Celebrating 10 YEARS OF IMPACT

CITIES & COUNTIES FOR CITIZENSHIP
Advancing Citizenship with Local Governments

NPNA
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS

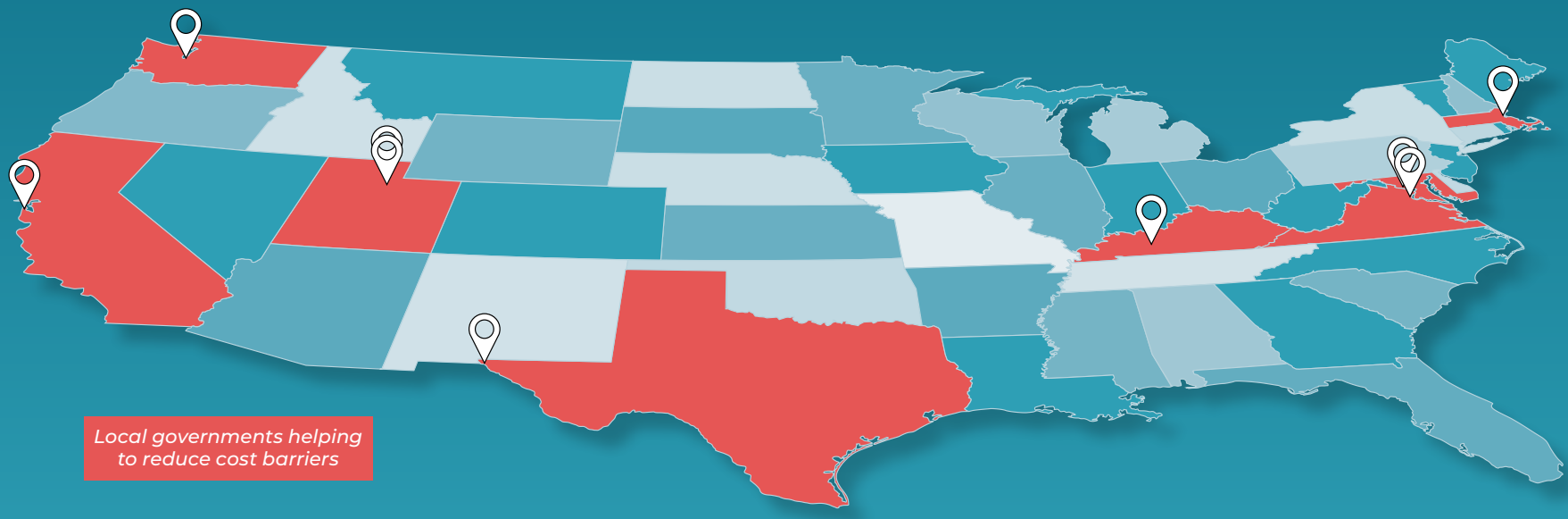
# Keeping Citizenship Affordable: Local Government Strategies to Reduce Cost Barriers to Naturalization

**What's Happening?**
On June 23, 2026, DHS issued a proposed rule that would nearly double naturalization application fees and eliminate fee waivers and reduced-fee options. If finalized, the proposal would increase the naturalization application fee by up to 80%.

## Application for Naturalization (N-400)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Paper Filing | **$750** (current fee) | **$1330** (proposed fee – **75% higher**) |
| Online Filing | **$710** (current fee) | **$1280** (proposed fee – **80% higher**) |

The proposal would also eliminate most fee waivers and the reduced-fee option for naturalization applications.



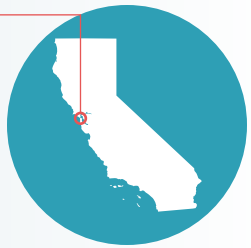
# Local Government Strategies to Reduce Cost Barriers to Naturalization

**Cities and Counties for Citizenship (CC4C)** is a growing national network of nearly 125 cities and counties aimed at increasing citizenship among eligible U.S. lawful permanent residents (LPRs) and encouraging localities across the country to promote and expand citizenship and immigrant & refugee inclusion programs.

Together, CC4C's work has brought ambitious and innovative visions to the imperative role cities and counties play in welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees – and has created a long-lasting, multi-generational impact for U.S. permanent residents obtaining citizenship or moving toward naturalization.

Cities and counties continue to play a key role in helping reduce financial barriers to citizenship. Below, we highlight local government strategies that have already been effective in reducing financial barriers with the hope that other localities will use them as a guide to develop and implement strategies tailored to their communities.

## San Francisco, CA



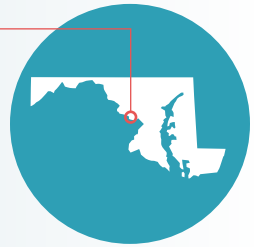
**The San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative (SFPCI)** helps eligible lawful permanent residents overcome the financial barriers by connecting them with financial assistance. The initiative partners with **Mission Asset Fund** to provide eligible individuals with full grant for their citizenship application fee. To qualify, individuals with a demonstrated connection to San Francisco (live, work, or study in the city) may be eligible for application fee assistance.

## Somerville, MA



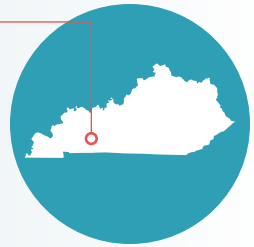
**The Immigrant Fee Support Fund** organized by **Somerville Educator's Union (SEU)** and **The Welcome Project**, raises funds to help immigrants and community members access critical immigration-related services by reducing financial barriers associated with application fees. The fund provides an opportunity for community members and supporters to directly contribute to financial assistance for immigrants, helping make immigration processes more accessible for individuals and families with limited financial resources. This is an example of a community-based fee assistance model that mobilizes philanthropic and community support to help immigrants overcome the cost of immigration-related applications and services, including naturalization fee application costs.

## Montgomery County, MD



The Montgomery County **Maryland Citizenship Scholarship**, awarded by We Are CASA, can provide up to $300 to help reduce the cost of applying for citizenship.

## Bowling Green, KY

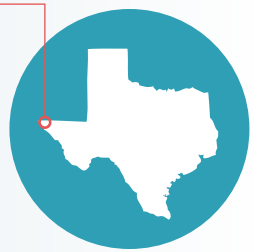


**NaturalizeBG** provides scholarships to eligible low-income lawful permanent residents (LPRs) to help cover the cost of their citizenship applications. The program is open to LPRs who are eligible for U.S. citizenship, reside in Bowling Green and/or are employed within the city limits, and meet specified income requirements. Applicants must have completed the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, or Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), or complete the applicable form within 90 days of receiving the award. Since 2018, NaturalizeBG has awarded more than 76 scholarships totaling over $30,555.

# Local Government Strategies to Reduce Cost Barriers to Naturalization

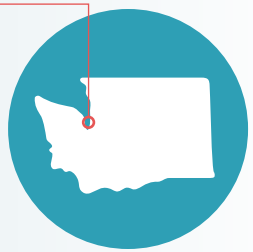
## El Paso County, TX

**The Pathway to American Citizenship (PACE)** provides educational support and reimbursement to eligible El Paso County employees who are lawful permanent residents (LPRs) pursuing U.S. citizenship. If eligible, El Paso County employees benefit from citizenship preparation classes and N-400 application & biometrics fee reimbursement.



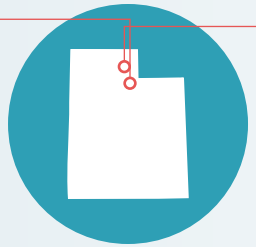
## Seattle, WA

The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' (OIRA) **New Citizen Program (NCP)** partners with ten community-based organizations throughout Seattle and King County to promote naturalization and help low-income immigrants and refugees become U.S. citizens by providing free legal services, case management, and citizenship classes.



## Salt Lake City, UT

**Salt Lake City Future Citizens PATH** program is open to eligible folks (green card holders) who live within Salt Lake City limits and seek support with the U.S. citizenship process. This free program aims to make the naturalization process more accessible by providing legal help throughout the application process, grants to cover the application fee and citizenship classes.



## Ogden, UT

**Ogden's Path to Citizenship** program is to aid qualified residents of Weber County in becoming naturalized U.S. Citizens by removing barriers that hinder them from obtaining citizenship status.

## Arlington, VA

**Scholarship to Assist with USCIS Application for Naturalization Fees** to help eligible low- and moderate-income immigrants overcome the financial barrier to naturalization. Applicants must live or work in Arlington or attend Arlington citizenship classes and complete the required documentation. The County's Community Outreach Program also stays connected with scholarship recipients throughout the naturalization process, encouraging participation in citizenship classes and connecting applicants to additional resources.





## Join Cities and Counties for Citizenship (CC4C)

If your city or county is interested in joining CC4C, contact **Magaly Arteaga** at magaly@partnershipfornewamericans.org and learn more about CC4C at cc4citizenship.org

Celebrating 10 YEARS OF IMPACT
CITIES & COUNTIES FOR CITIZENSHIP
Advancing Citizenship with Local Governments

NPNA
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS