimize, the possible impact on your ability to come back to the U.S. at a later time.

If we receive your application before your nonimmigrant status expires and if you have not violated the terms of your status and you meet the basic eligibility requirements, then you may remain in the U.S. until we make a decision on your application. We recommend you apply no later than 60 days prior to your I-94 expiring to change your status. You may also apply up to six months before your I-94 expires to have your status changed.

USCIS CELEBRATES PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK



[National Public Service Recognition Week](#) (PSRW) begins on May 7th this year with more than 100 exhibits from government agencies on the [National Mall in Washington, D.C.](#) and other events planned across the country. In Washington, USCIS will participate with an information booth that offers visitors an overview of the agency through key educational materials such as the “*How Do I...?*” series and the newly published *Citizen’s Almanac*. Throughout the week, USCIS will distribute information about products available on [uscis.gov](#), and helpful advice on how to apply for immigration benefits online and schedule an appointment via InfoPass.

“Those who dedicate their lives to public service deserve our lasting gratitude for their contributions to our communities and our nation. Their hard work and tireless efforts make our American way of life possible,” said Director Gonzalez. “Public Service Recognition Week encourages every American to take the time to recognize those who work in federal, state and local occupations, learn more about their jobs, and say thank you.”

Get to know more about USCIS and the government by visiting events on the National Mall, May 10-12. Schools, associations, visitors to the D.C. area and the general public are encouraged to attend and take part in the planned activities. Visit [uscis.gov](#) for more details as PSRW approaches.

- May 10: USCIS will host a naturalization ceremony at noon. Military personnel and citizens from various countries will be represented as they take the oath to become American citizens.
- May 11: On Student Day, USCIS will hold a Citizenship Quiz Bowl at noon where students from Washington D.C.-area schools will answer questions about American civics and history.
- May 12: USCIS will promote its Genealogy and History program and answer questions from the public between 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

USCIS AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE WELCOME NEW AMERICANS



On Monday, April 23, 2007, Director Emilio Gonzalez and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hosted a naturalization and Outstanding Americans by Choice ceremony in the Roosevelt Room at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. 50 candidates for U.S. citizenship were naturalized during this inspiring ceremony. Director Gonzalez administered the Oath of Allegiance and Secretary Rice delivered the keynote address to the new citizens. Click here to view [Secretary Rice’s remarks](#).

USCIS: ENHANCING EFFICIENCY

FACES OF AMERICA

NEW CITIZENS, UNIQUE STORIES

ADONAL FOYLE

At a recent naturalization ceremony in San Francisco, one new citizen stood above his peers as he took the Oath of Allegiance, literally. Adonal Foyle, the 6'10" center for the Golden State Warriors, could barely fit in the seat at the ceremony, but he has found his place as an American, achieving fame and fortune as a ten-year veteran of the NBA. Born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Foyle is Golden State's all-time franchise leader in blocked shots and has ranked among the NBA's top-10 in blocks in four of the last six seasons.

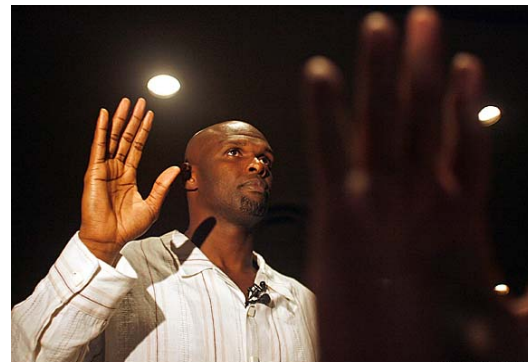
Foyle is also known for his commitment to community service. Since becoming a professional athlete, Adonal has been involved with Oakland public schools and in other activities that contribute to the well-being of the people of the San Francisco Bay Area. His dedication to community service earned him the Mayor of San Francisco's 1998 Sports Hero Award for his "commitment to the underprivileged children of the city of San Francisco," and the NBA recognized him with a Community Assist Award in 2002.

In the summer of 2001, Adonal founded Democracy Matters, a non-partisan organization that encourages student activity in local and national politics and elections. With an active presence on over 30 college campuses nationwide, Democracy Matters focuses on campaign-finance reform issues. Through teach-ins, letter writing and petition campaigns, educational seminars, voter registration drives, and work with high school students and others in local communities, Democracy Matters helps students develop leadership skills and a knowledge of our civic values.

Six years after founding Democracy Matters, Foyle had to undo an inconsistency. He had become the leader of a voting-reform movement, but he lacked the right to vote.

"After working with young people for so many years, and talking to them about changing the world, changing the political system, getting money out of politics, going to the polls and making your voices be heard," he said, "and to be saying that for so many years, and (then) I just realized ... that I have never been able to vote ... that I'm 32 years old and I've never cast a ballot. That's a big deal."

Today, Foyle is looking forward to voting in the 2008 Presidential election and leading the Warriors to their first playoff appearance in twelve seasons.



ARE YOU ONE OF THE FACES OF AMERICA?
SHARE YOUR STORY WITH USCIS

USCIS AND DHS: SECURING OUR HOMELAND

REAL PEOPLE, REAL PROGRESS

USCIS RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

Hiwatha was born in Nashville Tennessee and is the oldest of eleven children. She quickly learned to handle responsibility after she became the fulltime caretaker for six of her younger siblings after the early death of her mother. Hiwatha came to USCIS as a seventeen year veteran of the Flint Michigan police force, and was detailed to Guantanamo Bay during the Haitian Refugee Crisis and later for the Cuban Refugee Crisis. For a total of five years she worked with Legacy INS and the Department of Defense to identify problems, and mediate conflicts between refugees and government, assist the U.S. Coast Guard in rescues and monitor the repatriation process. She had the longest and most frequent details of any other military or civilian resource personnel. Today, Hiwatha serves as the Community Relations Officer for the USCIS Michigan District and is the proud mother of two sons, Darrien and Frank Jr. and the doting grandmother of three. She enjoys reading, writing poetry and short stories, singing and kite flying.



Name: Hiwatha Greene
Position: Community Relations Officer
Location: Michigan District

What is a typical day for you?

I respond to public inquiries about our services and follow up on community concerns with immigration policies or individual cases. I take meetings with local immigrant advocacy groups to discuss topics relevant to their work and update them on USCIS improvements and changes, because we're always coming up with new and better ways to serve our applicants. I frequently check in with the Michigan District Director and other USCIS personnel to stay on top of new developments within our area and provide reports to Headquarters staff in Washington.

Which of your contributions to USCIS are you most proud of?

I really enjoy the opportunity to have contact with the public, provide help to those in need, and promote the good work that USCIS accomplishes on behalf of my fellow employees here in Michigan and across the country. By providing timely information to the public and generating positive interest in immigration-related matters, I'm helping to improve the public perception of our agency. My favorite activity is helping plan citizenship ceremonies in non-traditional locations and communities.

How has USCIS changed since March 2003?

Improved teamwork has helped us to improve customer service and build employee pride in our work. We also benefit from better access to training and information resources than before, and I enjoy working within an environment that encourages the exchange of constructive criticism and the sharing of ideas to make our services more efficient and secure.

How do you feel you are contributing to making America a safer place?

I'll always remember what my grandmother told me as a child, "That making and maintaining peace in our lives will provide and maintain a safe America." So I ask myself every day, "Have I done something to someone today to cause them harm, hurt or anger?" If so, I go about resolving it peacefully.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AT USCIS?

USCIS has a variety of positions including several unique immigration-related core positions. USCIS incorporates many special programs and utilizes special recruiting efforts to create the diverse workforce essential to fulfill its mission to Secure America's Promise as a Nation of Immigrants. See the links below to find out if a career at USCIS is right for you!

[USCIS Career Descriptions](#)
[Sample Test for Adjudication Officers](#)
[Special Programs at USCIS](#)
[Federal Employment Benefits at USCIS](#)
[Current job openings at USCIS](#)