



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

USCIS Celebrates Constitution Day and Citizenship Day 2024

September 2024

On Sept. 17, the nation observes Constitution Day and Citizenship Day as part of Constitution Week. This year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will celebrate by welcoming more than 17,000 new citizens in 467 naturalization ceremonies across the nation between Sept. 14 and Sept. 23.

USCIS reaffirms its commitment to promoting citizenship and making the naturalization process accessible to all who are eligible. Since the beginning of the Biden-Harris administration, we continue to support the implementation of and actively collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to remove barriers to naturalization and ensure our laws and policies encourage full participation by immigrants in civic life.

As we mark and celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, USCIS is pleased to share some of our most recent naturalization promotion accomplishments.

CITIZENSHIP PROMOTION HIGHLIGHTS

Form N-400 Backlog Reduction: During the 2024 fiscal year we effectively eliminated the backlog of Form N-400 naturalization applications. The current median processing time for naturalization is now under six months, which is the lowest since 2013. Learn more about USCIS' backlog reduction by form type on our [immigration data page](#).

Enumeration Beyond Entry: On April 1, 2024, we announced applicants filing [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#), will have the option to request the Social Security Administration (SSA) to issue an original or replacement Social Security card and update their immigration status with the SSA without having to visit an SSA office. To learn more, visit the [Enumeration Beyond Entry](#) webpage.

National Immigrant Integration and Citizenship Education (NIICE) Conference: USCIS collaborated with the White House Task Force on New Americans (TFNA) and the interagency Naturalization Working Group to plan and host the inaugural National Immigrant Integration and Citizenship Education (NIICE) Conference Oct. 17 -18, 2023. With close to 300 participants representing both the public and private sector the conference provided a forum to discuss strategies to promote the integration and inclusion of newcomers.

Citizenship Ambassadors: The Citizenship Ambassador Initiative was created to support implementation of President Biden's [Executive Order 14012](#) to promote naturalization. Through the Citizenship Ambassadors Initiative, USCIS partners with immigrant community leaders who promote citizenship through their own immigration experience. USCIS has recently increased the number of ambassadors from eight to eleven, affirming the importance of this initiative and expanding its reach. To learn more, visit our [Citizenship Ambassadors page](#).

FY 2024 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program: Through the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, USCIS seeks to expand the availability of high-quality citizenship and integration services throughout the country. Since 2009, the program has awarded 644 grants to organizations that offer English language instruction and citizenship preparation services to Lawful Permanent Residents. This year USCIS will award up to \$12.6 million in grant funding to organizations across the country for citizenship preparation and educational support programs. USCIS recently announced a new funding opportunity, the Citizenship Integration Training Academy (CITA) to provide a first-ever funding opportunity for organizations which have not received previous USCIS grant funding as part of our effort to further expand the availability of high-quality citizenship education services throughout the country. Through this program, organizations will receive rigorous training to support the development of new citizenship education programs. This grant also offers an optional component for funded organizations to pursue training to obtain Department of Justice accreditation. For additional information, please visit our [Fiscal Year 2024 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program page](#).

Special Naturalization Ceremonies: As part of our effort to highlight the importance of naturalization USCIS hosted a number of special naturalization ceremonies throughout the year. Some of these include:

- ★ San Antonio Missions National Park, National Park Service Director Charles Sams and USCIS Chief of Staff Felicia Escobar Carillo delivered congratulatory remarks on April 22, 2024;
- ★ Port of Miami - Miami Field Office, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro delivered congratulatory remarks on, May 7, 2024;
- ★ North Carolina Executive Mansion, Raleigh Field Office, Governor Roy Cooper and Eva Millona, USCIS Chief of Citizenship, Partnership, and Engagement, delivered congratulatory remarks on June 20, 2024;
- ★ Tomich Center, USCIS Headquarters – Washington Field Office, World Refugee Day Ceremony, Jennifer Higgins, USCIS Deputy Director provided the Oath of Allegiance, on June 20, 2024; and
- ★ Alexandria City Hall – Washington Field Office, Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, will provide keynote remarks on Sept. 12, 2024.

Outstanding Americans by Choice: The [Outstanding Americans by Choice](#) initiative recognizes the outstanding achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens. Through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship, recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to this country and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans. USCIS has recognized 10 Outstanding Americans by Choice recipients so far in 2024. The following individuals will be recognized during Citizenship Day naturalization ceremonies:

- ★ Chef Lorena Garcia at the Kendall Field Office in Miami, FL on Sept.10, 2024; and
- ★ Dr. Wayne Frederick at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens in Leesburg, VA on Sept. 19, 2024.

Full biographies for the recent Outstanding ABC recipients are available on the [Outstanding Americans by Choice page](#).

OUTREACH TOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

New Educational Resources:

- ★ **Color Me Civics – U.S. Landmarks and Symbols;** a two-generation learning tool for low-level English learners. This coloring book includes images of important U.S. landmarks and symbols and is designed for families to study together for the naturalization test.
- ★ **One Nation, One People Civics Test Textbook;** a preparatory study resource for the naturalization test for low-level English learners. It includes images and diagrams throughout to facilitate the learning and retention of U.S. civics information.

Online Resources:

Although not new, we offer free resources on the [Citizenship Resource Center](#) for those who wish to become citizens and those who assist applicants. These include a [10-step guide to naturalization](#) and a [civics practice test](#), as well as resources for [local libraries](#), [museums](#), [community-based organizations](#), [educators](#), and [new U.S. citizens](#).