



INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

Active Citizens, Stronger Communities: Helping Lawful Permanent Residents Become Citizens

Options for California Local Officials



The Institute for Local Government's mission is to promote good government at the local level with practical, impartial and easy-to-use resources for California communities. ILG is the nonprofit 501(c)(3) research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties.

The Institute's current program areas include:

- Collaborations and Partnerships
- Local Government 101
- Public Engagement
- Public Service Ethics
- Sustainable Communities

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the following individuals whose expertise contributed to this publication:

Terry Amsler, Program Manager

Felicia Bartow, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees

Sara Campos, Writer and Consultant

Terese Castellanos and Milina Jovanović, Office of Human Relations, Dispute Resolution & IRIS, Santa Clara County

Susan Downs-Karkos and Rachel Steinhardt, Welcoming America

Nancy Marquez, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Oakley

Bryan Montgomery, City Manager, City of Oakley

Gail Pellerin and Inger Christenson, Santa Cruz County Clerk and Elections

Bev Perry, former Mayor, City of Brea

Lee Price, City Clerk San Luis Obispo

Mindy Romero, California Civic Engagement Project, located at the Center for Regional Change University of California, Davis, CA.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

Gilbert Wong, Vice Mayor, City of Cupertino

Blong Xiong, City Council Member, City of Fresno

Sebastian Zavala, Director of Legal Services, Catholic Charities of the East Bay



The Institute thanks the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the Werner-Kohnstamm Family Fund and The California Endowment for their generous financial support in preparing this guide.

All decisions about the final content of this publication are made by the Institute for Local Government.

Copyright © 2013 by the Institute for Local Government

Table of Contents

I. Introduction.....	1
II. Understanding Lawful Permanent Resident Status	2
III. The Benefits of Citizenship to Individuals and Communities	4
A. Benefits to Individuals.....	4
B. Benefits to Communities.....	5
IV. Hurdles to Naturalization	6
A. Language and Civics Requirements.....	6
B. Cost of Application.....	6
C. Cost of Legal Services.....	6
D. Attitudinal Barriers	7
E. Other Concerns	7
V. Determining the Needs of Local Lawful Permanent Residents.....	8
A. In General.....	8
B. Sources of Assistance with the Naturalization Process	8
C. Immigration/Citizenship Task Forces and Commissions	10
VI. Encouraging Naturalization in Communities: Local Options	12
A. Host Citizenship Day or Drive.....	12
B. Offer to Speak at a Naturalization Workshop	12
C. Secure Space for Citizenship Classes.....	13
D. Offer Citizenship Classes and Recruit Volunteers to Help.....	13
E. Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations.....	13
F. Partner With Local U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services.....	15
G. Inform the Immigrant Community of the City and County’s Naturalization Efforts	16
H. Post-Citizenship Options	17
1. Attend a Naturalization Ceremony	17

2. Host a Naturalization Ceremony	17
3. Help New Citizens Register to Vote	17
VII. Closing Thoughts on Encouraging Immigrants to Participate in Government Life	19
VIII. Appendix I: Survey City and County Governments on Citizenship and Public Engagement by the Institute for Local Government (2012)	20
IX. Appendix II: Survey of Community Based Organizations on Citizenship and Public Engagement by the Institute for Local Government (2012)	22
X. References and Sources for Further Information.....	22

I. Introduction

California is home to about 2.5 million “lawful permanent residents” who are eligible to become citizens but have not yet done so, a population equal to about one quarter of all citizenship-eligible immigrants in the United States.¹ Local officials in California can encourage these immigrants to naturalize and strengthen their engagement in the civic and political life of their communities. When people become citizens, they start to see the country as their own and become more active in their communities.² Citizenship strengthens the ties immigrants have to their communities and increases their opportunities to participate in the democratic process.³ But integrating immigrants is a two-way process, one in which newcomers and receiving societies work together to build secure, vibrant and cohesive communities.⁴

This paper:

- Helps local officials understand the process by which immigrants who are eligible to naturalize can become citizens.
- Discusses the benefits local officials and their communities gain from doing so.
- Examines the barriers individuals sometimes face in pursuing citizenship.
- Offers ideas that local officials may consider to determine the needs of community residents.
- Suggests ways officials may help such immigrants overcome various obstacles to citizenship.
- Presents an array of options for local officials and their agencies to support and encourage lawful permanent residents in the naturalization process. The options are based on a 2012 survey of California local agency efforts in this area and other Institute for Local Government research.

Finally, this paper concludes with ideas and resources local officials can use to engage newly naturalized residents in their communities.

II. Understanding Lawful Permanent Resident Status

“Lawful permanent residents” are foreign nationals whom the U.S. government has allowed to reside legally and permanently in the United States. Sometimes these individuals are referred as “lawful permanent residents,” “permanent resident aliens” or “green-card holders.”

Lawful permanent residents may live and work in the United States, own property, attend public schools, colleges and universities, join some branches of the armed forces and travel freely within and outside the United States. Like other immigrants and natives, lawful permanent residents must pay local, state and federal taxes.

Federal law provides various routes to legal permanent residency.⁵ Although the grant of permanent residence may be revoked due to an immigrant’s extended absences or commission of a crime,⁶ legal immigrants who remain lawfully in the United States can maintain their status indefinitely.

In general, after five years of continuous residence as lawful permanent residents (the requirement is shortened to three years for individuals with a spouse who is already a citizen); such persons can apply for naturalization.⁷ (Naturalization means conferring citizenship upon a person after birth.)

The Numbers

California’s immigrant population constitutes almost 10 million people — or 27.2 percent of the state.

See Rob Paral’s *Integration Potential of California’s Immigrants and their Children – New Estimates of Potential New Voters at the State, County and Legislative District Levels*, available at: www.robparal.com/downloads/New+Immigrant+Voter+Report+0.pdf. (Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, 2008)

About 2.5 million of these immigrants are lawful permanent residents.
—Rob Paral & Associates, *Benchmarks of Immigrant Civic Engagement*. Carnegie Corporation of New York. July 2010

Citizenship Eligibility Requirements

In order to qualify for citizenship, a legal permanent resident must:

- Be at least 18 years old at the time of filing the application (known as Form N-400).
- Have been a lawful permanent resident (sometimes referred to as having a valid “green card”) for at least five years (or three years if the person is married to a U.S. citizen) at the time of filing the application.
- Have maintained continuous residence in the United States for at least five years (or three years if married to a U.S. citizen).
- Have been physically present in the United States for at least two and a half years (or one and a half years if married to a U.S. citizen).
- Have lived in the state for at least three months prior to submitting the application for citizenship.
- Be able to read, write and speak English, unless the applicant is over 55 years of age and has been a permanent resident for 15 years, or is 50 years of age and has been a permanent resident for 20 years.
- Have a general knowledge of the fundamentals of U.S. history and government.
- Be a person of good moral character willing to abide by the principles of the U.S. Constitution.

If the person served in the U.S. Armed Forces during war, he or she may apply for citizenship without first obtaining a green card if he or she was in the United States upon enlistment in the military. Such applicants must meet different requirements depending on whether they served during peacetime or a period of hostility and if they are currently in active duty or a former military member.

For more information about the pathways to citizenship, the federal government’s United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (sometimes referred to by the acronym “USCIS”) offers an online [CitizenshipResourceCenter](#) and other web-based resources including [CitizenshipThrough Naturalization](#), the [PathtoU.S.Citizenship](#) and [A Guide to Naturalization](#).

III. The Benefits of Citizenship to Individuals and Communities

U.S. citizenship confers a variety of benefits not only on the individuals who naturalize, but also on the communities where they live and work.

A. Benefits to Individuals

One of the primary benefits of becoming a citizen is being able to fully participate in democratic processes in the United States. The right to vote is key, of course. Other rights include the ability to run for and serve in public office⁸ and participate in the jury system. In addition to these formal rights accompanying citizenship, upon naturalizing, citizens also experience an increased sense of connection to their communities (discussed in the next subsection, “Benefits to Communities”).

As noted in the previous section, citizens and lawful permanent residents can apply to legalize immediate relatives such as children and spouses. The range of relatives citizens can apply for is greater than the range available to lawful permanent residents. Generally, citizen petitions receive higher priority for processing than those of lawful permanent residents.⁹

Naturalization is often accompanied by increased financial security. Legal immigrants who naturalize experience an increase of about 8 to 11 percent greater income than their counterparts who do not naturalize¹⁰ and a 15 percent increase in spending power.¹¹ In addition, once legal permanent immigrants become citizens, they become eligible to compete for federal civil service jobs¹² and positions requiring security clearance,¹³ thus becoming more attractive to a wider range of employers.

The data suggest that after naturalization, many citizens may be more economically mobile and better able to afford health care and college education. These benefits often translate into increased stability and cohesion for immigrants and their families.

Except in certain situations involving fraud, citizenship cannot be taken away — unlike legal permanent resident status, which can.¹⁴

Citizenship and Civic Participation

The data suggest that rather than participate in formal civic gatherings, noncitizens are more likely to meet with neighbors or do favors for someone nearby.

—Current Population Survey Data (November 2010: Civic Engagement Supplement) analyzed by the California Civic Engagement Project, located at the Center for Regional Change, University of California, Davis, Calif.
<http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ourwork/projects/ucdavis-ccep>.

Like citizens, noncitizens also make contributions and their involvement in community life takes many forms. Often their participation is triggered by issues that affect the well-being of their families.

—Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, *Citizenship and Civic Participation*.
www.gcir.org/integration/citizenship

B. Benefits to Communities

Individuals choose to naturalize for various reasons. Some reasons are practical — improving their job prospects or sponsoring family members to become lawful permanent residents or citizens of the United States. Other more intangible reasons include seeking a sense of belonging and yearning to participate in political and social matters.¹⁵

The right to vote brings with it a sense of belonging, allegiance and rootedness in the individual's new home.¹⁶ Citizenship also creates stronger ties to communities, which can lead to a higher level of involvement in community affairs.¹⁷

Data from the Current Population Survey¹⁸ indicate that compared with noncitizens, naturalized citizens report higher levels of civic behavior. They are more apt to join groups, contact public officials and otherwise become civically involved.¹⁹

When people understand how their public institutions work, they interact with public agencies more efficiently, saving cities and counties time and money.²⁰

In addition to greater financial security for individual immigrants and their families, citizenship also confers financial benefits on communities where they live.²¹ As consumers and taxpayers, new citizens' wage gains contribute to local economies. They spend increased earnings on food, clothing, housing and other consumer goods. Such spending stimulates demand in the economy for more products and services that in turn create jobs and expand the economy.²² In short, increasing the number of immigrants who naturalize can be a boon to individuals, their families and the communities where they live.

IV. Hurdles to Naturalization²³

Why don't more eligible lawful permanent residents naturalize? The naturalization process can be a complicated and arduous undertaking, particularly for people with limited formal education and English proficiency. Naturalization applicants must apply to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,²⁴ submit fingerprints, undergo background and security checks and also successfully pass English and civics tests. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the national average processing time is currently 4 1/2 months.²⁵

A. Language and Civics Requirements

For some eligible lawful permanent residents, the required English skills and civics requirements can be challenging, particularly for older individuals. Many applicants study English for years and still feel insecure about their language skills. In many California communities, due to state budgetary changes, English language and citizenship preparation classes are not readily available or have long waiting lists.²⁶ In 2009, the state adopted new funding rules allowing K-12 school districts to spend adult education money.²⁷ Twenty-two out of 30 of the state's largest school districts made significant cuts to adult education programs, and 40 adult schools closed.²⁸ These changes have detrimentally affected individuals seeking citizenship.

B. Cost of Application

The application fee may deter some applicants. Although waivers/reductions may be sought, the general, nonrefundable government fee is \$680.²⁹ Each additional family member over the age of 18 must pay \$680, creating a hefty total that can quickly become insurmountable for some low-income families.³⁰

A recent study suggests that fee increases³¹ correlate with a significant decline in the naturalization of less-educated and likely lower-income immigrants.³² Fee increases also result in increased waiting time for naturalization, because it takes longer for an individual to save the required amount of money.³³

C. Cost of Legal Services

Although many naturalization cases are straightforward, some applicants — particularly those who are low-income or elderly and need disability or fee waivers — may need or want legal help to ensure that their applications are correctly prepared. Others may require legal assistance to determine whether an extended absence from the United States or a past encounter with law enforcement bars them from applying. Legal services in complex cases can mount, and nonprofit organizations often can provide affordable services to immigrants in need.

In some rural areas of the state, low-cost qualified legal assistance is not readily available and applicants must take time from work to travel and meet with legal service providers. The Board of Immigration Appeal (BIA) permits nonprofit organizations to

apply for accreditation, which allows qualified non-attorneys to become accredited representatives authorizing them to represent naturalization applicants. The BIA keeps a roster of all accredited organizations and representatives.³⁴ Sometimes, as in Littleton, Colorado, BIA-accredited representatives can work for cities. Organizations such as the Immigrant Legal Resource Center and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) provide training to assist in the accreditation process.³⁵

BIA-accredited representatives are different from unscrupulous immigration form preparers who prey on unsuspecting immigrants. Preparers and “*notarios*”³⁶ tend to make unrealistic promises, file fraudulent forms and charge steep fees — all of which can create significant problems, including deportation, for those seeking naturalization. Naturalization applicants must be wary of these fraudulent practitioners.³⁷ They have become an increasingly serious problem in immigration communities throughout the United States.³⁸

Local officials can educate their communities about these practices³⁹ and provide information about legitimate legal services. In addition, local officials can refer cases involving fraud and unscrupulous services to the district attorney’s office for prosecution. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has partnerships with local agencies (including Fresno and Los Angeles) designed to combat immigration scams.⁴⁰

D. Attitudinal Barriers

In addition to the practical hurdles of applying, some individuals may also face emotional barriers or have negative perceptions of government in general. If applicants came from turbulent countries as refugees or sought asylum⁴¹ in the United States, they may need to overcome their fear of public institutions or government officials.⁴²

E. Other Concerns

In addition, some countries do not recognize dual citizenship.⁴³ Citizenship applicants may fear that they will lose rights, such as the ability to own property in their country of origin.

V. Determining the Needs of Local Lawful Permanent Residents

A. In General

To determine which local agency activities might be most helpful to those who want to naturalize in a given area, an informal community scan can be helpful. This type of scan can answer such questions as:

- Who are the immigrants, and where do they hail from? How large is the immigrant community or communities? What languages do they speak?
- Are they eligible for naturalization, and do they want to naturalize? What types of barriers, if any, do they face?
- Do they have access to low-cost legal services? Are reasonably priced legal services readily available (or are there backlogs and waiting lists for such services)? Are immigrants aware of these services, and are they using them?

Community-based organizations, public schools, adult education programs, colleges, universities and congregations can be helpful partners in assessing the needs of a community's immigrants. The networks known and trusted by immigrants themselves can be good starting points.

Based on data collected and in partnership with immigrant or immigrant-serving groups, local officials can consider how to support and increase naturalization in their communities.

B. Sources of Assistance with the Naturalization Process

Another key question is whether immigrants in the community have access to reliable and affordable legal assistance to help them with the naturalization process. Are community-based organizations available to serve them with the naturalization process?

In California, a variety of nonprofit legal service programs assist immigrants. However, these organizations are often backlogged or have long waiting lists. In some rural areas, legal services may be limited.

The Online Nonprofit Immigration Legal Services Directory of Pro Bono Net and the National Immigration Legal Services Directory provide comprehensive information on over 900 free or low-cost legal services organization in all 50 states.⁴⁴ Additional resources for Spanish-speaking immigrants include Ciudadania Centers (Citizenship Centers) and a hotline operated by the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) at www.naleo.org.

If no legal services exist in their area, local officials may opt to work with community service organizations to recruit lawyers and other volunteers interested in naturalizing

immigrants. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (www.ilrc.org) offers a curriculum that includes ideas for maximizing the success of naturalization efforts.⁴⁵ Their materials and training sessions can be useful for local officials and others interested in understanding the citizenship process more thoroughly.

Legal Services Organizations and Other Resources

This list is not intended to be exhaustive or comprehensive, but provides key resources.

- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
1663 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 255-9499
www.ilrc.org
- National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO)
1122 Washington Blvd, Third Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 747-7606
- National Immigration Advocates
www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory
- National Immigration Law Center
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2850
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 639-3900; (213) 639-3911 fax
www.nilc.org
Information on the law, employment and public benefits rights of immigrants
- Pro Bono Net
www.probononet.org
- United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)
www.uscis.gov/naturalization
- USCIS Policy Manual: Volume 12: Citizenship and Naturalization
<http://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume12.html>
- USCIS, A Guide to Naturalization, Form M-476
<http://www.uscis.gov/files/article/M-476.pdf>
www.uscis.gov/naturalization

C. Immigration/Citizenship Task Forces and Commissions

Another option is to form immigrant advisory boards and task forces to assist local officials in determining the needs of local lawful permanent residents in pursuing citizenship.⁴⁶ This section highlights best practices in two California communities.

Santa Clara County. Since 1997, Santa Clara County has coordinated citizenship services through its Office of Human Relations. In 2000, the county organized a well-attended summit on immigrant needs and contributions and presented the results in a nationally recognized study, “Bridging Borders in Silicon Valley.” The county’s Immigrant Relations and Integration Services (IRIS) designed and monitored many different types of services, including citizenship programs.

County services include facilitating a multi-sector collaborative that organizes annual free citizenship days that share information on requirements, eligibility, and procedures. The collaborative is comprised of citizenship and legal services providers that organize citizenship days in central and South County and provide naturalization service’s year-round.

The county program also includes an [interactive website](#) that lists services; educational forums; and a speakers’ bureau offering workshops to increase government and service providers’ understanding of the immigrant communities in the county.

San Francisco. The City and County of San Francisco’s programs include the Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) and the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA).⁴⁷

- The Immigrant Rights Commission, established in 1997 is charged with advising the mayor and board of supervisors on policies that affect immigrants.
- The Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs provides staff and leadership for the Commission, provides community grants, oversees citywide compliance with language access laws, and implements additional projects of its own including programs on language access, immigrant integration, civic engagement and community outreach.

Both programs work together closely to identify and support policies that are inclusive of immigrants.

Other Municipalities. Some local agencies have commissions whose responsibilities include immigrant issues. For example, the City of Los Angeles’ Human Services Commission has a full-time policy advisor who conducts research on immigrant needs.⁴⁸

Although commissions and task forces can provide invaluable insight to local officials, local agencies with limited resources can learn about the immigrants in their communities in more informal ways. For example, Littleton, Colorado, hosted an International Coffee Hour.⁴⁹ The city invited everyone to meet at the local library to

socialize, practice speaking English and talk about the challenges and issues important to them.

Building relationships with key leaders and local community-based organizations can be a key way for local officials to reach immigrants. Newcomers are more likely to participate in local agency activities if a trusted community leader is involved. Equally important is the choice of location. Immigrants are more likely to attend local agency functions held in familiar and convenient locations.

VI. Encouraging Naturalization in Communities: Local Options

Once local officials are familiar with the needs of the citizenship-eligible immigrants in their city or county, they can determine what role they can play in meeting those needs. Local officials and their agencies have a number of options for supporting and encouraging lawful permanent residents in the naturalization process, including the following.

A. Host a Citizenship Day or Drive

Local officials may host a Citizenship Day in which speakers provide legal immigrants with an orientation session on the naturalization process. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is often willing to provide speakers who can present an overview of the naturalization process.⁵⁰

Since 1997, Santa Clara County has offered Citizenship Days in collaboration with several community organizations. The county's Office of Human Relations has coordinated annual and biannual events and provided training and media outreach. Since its inception, the collaborative has assisted more than 126,000 individuals interested in obtaining citizenship.⁵¹ Local, state and federal elected officials attend Citizenship Days in Santa Clara County.

Similarly, the City of Oakley's "You, Me, We = Oakley!" initiative fosters dialogues between U.S.-born Americans and immigrants. In June 2013, local officials partnered with community organizations, businesses and two dozen volunteers to assist immigrant attendees at Oakley's second annual citizenship drive.⁵² Oakley's initiative benefitted from a partnership with Welcoming America (www.welcomingamerica.org), a national effort to create immigrant-friendly communities.

B. Offer to Speak at a Naturalization Workshop

Outside of their experience with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, many citizenship applicants have had little contact with local agencies. Workshops organized by local service providers present opportunities for a positive introduction to local government.

Local officials can welcome naturalization applicants at workshops. For example, the mayor of Concord spoke to potential citizens in June 2013. He encouraged them to follow through with the process, vote, volunteer and even run for political office. Such invitations plant seeds for future civic involvement.

In March and April 2012, the mayors of Patterson, Riverbank and Woodland spoke at the naturalization workshops offered by the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLF), a nonprofit legal services program. Two of the mayors who had immigrant family backgrounds shared stories about their own paths to citizenship.

C. Secure Space for Citizenship Classes

Providing space for civics and other preparatory classes in community centers and other public agency facilities is another option. Offering space can signal to immigrants that they are welcome within the halls of local government.

With the assistance of a competitive grant from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,⁵³ the City of Littleton, Colorado, offered small group classes, a citizenship mentoring program and naturalization application services at a local library. The city also lent its study rooms, a computer lab and a civics resource section with information on employment, healthcare, education, housing, legal services, emergency and other needs toward the effort.⁵⁴

D. Offer Citizenship Classes and Recruit Volunteers to Help

A number of local agencies offer free citizenship classes. Examples include Riverside County Library,⁵⁵ the City of Cupertino Department of Parks and Recreation⁵⁶ and an adult school in Ukiah.⁵⁷ Santa Clara County offers 550 English as a Second Language classes in a variety of languages, down from 1,200 in 2001.⁵⁸

Cupertino's program is a successful, volunteer-run citizenship class for immigrant seniors from the city and surrounding areas. The eight-week course covers U.S. history and salient aspects of the U.S. Constitution as well as an overview of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The class also features guest speakers from the local offices of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Victor Wong, a long-time community volunteer, teaches citizenship classes at Cupertino Senior Center. Since 2002, more than 1,000 of Wong's students have successfully taken the civics exam and become citizens. Within employee ranks as well as the community at large, cities and counties can often find dedicated volunteers who are willing to teach these classes. Local officials can provide incentives for city employees who volunteer by recognizing their efforts.

Similarly, the course offered in Ukiah is also taught by a community volunteer who developed a website providing resources on the naturalization process. The Ukiah effort was the result of a partnership formed with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to ensure that the website and other information shared was accurate.⁵⁹

E. Public-Private Partnerships with Philanthropies and Community-Based Organizations

In various areas of the nation, local officials have teamed up with community organizations that are involved in naturalization collaboratives. The New Americans Campaign is a national, nonpartisan collaborative aimed at making citizenship services more accessible and efficient for lawful permanent residents. It brings together more than 80 partners throughout the country, including service providers, elected officials, faith-based organizations, the business sector and the media, and involves a number of

immigrant-serving nonprofits in eight U.S. cities, all focused on encouraging and helping legal immigrants to become citizens.⁶⁰

In San Francisco, the Office of Citizen Engagement and Immigrant Affairs teamed up with local foundations to establish the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative, a unique three-year private/public/nonprofit partnership to build community, maximize the number of naturalized citizens in San Francisco, ensure economic mobility and strengthen civic participation among new citizens. The city is providing half of the total \$1.2M funding and is leveraging additional money from five local foundations and technical assistance from Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and the Immigrant Legal Resource Center. A collaborative of seven community-based organizations is providing a series of free legal and citizenship application assistance workshops along with language assistance to eligible lawful permanent residents.⁶¹

In Los Angeles and San Diego, cities are partnering with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, libraries and nonprofits to provide immigrants with citizenship information.⁶² The Los Angeles Public Library's Immigrant Integration Initiative has established all of its 73 libraries as local information centers and has designated "citizenship corners" with a variety of naturalization materials throughout its system.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services trains librarians on the citizenship process and offers educational literature. With community partners, the libraries hold citizenship workshops and provide referrals. Programs and materials are available in a number of languages including Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Farsi, Russian and Japanese. Since Los Angeles launched its initiative in September 2012, more than 127,000 people have visited its public libraries and begun their citizenship journeys.⁶³

In the counties of the eastern San Francisco Bay Area and other regions, public officials attend and help publicize workshops and other events. Local officials can work with these collaboratives in numerous ways.

F. Partner With Local U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Local U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field offices are often available and interested in helping communities better understand the naturalization process.⁶⁴

Community relations officers can provide information on eligibility requirements, the application process and the naturalization test, among other topics.⁶⁵

In addition, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has awarded grants⁶⁶ to immigrant-serving organizations that prepare legal immigrants for citizenship and promote their civic integration. Cities and counties are eligible to apply for these grants.

Since the creation of the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program in 2009, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has awarded a total of \$23.2 million through 142 grants to immigrant-serving organizations, including libraries, schools and cities.⁶⁷

Additional Resources

For more information on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services resources for local governments, please see the Institute's website:

<http://www.ca-ilg.org/post/uscis-citizenshipcivic-integration-resources-local-governments>.

G. Inform the Immigrant Community of the City and County's Naturalization Efforts and Use New Technologies

Local officials can contribute to naturalization efforts by widely distributing citizenship information as well as the naturalization application. Additionally, local officials may make information available through the Internet as well as social media, especially as a means of reaching more young people. The Internet and social media are especially helpful resources for them and others who move frequently to attend school or obtain new jobs.

Because many immigrants, especially young adults, use mobile devices, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation created a suite of high-tech tools to assist naturalization applicants.

These include CitizenshipWorks, an interactive application tool, and a text message program that helps people locate the nearest legal service provider and determine a priority date for the person seeking permanent resident status. The priority date tells the applicant their place in line; that is to say, when they can expect to obtain a green card.⁶⁸ Again, this is a very useful resource for mobile young people and those who frequently change addresses.

Information on naturalization efforts can also be disseminated through the ethnic media, which perform an invaluable connective function between immigrants and mainstream communities, including public agencies.⁶⁹ Ethnic media are interested in relevant information that meets the needs of their audiences. Local officials can explore whether information about an agency's naturalization efforts fits within this category. Radio and television are particularly valuable channels for immigrants with limited literacy skills.⁷⁰

CitizenshipWorks

CitizenshipWorks (www.citizenshipworks.org) is interactive software that provides free, step-by-step naturalization information as well as the forms needed to complete the naturalization process.

CitizenshipWorks provides:

- An interactive online interview to help individuals understand their eligibility.
- A self-paced interactive tutorial that explains the naturalization process step by step.
- An online tutorial to help applicants prepare for the naturalization tests.
- Links to other resources and information about citizenship and naturalization available online.

Individuals who use CitizenshipWorks should consult with an attorney or BIA-accredited representative to make sure they have understood and fulfilled all the naturalization requirements.

H. Post-Citizenship Options

1. Attend a Naturalization Ceremony

One of the most moving moments in an immigrant's life occurs when he or she takes the Oath of Allegiance and is sworn in as a U.S. citizen. The event caps an individual's successful completion of all the naturalization requirements. The ceremony can be celebratory with many family members in attendance.

Local officials can attend naturalization ceremonies and present welcoming remarks. Such talks allow local officials to introduce themselves to the immigrant community, underscore the importance of citizenship and highlight opportunities to deepen new citizens' involvement in community affairs. They also signal to the immigrant community that they are welcome.

In the fall of 2012, the vice mayor of Campbell participated as the keynote speaker at a San Jose naturalization ceremony, and the mayor of Redwood City welcomed new citizens before an audience of 200. County officials including the registrar of voters attended, and the local press covered the Redwood City event.

Officials from Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Francisco counties also participate in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services oath ceremonies. Officials speak during the ceremonies, emphasize the importance of voting, and explain the voter registration process.⁷¹ They also provide voter registration forms along with printed information in required languages to every new citizen.

After the ceremonies, staff set up tables in the lobby where they collect registration forms and make themselves available to new citizens who have questions.

2. Host a Naturalization Ceremony

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials are often looking for venues to hold naturalization ceremonies.⁷² Cities and counties might consider offering space for the ceremonies at municipal sites during times when they are not regularly used, thus not interfering with revenue-generating sources. The weeks of July 4th, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day⁷³ offer high-profile opportunities to raise awareness about citizenship and may be favorable times for local governments to host naturalization events or recognize new citizens in their community.

3. Help New Citizens Register to Vote

In Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, local officials partner with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and a local congressman's office to organize a "Proud to be an American" Citizenship Day. The day consists of registering new citizens to vote and providing election information. Santa Cruz officials also attend Latino health forums and youth empowerment events to register voters and encourage voting and civic participation.

In Contra Costa, Santa Cruz, San Francisco and Los Angeles counties, election officials have worked with Univision’s local Spanish-language television station. During election season, stations host voter registration/information phone banks and feature the local registrar of voters to answer questions on registration and voting. *Radio Bilingue*, a nonprofit radio network and national distributor of Spanish-language programming, has also conducted and aired voter education forums throughout California. Local public officials can reach out to television and radio affiliates in their regions to organize and provide similar programs. For information on voter registration, local officials may visit the California Secretary of State website.⁷⁴ The site provides information on registration requirements, language assistance, qualifications, registration deadlines and other essential information.

Additional Information on Engaging Immigrant Populations

- “Ten Ideas to Encourage Immigrant Engagement”
www.ca-ilg.org/TenIdeasImmigrantEngagement.
- *A Local Official’s Guide to Immigrant Civic Engagement*
www.ca-ilg.org/immigrant.

See also National League of Cities, “Municipal Innovations in Immigrant Integration: 20 Cities, 20 Good Practices,” (2004)

www.unaoc.org/ibis/2011/04/11/municipal-innovations-in-immigrant-integration-20-cities-20-good-practices/.

VII. Closing Thoughts on Encouraging Immigrants to Participate in Government Life

Integrating immigrants into the civic life of a community is a two-way process. Both newcomers and the neighborhood or town that receives them must work together to build stronger communities.⁷⁵ Voting is just one step in becoming involved in local democratic processes. Once immigrants naturalize, they are more likely to increase their involvement in their communities.

Such activities can take many forms, including:

- Participating in a neighborhood effort to request a stop sign.
- Attending formal or informal city council, school board or county board of supervisors meetings, and sharing their opinions.
- Serving as poll workers on Election Day.
- Participating on a city or county board or commission or ad hoc advisory committees.

Local officials might consider proactively inviting and involving immigrants in public engagement efforts. As discussed earlier in this paper, a first step is to work with groups to which immigrants belong and ask about the issues of greatest concern — such as schools, recreation, safety and health.

Broadening participation enhances local officials' knowledge of community issues and priorities and can lead to more informed decision-making. Ensuring that newcomers are engaged both economically and civically builds communities with a stronger civic culture and increased policy effectiveness. Such communities are more attractive for people and investors alike.⁷⁶

VIII. Appendix I: Survey of City and County Governments on Citizenship and Public Engagement Conducted by the Institute for Local Government (2012)

INSTRUCTIONS: Please circle the choice that best answers each question. Please add additional information as appropriate.

1. Does your city or county participate in a program or partnership related to the naturalization* of immigrants who are lawful permanent residents and are interested in becoming U.S. citizens? For instance, this may take the form of English language or civics classes related to citizenship tests.

** Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).*

- a. Yes b. No

If yes, please very briefly describe and provide contact information where we can learn more.

2. If you answered “yes” to question #1, does your city or county partner with any of the following entities to support the naturalization of eligible lawful permanent residents:
- a. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (national, regional or local offices)
 - b. Community groups or organizations
 - c. Unions
 - d. Colleges or universities

If so, please provide the name of the organization(s), a very brief description of the partnership, and an organizational contact if possible.

3. Does your city or county take any steps to encourage the local *electoral* participation of recently naturalized citizens (including voter registration process)?
- 4.
- a. Yes b. No

If yes, please very briefly describe and provide contact information where we can learn more.

5. Has your city or county made any efforts to involve recently naturalized citizens in local *non-electoral* public engagement efforts (such as in local planning, budgeting, sustainability/climate programs, public safety initiatives, volunteer opportunities, etc.)?
- a. Yes b. No

If yes, please very briefly describe, and provide a contact if possible where we could learn more.

- 6. Does your city or county provide any opportunities for newly naturalized citizens to take on other leadership roles (such as through citizen academies, other local leadership programs, candidacy/participation on local boards and commissions, etc.)?

- a. Yes b. No

If yes, please very briefly describe. And provide contact information where we could learn more.

- 7. In your city or county, are there departments, offices or staff with responsibilities to support the civic engagement-related capacities and activities of immigrant residents?

- a. Yes b. No

If yes, please provide name(s) and contact information.

If yes, are there organizational partners that are a part of these efforts? If so, please provide their names and contact info if you have it.

If yes, is there an allocated source of funding for this work?

- 8. To what degree do you believe local officials in your city or county are aware of the number and demographics (such as county of origin, educational level and employment status) of lawful permanent residents who are eligible to become citizens (in your city or county) — or who become citizens each year?

- a. Very aware b. somewhat aware c. Not very aware

Please add additional information about your answer here if you wish.

- 9. Are there any sorts of resources or information on the above topics that you would recommend that the Institute for Local Government make available to local officials in California? If so, please describe:

Lastly, would you please complete the following information?

What is your name and title _____

What is your email address? _____

- Would you like to receive the results of this survey? a. Yes b. No

- May we contact you if we have follow up questions? a. Yes b. No

Thank you very much. Your time, information and insights are appreciated.

IX. Appendix II: Survey of Community-Based Organizations on Citizenship and Public Engagement Conducted by the Institute for Local Government (2012)

1. Has your organization partnered with city or county governments or local officials in California as part of naturalization efforts targeted to lawful permanent residents who are interested in becoming U.S. citizens? (For instance, this may take the form of English language or civics classes related to citizenship tests.)

_____ Yes _____ No

- a. If yes, please very briefly describe.

Who:

Where:

When:

Type of partnership:

How and why the partnership was initiated:

Contact information where we can learn more:

- b. If no, what type of non-advocacy partnership(s), as part of naturalization efforts targeted to lawful permanent residents who are interested in becoming U.S. citizens, is your organization interested in cultivating with local governments?

2. Has your organization partnered with city or county governments or officials in California to encourage the local *electoral* participation of recently naturalized citizens (including the voter registration process)?

_____ Yes _____ No

- a. If yes, please very briefly describe.

Who:

Where:

When:

Type of partnership:

How and why the partnership was initiated:

Contact information where we can learn more:

- b. If no, what type of non-advocacy partnership(s) to encourage the local *electoral* participation of recently naturalized citizens is your organization interested in cultivating with local governments?

3. Has your organization partnered with city or county governments or officials in California to involve recently naturalized citizens in local *non-electoral* public engagement efforts (such as

local planning, budgeting, sustainability/climate programs, public safety initiatives, volunteer opportunities, etc.)?

_____ Yes _____ No

a. If yes, please very briefly describe.

Who:

Where:

When:

Type of partnership:

How and why the partnership was initiated:

Contact information where we can learn more:

b. If no, what type of non-advocacy partnership(s) to involve recently naturalized citizens in local *non-electoral* public engagement efforts is your organization interested in cultivating with local governments?

4. To what degree do you believe local officials in your city or county are aware of the number and demographics (such as county of origin, educational level and employment status) of lawful permanent residents who are eligible to become citizens or who become citizens each year?

a. Very aware b. Somewhat aware c. Not very aware

Please add any additional information about your answer here:

5. Any additional thoughts or questions?

Thank you very much. Your time, information and insights are appreciated.

X. References and Sources for Further Information

¹ Paral, Rob & Associates. *Benchmarks of Immigrant Civic Engagement*. Prepared for Carnegie Corporation of New York. New York, NY. July 2010.

www.robparal.com/downloads/RPA%20report%20to%20The%20Carnegie%20Corporation.pdf

For a breakdown by county of foreign-born persons living in California, see Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants (GCIR) at <http://maps.gcir.org>.

² Cottingham, Alice, Daranee Petsod, Ted Wang, and Robert C. Winn. *Building Capacity for ESL Legal Services, and Citizenship*. Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, p. 26 (2008).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), *Immigrant Integration Framework*, (2013) <http://www.gcir.org/integration>

⁵ Citizens or lawful permanent residents may file a petition on behalf of an eligible family member. *See* Section 204(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C §204(a) -- 8 U.S.C. 1154(a)

An individual may also apply for asylum or refugee status. *See* Section 209 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C §209 – 8 U.S.C. 1159

Employers can also petition on behalf of certain categories of skilled workers to adjust their status. *See* Sections

203(b) Immigration and Nationality Act , 8 U.S.C §203(b) – 8 U.S.C. 1153(b) The Act is available online at

www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.f6da51a2342135be7e9d7a10e0dc91a0/?vgnextoid=fa7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM1000000ecd190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=fa7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM1000000ecd190aRCRD&CH=act.

⁶ Individuals can lose their right to remain in the United States upon the commission of a crime or an extended absence from the United States. *See* Section 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C §237 – 8 U.S.C. 1227

⁷ *See* Section 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. §316 – 8 U.S.C. 1427

⁸ Except for President of the United States, see Art. II, §1 of the U.S. Constitution.

⁹ www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=9c8aa6c515083210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=9c8aa6c515083210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD

¹⁰ Pastor, Manuel. “Pathways to Citizenship Benefits All,” *Insight, San Francisco Chronicle*, (Sunday, January 13, 2013).

¹¹ Sumption, Madeleine and Sarah Flamm. *The Economic Value of Citizenship for Immigrants in the United States*. Migration Policy Institute (September 2012).

¹² *See* Federal Executive Order 11935, which limits civil service jobs to citizens. This mandate permits noncitizens to apply for certain jobs only when U.S. citizens are not available.

¹³ www.dss.mil/isp/international/laa.html

¹⁴ Revocation of citizenship may occur as a result of a criminal conviction for knowingly processing naturalization by fraud. *See* Section 340(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. §340(a) – 8 U.S.C. 1451(a)

¹⁵ Sumption, Madeleine and Sarah Flamm. *The Economic Value of Citizenship for Immigrants in the United States*. Migration Policy Institute (September 2012), at 4, available at www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/citizenship-premium.pdf.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Alice Cottingham, Daranee Petsod, Ted Wang, and Robert C. Winn. *Building Capacity for ESL, Legal Services and Citizenship: A Guide for Philanthropic Investment and Partnerships*. Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. Zellerbach Family Foundation, at 16 (2008), available at <http://www.gcir.org/publications/gcirpubs/buildingcapacity>

¹⁸ Current Population Survey Analysis, California Civic Engagement Project, Center for Regional Change, University of California, Davis (November 2010).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Mahvash Hassan interview with Karthick Ramakrishnan, Professor, University of California, Riverside. Institute for Local Government (November 19, 2010).

²¹ Lynch, Robert and Patrick Oakford. *The Economic Effects of Granting Legal Status and Citizenship to Undocumented Immigrants*. Center for American Progress (March 20, 2013), available at www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/report/2013/03/20/57351/the-economic-effects-of-granting-legal-status-and-citizenship-to-undocumented-immigrants/.

²² *Id.*

²³ See generally, Sumption, Madeleine and Sarah Flamm, *The Economic Value of Citizenship for Immigrants in the United States*. Migration Policy Institute (September 2012); and Cottingham, Alice, Daranee Petsod, Ted Wang, and Robert C. Winn, *Building Capacity for ESL, Legal Services and Citizenship: A Guide for Philanthropic Investment and Partnerships*. Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. Zellerbach Family Foundation (2008).

²⁴ To review the form, go to www.uscis.gov/forms

²⁵ <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processTimesDisplayInit.do>

²⁶ “ESL Classes Struggle as Budgets Are Cut,” *The California Report*, January 16, 2013. <http://www.californiareport.org/archive/R201301160850>

²⁸ Reis, Julia. “While K-12 schools await infusion of money, adult education programs brace for cuts.” *Peninsula Press*, December 8, 2012. <http://peninsulapress.com/2012/12/18/while-k-12-schools-await-infusion-of-money-adult-education-programs-brace-for-cuts/>

²⁹ See www.uscis.gov/feewaiver. For guidance on fee waiver, see the Immigrant Legal Resource Center’s Naturalization Fee Waiver Packet. www.ilrc.org/files/documents/ilrc_fee_waiver_packet.pdf

³⁰ www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=40a9b2149e7df110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=40a9b2149e7df110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD

³¹ Pastor, Manuel, Jared Sanchez, Rhonda Ortiz, and Justin Scoggins. *Nurturing Naturalization: Could Lowering the Fee Help?* Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration and National Partnership for New Americans, February 2013, at 2. (“The cost of becoming a naturalized American citizen has increased dramatically in the last 15 years. In 1997, the fee to naturalize was \$95. It rose to \$225 in 1999, then jumped from \$320 to \$595 between 2004 and 2007. Advocates for immigrant integration point to fee increases as an important reason why 8.5 million lawful permanent residents who are eligible to apply for their U.S. citizenship have not yet done so and suggest that naturalization

might be promoted by lowering the fees.”) The study is available at http://csii.usc.edu/documents/Nurturing_Naturalization_final_web.pdf.

³² *Id.* at 13

³³ *Id.* at 14-15.

³⁴ For a listing of recognized organizations and accredited representatives, see <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/ra/raroster.htm>

³⁵ See <http://cliniclegal.org/resources/toolkit-bia-recognition-accreditation>. For more information, see

Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)
415 Michigan Avenue, NE
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 635-2556
national@cliniclegal.org
Affiliate directory: <http://cliniclegal.org/about-us/affiliate-directory> (Information on immigration and services providers throughout the nation)

³⁶ Illegal practitioners are sometimes referred to as “*notarios*” because in Mexico and other Latin American countries, notaries can assume the functions of practicing law.

³⁷ “Fight Notario Fraud,” American Bar Association, Commission on Immigration (2013). www.americanbar.org/groups/public_services/immigration/projects_initiatives/fightnotariofraud.html.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ For a toolkit on combating immigration fraud, see http://www.ilrc.org/files/documents/ilrc-anti_fraud_toolkit-2013.pdf.

⁴⁰ See www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=3a983ffa91570310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=8a2f6d26d17df110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD.

⁴¹ Individuals may qualify for asylum if they flee persecution on the grounds of political opinion, religion, race, national origin or social group. See Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. §208 – 8 U.S.C. 1158.

⁴² Fear of the government is a consistent concern that impedes applicants. Whether applicants are refugees or seek asylum, many have had negative experiences with an unfriendly government in their homeland, and many applicants fear interacting with any type of government agency. See generally, Krista M. Pereira, Robert Crosnoe, Karina Fortuny, Juan Manuel Pedroza, Kjersti Ulvestad, Christina Weiland, Hirokazu Yoshikawa, and Ajay Chaudry, “Barriers to Immigrants’ Access to Health and Human Services Programs,” Aspe Research Brief, (May 2012).

⁴³ The U.S. accepts dual citizenship but does not encourage it. For more information on dual citizenship, see the U.S. State Department website: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1753.html.

⁴⁴ This legal directory provides nationwide information and is assembled by Pro Bono Net and the Immigration Advocates Network. For more information, see: www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/. This resource can be shared by local websites or other communication vehicles that cities and counties use to communicate with their residents. See Appendix II.

⁴⁵ Cohen, Eric, Juliette Steadman and Rufus Whitley, “Immigrant Leadership Training Curriculum,” available as a downloadable document through Immigrant Legal Resource Center website, www.ilrc.org.

⁴⁶ For a report on what U.S. cities are doing to integrate immigrants, see National League of Cities, “Municipal Innovations in Immigrant Integration: 20 Cities, 20 Good Practices. Municipal Action for Immigrant Integration, a publication from the National League of Cities. (2004), available at <http://www.ilrc.org/resources/immigrant-leadership-training-curriculum>.

⁴⁷ For further information on the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission see <http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=120>; for information on the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs see www.sfgsa.org/index.aspx?page=961.

⁴⁸ Ramakrishnan, S. Karthick and Paul G. Lewis. *Immigrants and Local Governance: The View from City Hall*, Public Policy Institute of California (2005), at 36-35.

⁴⁹ Gambetta, Ricardo, and Zivile Gedrimaite. *Municipal Innovations in Immigrant Integration: 20 Cities, 20 Good Practices. Municipal Action for Immigrant Integration*, National League of Cities. (2004). www.nlc.org. <http://www.nlc.org/Documents/FindCitySolutions/ResearchInnovation/ImmigrantIntegration/municipal-innovations-immigrant-integration-20-cities-sep10.pdf>

⁵⁰ To reach the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, local officials can call the Community Relations Officer in their area:

Western Regional Office (based in Laguna Niguel, covers seven western states)
Janna Evans, Regional Community Relations Officer
24000 Avila Road, 6th floor
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
janna.m.evans@uscis.dhs.gov
(949) 360-3582

Los Angeles District (covers Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Luis Obispo counties)
Grace Arreola-Munoz, Community Relations Officer
Jennifer Lane, Community Relations Officer
300 N. Los Angeles Street
Room 6060
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Graciela.Arreola-Munoz@uscis.dhs.gov
Jennifer.A.Lane@uscis.dhs.gov

San Francisco District (covers 16 coastal counties north and south of San Francisco)
Rosemarie Fan, Community Relations Officer
630 Sansome St, Suite 1080
San Francisco, CA 94111
lucee.r.fan@uscis.dhs.gov

Sacramento District (covers 33 inland counties north and south of Sacramento and east to the Nevada state line, includes Fresno and Bakersfield)
Sai Chang, Community Relations Officer
650 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Vilaysay.P.Chang@uscis.dhs.gov

San Diego District (covers San Diego and Imperial Counties)
John Ramirez, Community Relations Officer

880 Front Street, Suite 4251
San Diego, CA 92101
john.f.ramirez@USCIS.dhs.gov

⁵¹ See county supervisor's participation in press release, "Santa Clara County Announces 24th Annual Citizenship Day." <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/opa/ma/Pages/Santa-Clara-County-Announces-24th-Annual-Citizenship-Day-.aspx>.

⁵² See <http://www.youmeweoakley.org/2nd-annual-citizenship-drive>

⁵³ For more information about United States Citizenship and Immigration Services grants see <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=ea0e0b89284a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=ea0e0b89284a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

⁵⁴ Gambetta, Ricardo, and Zivile Gedrimaite, *Municipal Innovations in Immigrant Integration: 20 Cities, 20 Good Practices. Municipal Action for Immigrant Integration*, National League of Cities. (2004). www.nlc.org. <http://www.nlc.org/Documents/FindCitySolutions/ResearchInnovation/ImmigrantIntegration/municipal-innovations-immigrant-integration-20-cities-sep10.pdf>

⁵⁵ www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/riverside/riverside-headlines-index/20120711-riverside-county-libraries-offer-free-citizenship-classes.ece

⁵⁶ www.cupertino.org/index.aspx?page=188

⁵⁷ www.ukiahcitizenship.com

⁵⁸ For English as a Second Language classes in Santa Clara see www.immigrantinfo.org/esl/index.html.

⁵⁹ www.ukiahcitizenship.com

⁶⁰ The New Americans Campaign is funded by a number of philanthropies. Convening foundations include the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Grove Foundation, the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, Open Society Foundations, and the JPB Foundation. Participating legal service programs include the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), the Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Immigration Advocates Network (IAN), International Rescue Committee, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the National Immigration Forum and Pro Bono Net.

⁶¹ www.sfmayor.org/index.aspx?page=846&recordid=367&returnURL=%2findex.aspx.

⁶² For more information, see <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/services/outreach/newamericans/index.shtml>

⁶³ http://www.imls.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/USCIS_Agreement.pdf

⁶⁴ The City of Los Angeles joined the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in a letter of agreement to promote immigrant integration and citizenship awareness, originally signed in 2010 and renewed in 2012. See "Letter of Agreement between USCIS and the City of Los Angeles to Promote Immigrant Integration and Citizenship Awareness" press release, available at: www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=1c85cf0c2f0a9310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=8a2f6d26d17df110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD.

⁶⁵ Local officials may contact U.S. Community Relations Officers in their region. See note 45.

⁶⁶ See

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=ea0e0b89284a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=ea0e0b89284a3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

⁶⁷ Since the program began in 2008, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has awarded \$18.3 million through 111 grants to immigrant-serving organizations that provide citizenship preparation services to approximately 38,000 legal immigrants in 30 states and the District of Columbia. In 2012, the U.S. Immigration Service awarded grants to community organizations located in Anaheim, Stockton, Los Angeles, Fresno, San Jose and Sacramento.

⁶⁸ See www.SiliconValleyCF.org/one/Spring-12/index.

⁶⁹ For example, when in 2012 fire broke out at the Chevron refinery and spewed toxic fumes in the surrounding area in Richmond, California, ethnic media provided essential information to monolingual immigrants in Hmong, Laotian, Vietnamese and a number of other languages. See www.ktsf.com/chevron-town-hall-meeting.

⁷⁰ The [NationalOnlineDirectoryofEthnicMedia](#), the most comprehensive listing of ethnic media, can help local officials identify media outlets by city, language, ethnicity and media type.

⁷¹ www.lavote.net/Voter/New_Citizen.cfm

⁷² For information on hosting naturalization ceremonies, local officials may contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Community Relations Officers in their region. See note 45.

⁷³ Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, observed on September 17, commemorate the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787. It also recognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become U.S. citizens.

⁷⁴ www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

⁷⁵ Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), *Immigrant Integration Framework*, (2013) <http://www.gcir.org/integration>

⁷⁶ “The Intercultural City Step by Step: Practical Guide for Applying the Urban Model of Intercultural Integration.” *Intercultural Cities: Governance and Policies for Diverse Communities*. Council of Europe, August 2012. http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&produit_aliasid=2760.