

MODERNIZE THE PATH TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP!

Let All Aspiring New Americans File Online

Online filing options expand access to citizenship and should be available to all naturalization applicants, but for too long USCIS has placed barriers in the path of low-income and working-class families by not accepting electronic fee waiver requests. Our organizations strongly urge USCIS to eliminate this obstacle as a top priority in its digital transformation efforts, and enhance the overall accessibility of online filing for naturalization services.

USCIS must offer the option of filing accessible digitized fee waiver and reduced cost application requests in 2024.

We are raising this urgent appeal because:

- Fee waivers and reduced cost applications are a crucial tool in making immigration and U.S. citizenship opportunities equally accessible to all American families, regardless of their economic status.
- USCIS and all of us increasingly transact business online, and online filing streamlines the processing of naturalization applications, significantly reducing potential errors from transcription of paper filings. Digital filing allows USCIS to operate more efficiently, and saves the government valuable resources.
- Accessible online filing is advantageous for U.S. citizenship applicants and service providers because it speeds processing and makes possible provision of high-quality standardized, application assistance to more applicants, where service providers can confirm that applications are submitted in a timely way.
- For about eight years, USCIS has enabled eligible U.S. citizenship applicants to pursue naturalization by filing online, but accessible digital filing is not available as an option for those who also need fee waiver or reduced cost applications.
- USCIS is working toward capability to accept online versions of all applications and petitions by FY26, and has retired its Forms by Mail service for delivering paper applications.
- Equal access to digital systems regardless of ability or capacity is an urgent matter, but while other government agencies have developed online platforms – even agencies which collect sensitive financial information and documents – USCIS has failed to provide this access as an option to low-income and working-class families.
- USCIS must accompany its efforts to provide online filing for fee waivers and reduced cost applications with efforts to make online filing more accessible for all naturalization applicants. The online Form N-400 is difficult for people with lower digital literacy to use.

If USCIS lacks sufficient resources to move forward with accessible online fee waiver applications, it must pursue them in regular and supplemental budget requests.

An accessible online filing option for all aspiring new Americans will help more LPRs become U.S. citizens and make our government more efficient. As naturalization service providers, advocates, educators, and other stakeholders, we look forward to working closely with USCIS to reach this important goal.

Supporters:

National Organizations:

AFT
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)
CASA, Inc.
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
Church World Service
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Dominicanos USA (DUSA)
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Freedom Network USA
Global Refuge
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigrants Act Now
Immigration Hub
Japanese American Citizens League
Justice in Motion
Justicia Lab
Language & Communication Workshop
Laotian American National Alliance
NALEO Educational Fund
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Immigration Project
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)
National Partnership for New Americans
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Social Workers for Immigration Justice
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United We Dream
Welcoming America
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

State/Local Organizations:

Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
Ayuda
BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY
Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
CARECEN
Central American Resource Center - CARECEN - of California
Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC)
Coalición de Derechos Humanos

Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Dignidad
Emerald Isle Immigration Center
Employee Rights Center (ERC)
GALEO Impact Fund
HIAS Pennsylvania
Honest Law Group
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties
Jones Library ESL Center
Korean Community Service Center
Latin American Coalition
Literacy Source
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
Oasis Legal Services
One More Citizen, Inc.
OneAmerica
Open Door Immigration Services
Promise Arizona
Self-Help for the Elderly
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
UYMCA New American Welcome Center
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

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