

CUNY CITIZENSHIP NOW!

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW
Free Immigration Services for the People of New York
20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

CUNY Citizenship Now!

WE ARE THE LARGEST UNIVERSITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE NATION, PROVIDING FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION LAW SERVICES. We believe in empowering

immigrants so that they are in control of their immigration case, a model of legal assistance called pro se. Through this model, our attorneys and paralegals help more than 15,000 individuals each year, all on the path to citizenship. In addition to our one-on-one services, we have also developed an event model to help large groups with their immigration applications. The model is nationally recognized, has been implemented by other organizations, and has served thousands of immigrants who cannot afford to pay for private attorneys. We also work with our partners to offer Civics classes and workshops about immigrant rights, business creation, and finances.



Our History

We started operations in 1997, offering free citizenship and immigration services to the students, faculty, and staff of the City University of New York (CUNY). At that time, we only had one center at City College and traveled around to the various colleges assisting with naturalization. Today, we operate six full-time immigration centers recognized by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and more than 30 sites in the offices of New York City council members where we provide a variety of immigration law services. Annually, we hold more than 20 community-based events, not including seminars or classes.

..... “
...I was granted DACA and now I have a social security card and a work permit. **Call-in volunteers have changed my life. Today, I find myself looking into college, looking for a job and entering adulthood without letting the fear of my immigration status stop me from dreaming.**
.....

ANA MEJIA, NEW YORK



► Our Achievements

161,224 Cases and Consultations in 20 Years

15,107 cases and consultations in the last fiscal year

8,266

U.S. CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization applications and certificates of citizenship

3,205 FEE WAIVERS for naturalization application.

SAVINGS OF \$2,323,625 USCIS FILING FEES

3,063

FAMILY UNIFICATION

Family-based petitions, adjustment of status, consular processing and removal of conditions on legal permanent resident status

967

HUMANITARIAN IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and consultations

“

My wife is now a permanent resident! We would like to thank you so very much. Your patience, your clarity and expertise gave us confidence to follow the cause of actions needed to accomplish (this) goal.

LUISA AND STEPHEN, NEW YORK



2017 CITYWIDE CITIZENSHIP EVENT, NEW YORK

“

The dedicated staff at CUNY Citizenship Now! was a support system for me throughout the entire Advance Parole process. From the initial application and the request of an expedited application, to travelling and making sure I returned safely, they eased the process and made an intimidating experience conquerable.

SHARENY, NEW YORK



2017 ADVANCE PAROLE TRIP TO MEXICO

2017 CITYWIDE CITIZENSHIP EVENT, NEW YORK

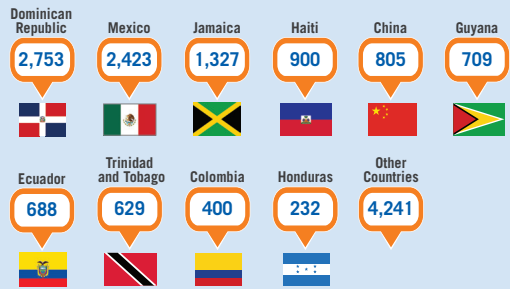


CUNY Xpress: an ONA Immigrant Opportunity Center

Our CUNY Xpress Immigration Center in Washington Heights is one of the Opportunity Centers of the New York State Office for New Americans (ONA). The center, helps newly arriving immigrants start their lives in the United States offering immigration services, English classes, and seminars, all geared towards integration in the community with civic and economic opportunities.

TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE SERVED IN 2017



Thanks to the help from volunteers and staff at the event, we were able to become U.S. citizens... My wife and I voted in the presidential election. We are very grateful. This is a difficult time for all immigrants, and we want to encourage permanent residents to become citizens.

GUILLERMO BERIGUETE, NEW YORK

I was unemployed and was unable to finance my citizenship application, but through the CUNY and NY Daily News Call-in all fees were waived. I am now a U.S. citizen of this great country and all it cost me was a bus fare.

MAGELLA PHILLIP, NEW YORK



2017 CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE EVENT, ARIZONA

Empowering Lives

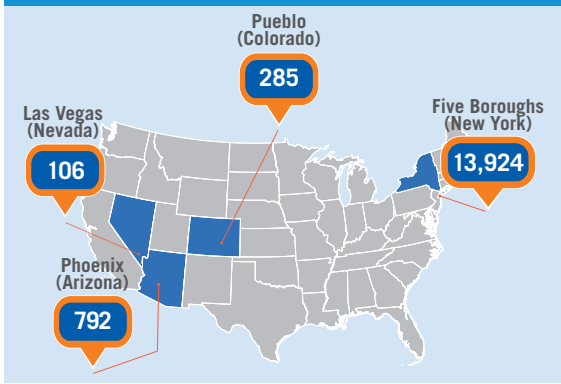


Citizenship Plus Services

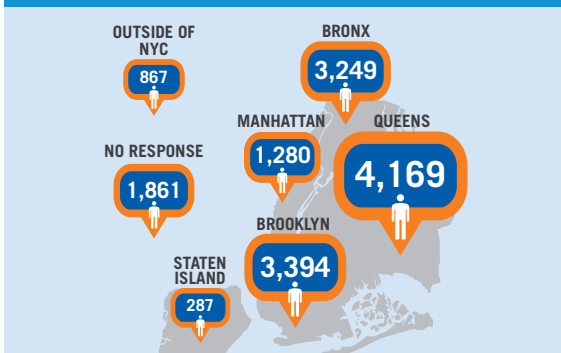
The Citizenship Plus program, a partnership with the NYC Council, is one of our most successful initiatives. Through this program, we provide services from the offices of more than 30 Council Members and select community-based organizations. At these locations, our attorneys help immigrants to complete applications for citizenship, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and family-based petitions. We also provide free consultations and referrals on other immigration matters. The program also offers application assistance at events throughout New York City. In the last three years, Citizenship Plus has helped more than 14,000 New Yorkers.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED IN 2017

BY LOCATIONS



NEW YORK



Our Citizenship Events

A vital part of our activities is our Volunteer Corps, a multicultural group of volunteers trained to help us at our events. We prepare our volunteers to act in legal and non-legal capacities under our supervision, which increases our capacity to provide services at community events. The Corps brings together attorneys, paralegals, community activists and retirees from the diverse communities of New York City. We partner with New York City Council members, the New Americans Campaign (NAC), the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund and other elected officials to bring these events to the community.

..... “

I was undecided about becoming a citizen. I needed help through the whole process. CUNY Citizenship Now! and Carmen, a paralegal, gave me a lot of peace of mind. I know that I was in good hands.

.....

MARIA PADILLA, COLORADO

Helping Our Community



CUNY/Daily News Citizenship NOW! Call-in

In 2004, CUNY and the New York Daily News convened an annual hotline to provide free information about citizenship and immigration law. To date, more than 170,000 callers have called us. We have answered questions from multilingual callers on a variety of immigration topics, such as how to obtain U.S. citizenship and how to petition for family members. We have connected callers with reliable immigration law services, English and Citizenship preparation classes, and other resources through the five-day hotline. At the 2017 call-in, our staff and 422 volunteers assisted 13,716 callers in more than 39 languages.



I would like to thank Citizenship Now! and Arianne, a paralegal, for helping me fill my U.S. citizenship application. Without their help this wouldn't be possible. I hope to pass the exam with the help of God and thanks to you for all your help.

GLORIA ESTRADA, COLORADO



I'm not a rich guy and I don't have a lot in my bank account but I have time, which is all that I can give back to my community. The good thing is that God gave me good health and I have a lot of time.

MUHAMMAD AKRAM, VOLUNTEER CORPS MEMBER

MUHAMMAD AKRAM



CUNY Citizenship Now! National Initiative

In 2017, we opened centers in Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada and expanded services in New York, through our National Initiative. Our experienced New York attorneys oversaw the local staff to guarantee the best service. We also held events in partnership with local organizations and volunteer teams.

Education Partners

We offer Civics classes to prepare permanent residents for the naturalization exam. Thanks to funding from USCIS, our partnership with Hostos Community College offers ESL/Civics classes through their Department of Continuing Education. Our collaboration with the New-York Historical Society prepares permanent residents on American history through an innovative program that incorporates the use of objects, paintings, and documents from the museum's collection.

Making a Difference

➤ Service Breakdown

PARTICIPANTS SERVED FISCAL YEAR 2016 – 2017

TOTAL

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED: **15,107**
COMPLETED CASES: **8,071**
CONSULTATIONS: **7,036**

CITIZENSHIP

8,266

5,104 +
COMPLETED CASES

3,162
CONSULTATIONS



Fee Waiver
Applications
3,205

Savings to Participants
\$2,323,625

ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS

1,595

401 +
COMPLETED CASES

1,194
CONSULTATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER

1,568

501 +
COMPLETED CASES

1,067
CONSULTATIONS

DOCUMENT RENEWALS AND REPLACEMENTS

1,243

980 +
COMPLETED CASES

263
CONSULTATIONS



Fee Waiver
Applications
651

Savings to Participants
\$351,540

FAMILY BASED PETITIONS

993

443 +
COMPLETED CASES

550
CONSULTATIONS

DACA/DAPA

597

301 +
COMPLETED CASES

296
CONSULTATIONS

CONSULAR PROCESSING

360

117 +
COMPLETED CASES

243
CONSULTATIONS

ADVANCED PAROLE

241

75 +
COMPLETED CASES

166
CONSULTATIONS

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)

129

93 +
COMPLETED CASES

36
CONSULTATIONS

CONDITIONS OF REMOVAL

115

56 +
COMPLETED CASES

59
CONSULTATIONS



CUNY CITIZENSHIP NOW! CALL-IN 2017



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