

ABOUT CUNY Citizenship Now!

www.cuny.edu/citizenshipnow



CUNY CITIZENSHIP NOW! IS THE LARGEST UNIVERSITY-BASED LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE NATION. We provide free, high quality, and confidential citizenship and immigration law services to all New Yorkers. Under the leadership of Professor Allan Wernick, CUNY Citizenship Now!'s attorneys and paralegals help close to 10,000 individuals each year at our centers and close to 2,500 at our community based events. We also coordinate community, educational, and volunteer initiatives to help expand opportunities for New York City's immigrant population. Our services are available to the community in several languages, including Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, and Italian.

Our History

In 1997, the City University of New York (CUNY) established CUNY Citizenship Now! to address the growing need for free citizenship and immigration services among CUNY's foreign-born students, faculty, and staff. We quickly expanded to serve all immigrant New Yorkers. We now operate six immigration centers recognized by the Department of Justice (DOJ) where we provide a broad range of immigration law services.

Thanks to funding provided by the City Council, we also provide services in the offices of more than 30 New York City Council Members and designated community-based organizations. Additional funding from Juntos Podemos/Together We Can, allows us to run another four full-time centers and four part-time centers in New York, Nevada and Colorado.

CUNY/Daily News Citizenship NOW! Call-in

Since 2004, CUNY Citizenship Now!, in partnership with the New York Daily News, has convened annual phone banks providing free citizenship and immigration law information to more than 156,000 callers. We receive 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. Held for one week each spring, we provide callers with referrals to services and information about other resources. Our overall capacity has more than doubled since the event started. At the 2016 call-in, more than 400 volunteers assisted 13,327 callers in more than 40 languages.

CUNY/New York City Council Citizenship Plus Program

Since its inception in 2012, the CUNY/New York City Council Citizenship Plus

program has become a resounding success. This unique and innovative program provides services at more than 30 Council Member offices and designated community-based organizations. At Citizenship Plus sites, CUNY attorneys provide free and confidential assistance completing 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. Through this initiative, in the last three years we have helped more than 14,000 New Yorkers navigate our country's complicated citizenship and immigration laws.

CUNY Citizenship Now! Citizenship Events

Utilizing trained volunteers from the NYC/CUNY Citizenship Now! Volunteer Corps, CUNY Citizenship Now! partners 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 provide free application assistance at schools and community centers across the five boroughs of New York City.



A participant on the path to citizenship at one of our application assistance events.

Yearly, we help close to 2,500 individuals at these events. The Corps is a partnership with the New York Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), and is made up of attorneys, students, community activists and retirees from the diverse communities of New York City. We have also held events to help immigrants apply for TPS and Deferred Action, utilizing the citizenship event model.

CUNY Citizenship Now! National Initiative

The CUNY Citizenship Now! National Initiative in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and in the Greater New York Metropolitan Area is made possible by Juntos Podemos/Together We Can, a nongovernmental, nonpartisan program of the AEM-USA Foundation and Parents Alliance created to fund initiatives and actions designed to advance the development of Mexicans living in the United States. The initiative builds on CUNY Citizenship Now!'s proven model of providing off-site services and cost-effective pro se legal assistance through strong partnerships and volunteer utilization in New York. Thanks to the funding provided, we now operate four full-time centers in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and New York, and three part-time centers in New York, and another part-time center in Colorado.

NYS Office of New Americans Immigrant Opportunity Center

The NYS Office of New Americans (ONA) has designated CUNY Xpress in Washington Heights as an Immigrant Opportunity Center. Open five days a week and located in the heart of this immigrant community, the center provides immigration legal assistance, English classes, seminars on how to start and grow small businesses, and workshops on college admission and immigrant labor rights.



cuny.edu/citizenshipnow



[citizenshipnow](https://www.facebook.com/citizenshipnow)



[@CUNYCitizenship](https://twitter.com/CUNYCitizenship)



[@cunycitizenshipnow](https://www.instagram.com/cunycitizenshipnow)

Revised 06/16/17