

Are You Considering Becoming a U.S. Citizen?



Important Info You Should Know

Benefits of Naturalization

- Civic participation – citizens can more fully participate in society including serving on juries
- Economic benefits – citizenship can open doors to new job opportunities, including federal jobs, and can boost earnings.
- Educational opportunities – citizenship can broaden eligibility for scholarships and financial aid
- Family Reunification – citizens may sponsor certain family members for lawful permanent residency
- Protection from deportation – under the law, citizens should not be deported
- Reduced travel restrictions – citizens are not subject to travel restrictions on entry to the U.S. and can travel with less visa restrictions to certain foreign countries
- Voting– citizens are eligible to vote in federal elections

Who is Eligible to Naturalize?

- Adults who are 18 years of age or older
- Lawful permanent resident (LPR) or “green card” holder for five years or, if LPR was based on marriage to a U.S. citizen, three years
- Have maintained continue presence in the U.S. for five (or three) years and have lived in their current state of residence for 3 months
- Have been physically present in the U.S. for at least half of the five years (or half of the three years if married to a U.S. citizen)
- Have good moral character
- Are ready to take English and Civics tests*
- Are willing to take Oath of Allegiance to the United States

**Certain people may qualify for a waiver from taking the tests*

Learn more about the naturalization process and your eligibility by contacting Global Refuge’s Immigration Legal Services team.

