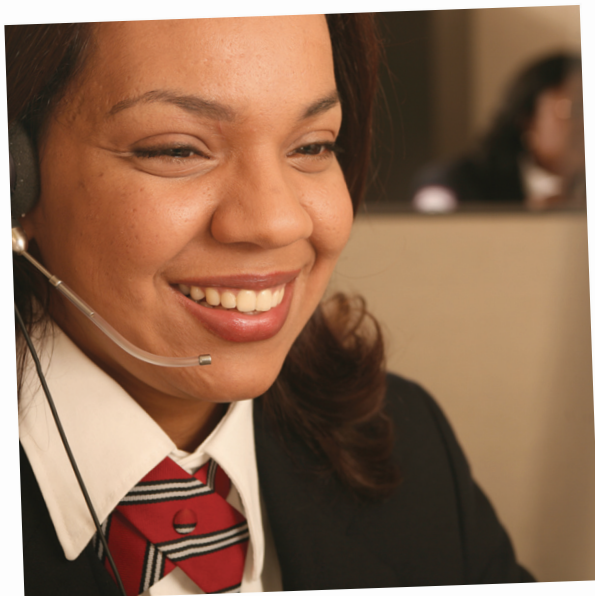


# STRATEGIC GOAL 4: PROMOTE FLEXIBLE AND SOUND IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

## OBJECTIVE 4.1: CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT OF CLEAR, COMPREHENSIVE, AND EFFECTIVE POLICIES RELATED TO IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP ISSUES

USCIS policies are more robust and thorough today than they have ever been—an approach consistent with our obligation to individual applicants and the Nation as a whole. As such, a wide range of legislative and administrative issues affected our business processes and required the adaptation of existing policies and procedures.





To implement the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (CNRA), USCIS developed planning to promulgate the wide range of regulations and policy guidance needed to ensure the application of Federal immigration law and regulations to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). These actions will help implement effective border control procedures, codify policy and procedures governing the transition period, work authorization, legal status of current residents, treaty investor provisions, removal procedures, address national and homeland security issues, and minimize the potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing out the CNMI's own foreign worker program.

In addition, USCIS developed guidance and a nationwide training for field offices and service centers to implement the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. The Act provides that aliens who have been convicted of certain specified offenses against a minor are precluded from filing family based immigration petitions unless the immigration services officer determines that the petitioner poses no risk to the beneficiary.

USCIS also successfully implemented national obligations under the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention). This implementation enhances the security and insures the integrity of overseas adoption benefits.

As part of the Task Force on New Americans, USCIS drafted the report *Building an Americanization Movement for the Twenty-first Century: A Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on New Americans* with policy recommendations to strengthen assimilation efforts in the United States.



STRATEGIC GOAL 4

**OBJECTIVE 4.2: ENSURE THE INTEGRITY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND RESPONSIVENESS OF USCIS PROGRAMS**

USCIS continued to develop the Enterprise Document Management System (EDMS) to improve agency organization and support record keeping through the delivery of digitized Alien Registration Files. This system imports digital records and allows viewer access to USCIS users as well as other authorized government users. EDMS Release 2.1 improved the physical hardware necessary to increase system capacity to 50,000 Alien Registration files per month for more than 15,000 users. At the end FY 2008, the system contained over 400,000 Alien Registration files.



After a petition or application is denied by USCIS, petitioners and applicants have the opportunity to seek an appeal to overturn the adverse decision. USCIS received 12,177 appeals, motions, and requests for certification based on cases adjudicated in FY 2008. Federal courts upheld 87 percent of litigated USCIS Administrative Appeals Office decisions.

USCIS effectively administrated the re-registration of more than 300,000 individuals from Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador residing in the U.S. under Temporary Protected Status (TPS). This effort was coordinated through an extensive public outreach campaign to inform TPS recipients of the required procedures, in conjunction with consular offices from the affected nations.

USCIS played a key role, working with the Office of Chief Counsel, ICE and DHS Policy and General Counsel, to collectively implement a sound policy approach for the use of the Secretary's discretionary authority to exempt individuals from the material support inadmissibility ground. USCIS took the lead in drafting and disseminating substantive guidance for implementation of this authority throughout the agency, including changes in the law enacted by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. Through USCIS Material Support Working Group, USCIS components raised and discussed issues of concern for intra-agency discussion and counsel interpretation.

