



**CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.**

Resources and Tips for Promoting Citizenship in your Community

February 27, 2018

CLINIC's Citizenship Navigator and text/refugee Projects are funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Grant # 90RB0051-01-00. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funders, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

Agenda

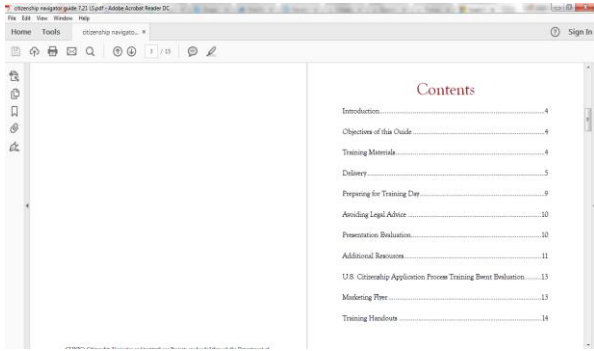
1. Overview of community education tool
2. Benefits of citizenship
3. Primary reasons why people don't apply for citizenship
4. Citizenship application requirements
5. Overview of the application process
6. Overview of the citizenship interview
7. Things that complicate the application process
8. How to protect yourself
9. Helpful resources
10. Questions

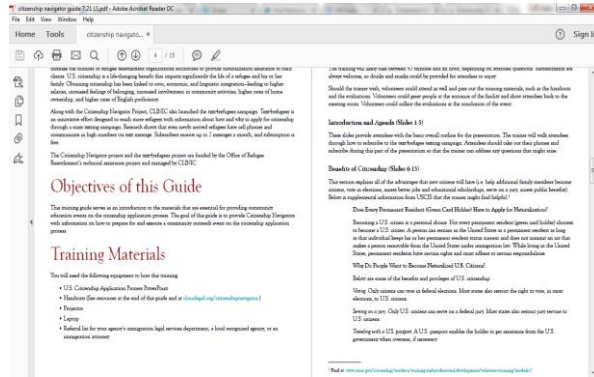



Community Education Tool

- Teacher guide
- PowerPoint presentation
- Marketing flyers
- Evaluation flyer
- Handouts







CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC.

The U.S. Citizenship Application Process

CLINIC's Citizenship Navigator and text4refugee Projects are funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Grant # 90RB0051-01-00. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the funders, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

Benefits of Citizenship

- Help additional family members become citizens
- Vote in elections
- Access better jobs and educational scholarships
- Serve on a jury
- Access public benefits



Benefits of Citizenship

- Travel to other countries easier, without worry about re-entering the U.S.
- Receive assistance from the U.S. embassy when abroad
- Live outside the U.S. without time limits
- Keep your residency: In general, a U.S. citizen's right to remain in the United States cannot be taken away.
<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/should-i-consider-us-citizenship>



Why Don't People Apply for Citizenship?

- Requirement to speak, read and write English
- Requirement to learn U.S. Civics
- Cost of application is high
- Lack of assistance with application
- Lack of knowledge of benefits and requirements
- Idea that the application process is complicated



Citizenship Application Requirements

- 1. Be at least 18 years old
- 2. Be a lawful permanent resident (LPR or green card holder) for five years (three years if you are married to a U.S. citizen)
- 3. Live in the U.S. as an LPR for the past five years (three years if you are married to a U.S. citizen)
- 4. Be present U.S. for at least half of the five years (or half of the three years if married to a U.S. citizen) before applying for naturalization
- 5. Live in the USCIS district or state in which you are applying for at least three months



Citizenship Application Requirements

- 6. Pass a test on speaking, reading, and writing basic English
- 7. Pass a test on U.S. history and government
- 8. Have good moral character
- 9. Understand and accept the oath of allegiance to the U.S.



Overview of Application Process

- 1. Consult with an authorized immigration legal service provider to see if you are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.
- 2. Obtain and complete a copy of the "Application for Naturalization" (N-400) form.
- 3. Gather the required documents and payment.
- 4. Submit the application.



Overview of Application Process

- 5. Attend the biometrics appointment.
- 6. Attend the citizenship interview.
- 7. Attend the oath ceremony and take the oath of allegiance.



Overview of the Citizenship Interview

- The interview begins the moment the officer calls your name.
- You will be “sworn in” (asked to promise to tell the truth).
- The interview begins with questions based on the N-400 form.
Examples: What is your legal name?
Where were you born?



Overview of the Citizenship Interview

- The applicant must complete the English reading test.
 - The interviewer will show the applicant a sentence in English. The applicant will need to read the sentence aloud correctly.
- The applicant must complete the English writing test.
 - The interviewer will say a sentence in English. The applicant will need to write it down correctly.
- The applicant must pass the U.S. Civics test.
 - The interviewer will ask the applicant up to 10 civics questions from the USCIS’ larger list of 100 questions (<https://goo.gl/56LB7y>). The applicant must answer 6 correctly.



Complications in the Application Process

- You have been arrested and/or convicted of a crime.
- You lied to USCIS to get a green card for yourself or someone else.
- You lied or did not tell the complete truth in order to get public benefits.



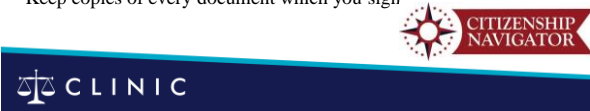
Complications in the Application Process

- You did not file your federal income tax returns.
- You helped someone enter the U.S. illegally.
- You did not support your children who live apart from you.
- The information on your N-400 is different from what you wrote on your green card or refugee application



Protect Yourself Against Fraud

- In the United States, only attorneys and Department of Justice trained representatives can provide legal advice and services about immigration.
- In the United States, notary publics cannot give legal advice or provide immigration services.
- All USCIS forms, such as the N-400, are free of charge.
- Avoid paying cash for immigration services. Forms like checks, money orders, or credit cards ensure you have a record of expenses.
- Keep copies of every document which you sign



Other Resources

- Completing the Application for Naturalization Form N-400 (free with code)
- Citizenship Toolkit
- Archived trainings



Win a Pizza Party!

1. Subscribe 25 unique clients to the text4refugee campaign between March 1 and May 31.
2. Keep track of the cell phone numbers that are subscribed.
3. Once you reach 25, submit the list of cell numbers to me (lspeasmaker@cliniclegal.org).
4. I will verify that those numbers are subscribed.
5. Once verified, you will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card via email. You can earn up to 3 gift cards in each reporting period (March – May and June – August) however, there is no limit on how many people you may subscribe per period.
6. The top subscriber for each period wins a \$100 pizza party for his/her office (payable by a gift card).



Questions?

lspeasmaker@cliniclegal.org
www.cliniclegal.org/citizenshipnavigator

