

Cities for Citizenship



Invest in your city by investing in citizenship!

- By empowering eligible Legal Permanent Residents to naturalize, your city's economy could grow significantly. Naturalization through C4C efforts will increase economic activity by up to \$1.6 billion in Chicago, \$2.8 billion in Los Angeles, and \$4.1 billion in New York. How much faster could your city grow?
- Naturalization raises the earning potential of immigrants by more than 10%.
- Naturalization leads to greater rates of immigrant home ownership and participation in the community.
- Naturalization is a powerful tool to expand financial inclusion, enabling today's Legal Permanent Residents—52% of whom are low-income—to establish stronger financial identities.
- Almost 9 million people are currently eligible for U.S. citizenship, which could represent a \$52 billion windfall for the economy over the next decade if they naturalized.

The infrastructure already exists in many cities to achieve greater rates of naturalization among eligible residents. **Your city could:**

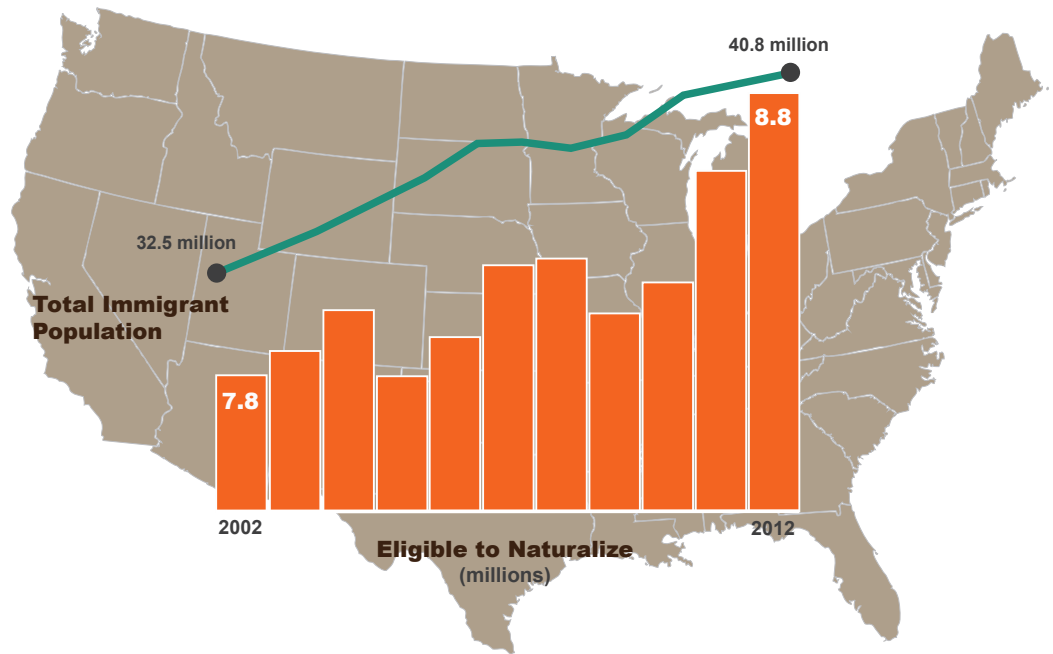
- Have existing city institutions, including schools, libraries and community centers, partner with non-profit organizations to conduct outreach and run free workshops.
- Link naturalization and legal counseling to job training, voter registration or financial literacy programs already in place.
- Provide scale-up grants to organizations that already run free naturalization workshops in trusted settings.
- Translate existing naturalization materials into more languages to reach a broader audience.
- Deepen collaborations with unions and private-sector employers with large immigrant populations.
- Expand partnerships with credit unions or other financial institutions to establish low- or no-interest loans programs to help residents pay application fees.
- Organize city legal staff to offer pro bono support for those who want to apply for citizenship.
- Advertise initiatives through well-established media channels and social media networks.
- Identify city agencies that are already key points of contact with immigrant communities and arm them with information and resources.
- Assign city volunteers to focus on naturalization efforts.

By publicly encouraging eligible residents to apply for U.S. citizenship, and by committing financial support to the effort, municipal leaders would send a strong message of inclusion to immigrant communities, and produce substantial economic benefits for all of their constituents.



Legal Permanent Residents Eligible to Naturalize

Sources: Current Population Survey Foreign-born population, U.S Census Bureau. Estimate of the Legal Permanent Resident Population, U.S Department of Homeland Security.



Cities for Citizenship Leaders

City of Los Angeles

In 2012, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Los Angeles announced a unique partnership between USCIS and the City of Los Angeles focused on providing educational materials, and highlighting the benefits of U.S. citizenship at city facilities and through city programs, particularly through the city's Citizenship Corners in its public libraries and family source centers. This program in its libraries has been replicated in other cities and the City will continue to build on this infrastructure to promote citizenship. In 2013, Mayor Eric Garcetti re-established a partnership with USCIS to develop an outreach campaign on citizenship to reach Los Angeles's portion of California's nearly 2.5 million citizenship-eligible legal permanent residents.

City of New York City

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs coordinates the NYC Citizenship program, which provides free, high-quality legal services to New Yorkers who wish to naturalize. With CUNY Citizenship Now!, Urban Upbound, and the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Financial Empowerment, and funding provided by Citi Community Development, NYC Citizenship has conducted workshops for more than 7,600 New Yorkers and helped more than 1,800 New Yorkers complete their naturalization applications since 2012. This year New York City is making its citizenship program even more robust, partnering with City agencies and public libraries to reach more immigrant New Yorkers and connect them to free, high-quality legal services that will help them achieve U.S. citizenship.

City of Chicago

Over the past six years the New Americans Initiative, through a coordinated campaign in partnership with the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR), and numerous governmental, business, faith, and community partners, has helped 90,000 immigrants and their children to become U.S. citizens. The City of Chicago, home to over 500,000 immigrants, has an Office of New Americans that acts as a resource for the immigrant small business community, improving access to city services and expanding opportunities for immigrant entrepreneurs.



Cities for Citizenship is a major national initiative aimed at increasing citizenship among eligible U.S. permanent residents and encouraging cities across the country to invest in citizenship programs. It is chaired by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, with support from the Center for Popular Democracy and the National Partnership for New Americans. Citi Community Development is the Founding Corporate Partner.

For more information about C4C, visit www.citiesforcitizenship.org or contact us at Cities4Citizenship@populardemocracy.org or 347-915-0432.

