



# 10 WAYS Local Governments Can Lead on Citizenship

Local governments play a vital role in supporting immigrants on their pathway to U.S. citizenship. These efforts can build stronger, more inclusive communities by supporting immigrant integration and civic participation. Here is a list of 10 ways local governments can lead on citizenship.

## 1 Host Naturalization Oath Ceremonies

Mayors and county executives can host naturalization oath ceremonies, in collaboration with USCIS at city halls, local libraries, airports, parks, etc.



Community-based organizations along with Dane County, WI host a naturalization oath ceremony in Madison, WI.

## 2 Organize or Partner to Host a Citizenship Workshop

Partner with local, trusted immigration legal service providers to provide free or low-cost assistance with citizenship applications to eligible residents.



City of Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs partners with Asian Counseling and Referral Service to host a naturalization workshop.

## 3 Leverage Public Facilities for Citizenship Events

Offer city/county buildings such as libraries and community centers as venues for naturalization events and/or information sessions.

## 4 Host Citizenship Outreach and Informational Events

Organize outreach events and information sessions to inform eligible residents about the benefits and process of naturalization. Partnering with local nonprofits, faith-based groups, and community centers helps expand reach and trust in the community.



City of Houston, TX and community-based organizations, such as Woori Juntos and Mi Familia en Accion, partner to lead outreach events and share information about the benefits and process of naturalization.

## 5 Pass Citizenship Day Proclamations and Resolutions

Introduce and pass proclamations and/or resolutions that support and promote U.S. citizenship. Citizenship Day is September 17th and can serve as a date to organize proclamations/resolutions.



Harris County, TX & City of Houston, TX pass Citizenship Day Resolutions & Proclamations.

## 6 Elevate Citizenship with a Public Service Announcement (PSA)

Mayors and county executives can record a PSA to elevate and promote naturalization. Here is a [PSA Script Template](#) cities/counties can tailor and make their own.



*Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2, Harris County, TX promoting naturalization in Greater Houston.*

## 7 Launch a Citizenship Scholarship or Fee Assistance Initiative

Allocate resources to cover the costs of the citizenship application fee and/or promote the citizenship fee waiver eligibility and opportunity.

CC4C Partner Example: City of Ogden, UT – [Ogden's Path to Citizenship](#)

CC4C Partner Example: Montgomery County, MD – [Montgomery County Maryland Citizenship Scholarship](#)

## 8 Celebrate and Recognize New U.S. Citizens from Your Community

Elevate the stories of community members who recently became U.S. Citizens. Also, consider hosting a celebratory event that recognizes new citizens in your city/county.



*Newly naturalized citizens in Milwaukee, WI come together to share their stories.*

## 9 Promote Citizenship Information, Events and Stories through Social Media Platforms

Launch social media campaigns to inform eligible residents about the benefits and process of naturalization. Including, sharing social media graphics on city/county platforms with eligibility, benefits and process of naturalization.



*The San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative promotes free in-person citizenship workshops on social media platforms.*

## 10 Collaborate Across Government Agencies, Public Services and Community-Based Partners to Promote and Expand Citizenship

Develop relationships across agencies, community partners and public institutions to promote citizenship. For example, assist eligible city/county employees with their citizenship application, host citizenship events/classes at public libraries, and/or bring community-based partners together to coordinate and expand capacities for citizenship efforts.



*City of Houston, TX hosts a citizenship workshop for city employees in collaboration with Houston Public Library and community-based organization partners.*

To learn more about **Cities & Counties for Citizenship**, contact **Magaly Arteaga**, [magaly@partnershipfornewamericans.org](mailto:magaly@partnershipfornewamericans.org)



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Advancing Citizenship with Local Governments

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