

A REGIONAL CITIZENSHIP PROMOTION PLAN:

THE NEW AMERICANS
INITIATIVE

FOR MARYLAND, VIRGINIA & WASHINGTON, DC

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The New Americans Initiative is a regional effort of CASA de Maryland, Tenants & Workers United, and more than 30 grassroots and community organizations in the Washington metropolitan area.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overshadowed in recent policy debates about the role of immigrants in the United States is the large number of legally documented immigrants who have received legal permanent resident status and are now, or will soon be, eligible for citizenship. Immigrant civic participation and acculturation is essential to our participatory democracy and so it is vital that as many eligible immigrants as possible become United States citizens. Naturalization benefits individuals, families, communities, and our country as a whole. The benefits of citizenship are numerous and include the right to vote; faster family reunification; better employment and educational opportunities; the right to hold certain governmental jobs; the self-assurance to become more involved in political, social, economic, and social institutions; and a stronger attachment to the United States.

Historically, the strength and vitality of the United States have depended on the contributions of its newest members. Legal permanent residents (LPRs) today are a growing and important part of established communities. They contribute significantly to local and national economic and social well-being, as well as cultural creativity and diversity. While LPRs are often socially, culturally and economically integrated into the United States, a growing percentage is failing to take the final and critical step of political integration by naturalizing and becoming citizens.

The strength of democracy depends on the participation of its members. Citizenship is a precursor to full participation in our constitutional democracy, yet the vast majority of eligible LPRs in our region are deferring naturalization and instead remaining for years in an uncertain status. LPRs are “legal” residents, but are barred from voting or running for office. They are upstanding members of society, but never

act as jurors of their peers. LPRs are talented workers in multiple industries, but are prohibited from working as federal employees. They may be world travelers, but are unable to hold a United States passport. In short, LPRs are United States residents, but they are not United States citizens.

The Maryland-Virginia-DC region is one of the top ten leading recipients of LPRs in the country. The region has an estimated 470,000 LPRs, including 270,000 who are currently eligible to naturalize, and these numbers are projected to increase each year as more existing immigrant residents are granted LPR status and as more immigrants with LPR status choose to settle in our region.

Last year in both Maryland and Virginia, fewer than 14 percent of eligible LPRs became citizens. Thus, while LPRs in our area contribute incalculably to the economic, social and cultural vitality of our community, a significant percentage has yet to achieve the final step of integration.

With the numerous benefits of citizenship and the stated desire of the majority of LPRs to become citizens, why are so few LPRs actually naturalizing? The barriers to

naturalization are numerous, including virtually no public promotion of naturalization and citizenship, scant citizenship preparation courses, limited English proficiency, lack of basic information on the naturalization process, high costs of applying, limited one-on-one assistance with the application, and



scarce quality and affordable legal representation. While these barriers are significant, they are also surmountable.

Despite the importance of naturalization and the concrete ways LPRs can be supported through the process, the United States does surprisingly little to promote the process and assist eligible LPRs. LPRs receive no notice when they become eligible to naturalize and there is a lack of governmental funding to promote citizenship and assist LPRs in completing the process. In order to create a more robust and truly inclusive democracy, comprehensive citizenship promotion among eligible and soon-to-be eligible LPR immigrants must be a top priority for all who believe in protecting, preserving, and promoting democracy and national unity.

The New Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia, and DC is crafted to promote and increase the rate of naturalization in our region through the formation of Naturalization Support Centers (NSCs) housed at existing immigrant-focused community-based organizations. NSCs will be “one-stop” locations where LPRs receive a range of information and services including citizenship preparation classes, legal counseling, assistance filling out citizenship applications, referrals to ESOL services, and follow-up services for those who have achieved citizenship. Post-naturalization services will be focused on ensuring that new citizens understand, and take advantage of, their new rights and responsibilities.

The NSCs will be unified and supported by a lead organization in Maryland, Virginia and DC. These three lead organizations will coordinate the overall initiative, develop necessary materials for training programs, devise and conduct public education campaigns, and conduct program evaluations. The lead organizations will be rooted

in immigrant communities and have the demonstrated capacity to partner with service providers, state and local governments, immigration advocates, grant makers, policy experts, and immigrant community leaders. A regional Policy Council will also be established to provide necessary oversight and direction for the lead organizations. The Initiative will be a model of collective community action in the pursuit of citizenship.

The New Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia, and DC is a three-year, \$15 million pilot project. The program design and implementation plan for **The New Americans Initiative** is outlined in this report. What is needed now is the government commitment to begin this critical initiative. To let hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants languish outside the structure of government and civic participation in our region – unable to vote, unable to run for office, unable to become federal employees, unable to serve on juries – runs counter to our nation’s history of encouraging immigrant integration. The current rhetoric surrounding immigration, the increasing xenophobia, and the mounting threats of civil rights, demonstrate the importance of strengthening immigrant civic participation and acculturation. In the wake of the wrenching national and regional debates over immigration reform, the public now has an opportunity to unite around a shared and positive goal: immigrant integration and citizenship.

INTRODUCTION

Overshadowed in the recent debates about the role of immigrants in the United States are the large numbers of legally documented immigrants who have received legal permanent resident (LPR) status and are now, or will soon be, eligible for citizenship. There are over 12 million LPRs living in the United States, and over 8 million of these LPRs are eligible to naturalize.¹ In 2006 alone, over one million immigrants became LPRs and this number is expected only to increase in coming years.²

Historically, the strength and vitality of the United States have depended on the contributions of its newest members. Today, LPRs are a growing and important part of established communities. They contribute significantly to our local and national economies, as well as our cultural creativity and diversity. While in numerous ways LPRs are socially, culturally and economically integrated into the United States, a growing percentage are not taking the final, and critical, step of political integration by naturalizing and becoming citizens.

Citizenship is a significant marker of immigrant integration and a pre-condition to full membership in American democracy. The benefits of citizenship are numerous and include the right to vote and run for elected office, faster family reunification, better employment and educational opportunities, a United States passport, the self-assurance to become more involved in political, social, economic, and social institutions, and a stronger attachment to the United States.

Although a report by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network finds that as many as 90 percent of recent immigrants believe citizenship is necessary and view it as “a dream come true,”³ the citizenship acquisition rate in the United States has declined dramatically since the 1950s. While 80 percent of all foreign-born residents were citizens in 1950, fewer than 40 percent were naturalized citizens in 2004.⁴ Despite the importance of naturalization, the United States does surprisingly little to either promote the process or assist eligible LPRs. LPRs receive no notice when they become eligible to naturalize,

and there is a notable lack of government funding to promote citizenship and assist LPRs in completing the naturalization process.

In order to create a more robust and truly inclusive democracy, comprehensive citizenship promotion must be a top priority for all who believe in protecting, preserving and promoting American ideals. Currently, the vast majority of eligible LPRs in our region are deferring naturalization and instead remaining for years in a highly uncertain political status. LPRs are “legal” and productive residents but are unable to vote. They are upstanding members of society, but never act as jurors of their peers. LPRs are talented workers in multiple industries, but are prohibited from working as federal employees. They may be world travelers, but are unable to hold a U.S. passport. LPRs are U.S. residents, but not U.S. citizens.

The Maryland-Virginia-DC region is already one of the top ten leading recipients of LPRs in the country and an increasing number of LPRs continue to migrate to the area.⁵ The region has an estimated 270,000 LPRs currently eligible to naturalize, and this number is projected to grow each year as the number of existing immigrant residents being granted LPR status increases and as more LPRs choose to settle in our region. While LPRs in our area contribute incalculably to the economic, social and cultural vitality of our community, a significant percentage have not achieved the final step of integration. Last year, in Maryland and Virginia, fewer than 14 percent of eligible LPRs – about 35,000 adults and children – became citizens.

While there are significant barriers on the path to citizenship, they are surmountable. Many eligible LPRs never attempt to naturalize because they are either unaware they are eligible or do not know how to begin the process. Others begin the process but are hindered due to limited English proficiency, the high cost of applying, additional legal barriers and the lack of sufficient support to navigate the process. Those who do become citizens often fail to register to vote or learn how to become more civically engaged in

their communities. The U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform (USCIR) stated, “[t]he vast majority of applicants for naturalization are law-abiding immigrants who contribute to our society. The value of Americanization is eroded whenever unnecessary obstacles prevent eligible immigrants from becoming citizens.”⁶ Given that the effectiveness of the integration process affects the entire community, this must be a collaborative effort.⁷

The New Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia, and DC will directly link eligible LPRs to the support needed to gain citizenship through partnerships with existing community-based immigrant organizations.⁸ These partnerships will help create multiple Naturalization Support Centers, or “one-stop” locations where LPRs can receive a range of information and services, including citizenship preparation classes, legal counseling, assistance filling out citizenship applications, referrals to ESOL services, and after naturalization follow-up services.

Post-naturalization services will assist new citizens in taking advantage of their new rights and fulfilling their civic duties. Follow-up services will also emphasize the importance of both voting and volunteering within the community.

To ensure the success of the Initiative, an aggressive, linguistically and culturally appropriate public education campaign will be directed at the hundreds of thousands of eligible and soon-to-be eligible LPRs in the region.

In order to create a successful community-based naturalization approach, the New Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia, and DC will replicate the best practices from around the country. The NSCs will be community-based, unified and supported by a lead organization in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. These three lead organizations will coordinate the program, develop necessary materials for training, create public education campaigns and establish an evaluation process. The lead organizations will be rooted in immigrant communities and have the demonstrated capacity to partner with service providers, state and local governments, immigration

advocates, grantmakers, policy experts, and immigrant community leaders. To supplement the lead agencies, there will be Policy Councils in each jurisdiction, as well as representatives from the state/local Policy Councils who will form a regional Policy Council to guide the overall Initiative. The Policy Councils will provide necessary oversight and direction to the lead agencies, as well as accountability to public and private sector stakeholders. Thus, the New Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia, and DC is designed as a model of collective community response and action in pursuit of citizenship.

PART I:

THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS

The benefits of becoming a United States citizen are numerous. Naturalization offers LPRs security benefits, such as protection from deportation and an increased freedom to travel; opportunity benefits, such as civic participation and the ability to petition for other family members; and economic benefits, such as increased job opportunities and eligibility for federal safety-net benefits and educational scholarships and financial aid. Naturalization is becoming increasingly important as more state and local policies being proposed, and passed, tie access to basic services to citizenship.

In 2006, the average number of years it took all immigrants to naturalize was seven years.⁹ Overall, immigrants from North America and South America (including Mexico and the Caribbean) took the longest to naturalize: ten and seven years respectively.¹⁰ Immigrants from Africa and Asia took the least amount of time: six years each.¹¹ These lengths of time reflect similar patterns over the past seven years.¹² Because of the differences in rates of naturalization, the subset of LPRs eligible for citizenship and not yet naturalized is weighted more heavily toward North and South American immigrants in comparison to their overall percentage of eligible LPRs.



The Naturalization Process

For full consideration by the USCIS, the applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Age: Must be at least 18 years of age.

- Residency: Must have had lawful permanent residency for five years, or three years if married to a United States citizen who has her/himself been a citizen for at least three years.
- Presence: Must have resided lawfully in the country continuously for at least five years.

Assuming an applicant meets these eligibility requirements, s/he must then take an examination with a USCIS official. The exam includes question of character, English language skills, and basic knowledge of U.S. history and government. The applicant's language skills and historical and governmental knowledge are tested through an USCIS-designed and issued exam. The applicant's moral character¹³ and "attachment to the Constitution"¹⁴ are assessed through both a prior investigation and an oral interview. Assuming a successful outcome in the application phase, the applicant must then take an oath of allegiance to the United States.¹⁵ There are also certain age, military and residence exceptions to these requirements.¹⁶

If the application is denied, the applicant will receive a notice of the denial in writing, after which s/he has 30 days to exercise her/his right to appeal for a hearing with an immigration officer.¹⁷ If the application is again denied, s/he may file a petition for review in U.S. District Court.¹⁸

The Barriers to the Naturalization Process

The national rate of naturalization has increased fourteen percent since 1990.¹⁹ The population of naturalized citizens reached 12.8 million in 2005, the highest number in a quarter of a century. Nationally, there were 8.5 million immigrants in the United States eligible to naturalize in 2006; of these, more than a third, or 3 million, were Mexican. Of those immigrants eligible to naturalize, 77 percent of those from the Middle

East had done so by 2005, compared with 71 percent from Asia, 69 percent from Europe and Canada, 46 percent from Latin America, and 35 percent from Mexico.²⁰ While Mexicans are 35 percent of those eligible to naturalize, they make up only 13 percent of naturalized citizens.²¹



Immigrants eligible and soon to be eligible for naturalization are less well-educated, have higher rates of limited English proficiency, and are poorer than the naturalized population. Various reasons why LPRs are not applying for naturalization include:

- Lack of Information about the Naturalization Process. There are few citizenship preparation clinics or classes in our region and many LPRs are unfamiliar with both the naturalization process and its importance. Additionally, the perception that one will face legal difficulties during the process prevents many immigrants from even attempting to naturalize. While the lack of knowledge about the naturalization process means many LPRs fail to apply, the scarcity of one-on-one assistance during the process can deter those who are inclined to apply.
- Fear of Exposure and Experience of Discrimination. Applying for citizenship requires eligible immigrants to submit themselves to scrutiny by the USCIS. Given the strong anti-immigrant sentiment in many parts of the country, an increase in Immigration Control and Enforcement raids, and a pervasive climate of fear in some areas, many immigrants are limiting their public involvement, especially if the interaction involves the U.S. government. It appears that fear

of interaction is not without basis. A report by the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at the New York University School of Law entitled *Americans On Hold*, finds that since September 11, 2001, naturalization applicants are subjected to an FBI name check even though the check is not required by law.²² As a result, the naturalization applications of many immigrants perceived to be Muslim, Arab, Middle Eastern, or South Asian have been delayed in processing, often leaving applicants in limbo for years.²³ The experience of two Canadian sisters applying for citizenship further highlights the perception of discrimination. In 2005, both sisters applied for citizenship. While one sister's application has already been accepted, the other sister's application has yet to be processed. The waiting sister attributes the delay to her married name, Aguilar.²⁴ Another barrier is the requirement that married applicants must provide the name of their spouse, even if that individual is not seeking citizenship.²⁵ It is not uncommon for immigrant families to include mixed-status couples, and requiring an eligible applicant to disclose her/his spouse's immigration status often scares the applicant from exercising their right to seek citizenship.

- Lack of English Language Skills. It is estimated that in 2003, 60 percent of LPRs who were eligible to naturalize but had not done so were Limited English Proficient (LEP) and 1.4 million adult immigrants eligible to naturalize had less than a ninth-grade education level.²⁶ Today, at least 5 million immigrants with limited English skills are currently eligible to naturalize. Even with adequate instruction, obtaining proficiency in a new language is difficult, and learning that language while working full-time or supporting a family only adds to the challenge. For a significant percentage of LPR immigrants, this challenge is further compounded by relatively low levels of prior education. As native

language literacy is limited in some LPR communities, additional literacy instruction prior to ESOL is often required. Finally, for many low-income immigrants, the financial challenge of paying for classes further prohibits these LPRs from naturalizing.

- Legal Barriers. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act places a lifetime-ban on citizenship for people convicted of an “aggravated felony.” The broad interpretation of an “aggravated felony” means that an LPR who has been convicted of any of the 20 categories of felonies at any time in her/his life could be arrested at the citizenship interview and placed into removal proceedings.²⁷ In addition, the Act’s definition of an aggravated felony does not necessarily coincide with the definition of a felony at the state level and so a certain type of crime treated as a misdemeanor by state officials, may instead be deemed an “aggravated felony” under the Act.²⁸ Also, USCIS does not provide accessible information to immigrants explaining the offenses that will or will not create a bar to citizenship. Thus, while not all criminal convictions create a permanent bar to naturalization, the inherent double standard and the real risk of deportation will stop most eligible LPRs with former convictions from engaging in the process.

Prohibitively Expensive. Immigrants with lower incomes are less likely to become citizens. In 2003, 41 percent of immigrants eligible to naturalize had incomes under 200 percent of the poverty level.²⁹ In 2007, 52 percent of those eligible to naturalize, and 58 percent of those who will soon be eligible, are considered low-income immigrants, or immigrants with an income up to double to poverty level.³⁰ The cost of civics classes and the rising application fees limits many LPRs ability to afford naturalization. In July 2007, the USCIS raised the fee for the citizenship

application and change of status from \$400 to \$675, a 69 percent increase. And if a recently naturalized LPR wants his/her children recognized as citizens, the price increases by \$460. Many immigrants must also pay for English and civics classes to prepare for the naturalization exam, as well as assistance in preparing the application. These sharply increased costs contribute to the marked decline in the number of LPRs who choose to naturalize.

PART II:

THE LOCAL UNIVERSE OF ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS

The Maryland/Virginia/DC region is one of the top ten leading recipients of LPRs in the country, with over 75% of all new LPRs residing in one of these ten receiving regions.³¹ Currently, there are an estimated 470,000 LPRs in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and over 270,000 of these LPRs are eligible to naturalize.³² This number will grow significantly each year as both the overall number of existing immigrant residents being granted LPR status increases, and as more LPRs settle in our region.

The number of LPRs who have naturalized has increased only slightly over the last five years in both Maryland and Virginia. Since 2002, Maryland has seen a 1% increase, while Virginia has seen an 11% increase.³³ However, the number of immigrants receiving LPR status and LPRs settling in the region continues to increase at a rapid pace. Thus, despite small increases in the number of LPRs who have naturalized, the number of eligible LPRs in Maryland and Virginia continues to grow. Indeed, fewer than 14% of

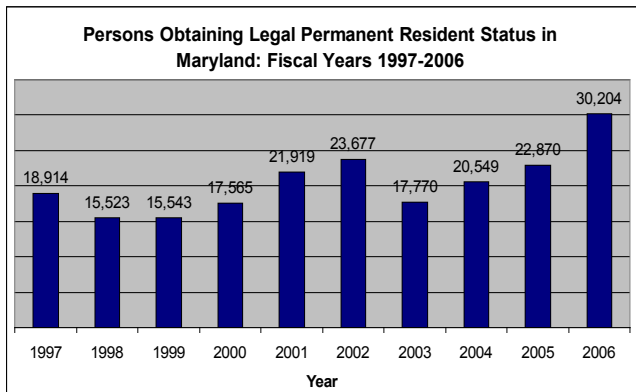


eligible LPRs in the region became citizens in 2006.³⁴ As the previous section explored, there are significant barriers to naturalization. While Section III details the concrete approach to immigration naturalization and citizenship promotion entailed in **The New**

Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia, DC, it is important first to understand who today's Legal Permanent Residents are, where they come from, and where they live.

THE LOCAL UNIVERSE OF ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS

MARYLAND



I. Number of LPRs

About 210,000, or 1.7% of all LPRs in the country, currently reside in Maryland.³⁵ The growth rate of new LPRs in Maryland has increased substantially over the past ten years. In 1997, 18,914 LPRs called Maryland their home, compared to the 30,204 immigrants who arrived or received LPR status in Maryland in 2006.³⁶

II. Countries of Origin of LPRs

Immigrants from Latin American countries of origin (Central and South America and the Caribbean) constitute the largest racial grouping of LPRs residing in Maryland, estimated at 69,126, or 35.4 percent. Following very closely are the 66,994 LPRs from Asian countries of origin, constituting 33.7 percent.³⁷ All other LPRs, including African LPRs, make up the remaining 34,123.³⁸

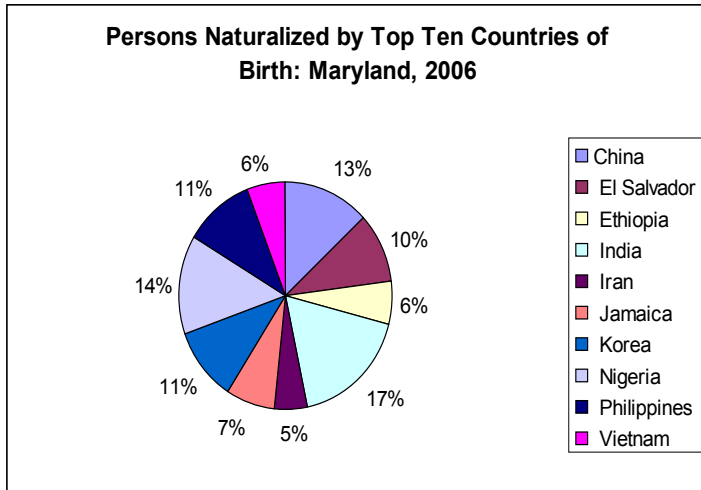
Figure I: Eligible LPRs by Congressional District in Maryland*

Congressional District 1:	3,201
Congressional District 2:	6,215
Congressional District 3:	10,116
Congressional District 4:	21,757
Congressional District 5:	10,191
Congressional District 6:	2,617
Congressional District 7:	7,502
Congressional District 8:	43,475

* The total number of eligible LPRs here does not add up to the current total for Maryland as this breakdown is based on an earlier estimate of eligible LPRs, which was a smaller number.

III. Location of LPRs

Of the approximately 210,000 LPRs



in Maryland, an estimated 120,000 are now eligible to naturalize.³⁹

These eligible LPRs are settling in various parts of the state, with the highest concentration in the eighth congressional district.⁴⁰ Congressional Districts 4, 5, and 8, all of which are located in the Washington metropolitan area, account for 72% of the eligible LPRs in the state (see Figure I).

IV. Linguistic and Economic Characteristics of LPRs in Maryland

In Maryland, 43 percent of the 51 percent of foreign-born persons are limited English proficient (LEP).⁴¹ In 2005, 39.8 percent, or about 252,390, of foreign-born persons were LEP. Three percent of all households in Maryland were linguistically isolated in 2005, meaning that all persons over the age of 14 were LEP. Specifically, 22 percent of Spanish-speaking households, 12.8 percent of households speaking other Indo-European languages, 26.3 percent of households speaking Asian and Pacific Island languages, and 10.6 percent of households speaking other languages, were linguistically isolated.⁴²

In 2005, 69.9 percent of foreign-born immigrants who spoke Spanish at home were LEP, compared to 36.7 percent of those who spoke other Indo-European languages, 51.9 percent of those who spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages, and 28.2 percent of those who spoke other languages.⁴³ Along with the high rates of limited English proficiency, a large number of foreign-born persons older than 25

have not completed high school. Specifically, 102,597 immigrants had not completed high school in 2005, and 27.6 percent of non-citizens lacked a high school diploma.⁴⁴

In 2005, 12.2 percent of non-citizens in Maryland lived below the poverty threshold, compared to 5.6 percent of naturalized citizens.⁴⁵ Of those foreign-born immigrants who were working, 23.6 percent earned less than \$25,000 a year. 11.3 percent of persons who spoke Spanish at home lived in poverty, compared to 7.8 percent of persons who spoke Asian or Pacific Island languages, 7.6 percent who spoke other Indo-European languages, and 11.3 percent who spoke other languages.

V. Naturalization Rates

As the number of new LPRs grows steadily, so has the number of naturalized LPRs, although still only a small percentage of eligible LPRs are naturalizing.⁴⁶ In 2006, 14,465 LPRs residing in Maryland were naturalized, compared to 3,687 in 1997.⁴⁷ Out of the total 14,465 LPRs naturalized in 2006, 40% were from Asian countries of origin.⁴⁸ LPRs from Latin American comprised about 26%, of the total naturalized. LPRs from African countries of origin were the next largest group to naturalize and made up about 22% of the total naturalized in Maryland. LPRs from Europe, Oceania, and unknown countries of origin made up the remaining 12%.⁴⁹

THE LOCAL UNIVERSE OF ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS

VIRGINIA

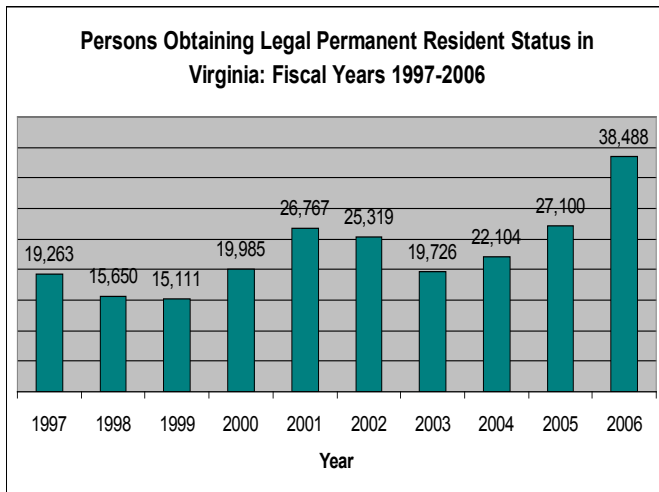


Figure II: Eligible LPRs by Congressional District in Virginia*

Congressional District 1:	4,507
Congressional District 2:	3,937
Congressional District 3:	3,400
Congressional District 4:	2,449
Congressional District 5:	3,520
Congressional District 6:	4,152
Congressional District 7:	6,769
Congressional District 8:	25,045
Congressional District 9:	2,567
Congressional District 10:	23,457
Congressional District 11:	26,497

* The total number of eligible LPRs here does not add up to the current total for Virginia as this breakdown is based on an earlier estimate of eligible LPRs, which was a smaller number.

I. Number of LPRs

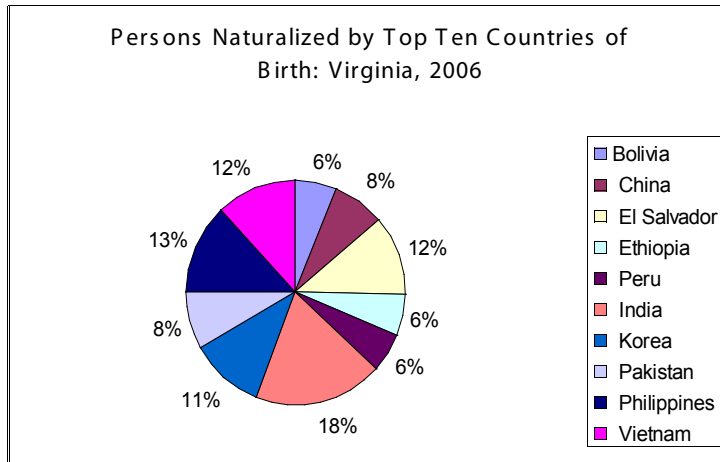
There are an estimated 240,000 LPRs currently residing in Virginia. In 2006, Virginia welcomed 38,488 new LPRs, which is 3% of the total new LPRs in the country.⁵⁰

II. Countries of Origin of LPRs

Unlike Maryland, the largest group of immigrants in Virginia is from Asia and is estimated at 85,810. Latin American immigrants make up about 74,505 of the LPR population currently residing in Virginia.⁵¹ All other LPRs, including African LPRs, make up the remaining approximately 40,000.⁵²

III. Location of LPRs

Congressional District 11 is home to the most eligible LPRs, and Congressional Districts 8, 10 and 11, all in the Washington metropolitan area,



account for 70 percent of the eligible LPRs in the state (see Figure II).

IV. Linguistic and Economic Characteristics of LPRs in Virginia

In Virginia, 43.9 percent of foreign-born persons age 5 and older were LEP in

2005. Of those who spoke Spanish at home, 69.8 percent were LEP, compared to 33.8 percent of those who spoke other Indo-European languages, 53.0 percent of those who spoke Asian and Pacific Island languages, and 36.8 percent of those who spoke other languages.⁵³ 2.8 percent of all households were linguistically isolated in 2005. Of those native-born persons above the age of 25, 20.5 percent lacked a high school diploma. In 2005, about 121,356 foreign-born immigrants had not completed high school.

In 2005, 12.2 percent of non-citizens lived in poverty, compared to 6.5 percent of naturalized citizens. Of those foreign-born immigrants who were working, 28.3 percent earned less than \$25,000 a year. 11.0 percent of persons who spoke Spanish at home lived in poverty, compared to 9.1 percent of persons who spoke Asian or Pacific Island languages, and 10.1 percent of persons who spoke other Indo-European languages.

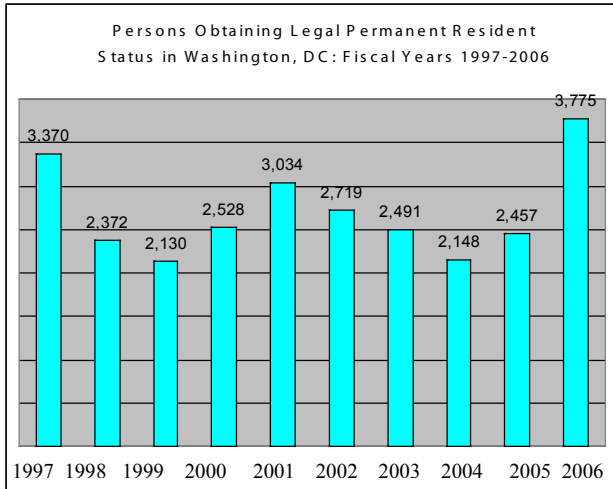
V. Naturalization Rates

While naturalization rates have increased over the past ten years both nationally and in Virginia, only a small fraction of those eligible actually have naturalized.⁵⁴ The

most recent data shows that out of the eligible 140,000 LPRs residing in Virginia in 2006, only 20,401, or about 14% of eligible LPRs, naturalized.⁵⁵ Of the total number of LPRs who naturalized, 47% were from Asian countries of origin. LPRs from North American countries of origin, including Central America, made up the next largest group of naturalized LPRs, or 16% of the total. 15% of the total LPRs who naturalized were from African countries of origin, and 11% were from Europe. LPRs from South America made up 10% of the total LPRs who naturalized, while LPRs from Oceania and unknown countries of origin made up the remaining 1%.⁵⁶

THE LOCAL UNIVERSE OF ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

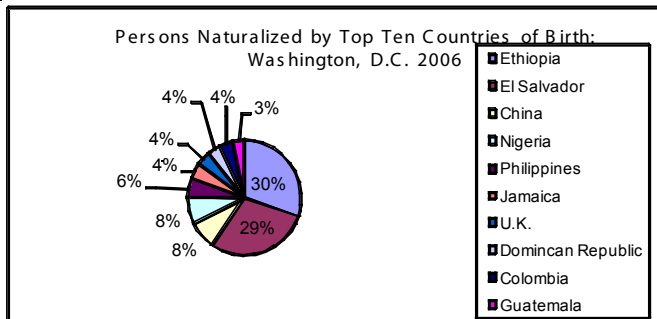


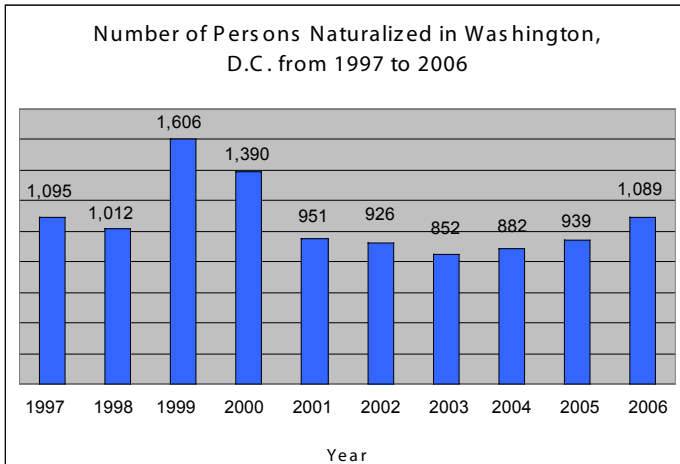
I. Number of LPRs

The District of Columbia has a far smaller number of LPRs than Maryland and Virginia, although the proportion of LPRs to total population is average for the region. Although no official estimates are available given the size of the population, we calculate that there are at least 15,000 to 20,000 legal permanent residents in the District, including 10,000 LPRs who are currently eligible for naturalization.⁷

II. Countries of Origin of LPRs

The largest proportion of recently naturalized LPRs by region of origin are Africans (33%), followed by Latin Americans (28%), Asians (17%) and Europeans (13%). In terms of the number of LPRs naturalized in 2006, the top ten countries of origin were Ethiopia (566), El Salvador (551), China (147), Nigeria (143), Philippines (106), Jamaica (85), United Kingdom (74), Dominican Republic (72),





Colombia (70), and Guatemala (60).

III .Linguistic and Economic

Characteristics of LPRs in DC

The District of Columbia has a somewhat smaller number of limited English proficiency (LEP) persons than both Maryland and Virginia, at 34.2 percent of the foreign-born population aged 5 and over. Among the foreign-

born, 61.2 percent of those who spoke Spanish at home were LEP. Also, 17.1 percent of naturalized citizens were LEP compared to 42.2 percent of non-citizens. In the District, with its large number of foreign government and international NGO workers, the rate of poverty is somewhat higher among naturalized citizens (16.0 percent) than among non-citizens (14.7 percent). Overall, however, 40.6 percent of the foreign-born who worked earned less than \$35,000 whereas 28.5 percent of native-born workers earned less than that. Moreover, 19.2 percent of those who spoke Spanish at home lived in poverty compared to 12.6 percent of those speaking Asian or Pacific Islander languages, and 9.1 percent of those speaking Indo European languages.⁵⁸

IV. Naturalization Rates

In 2006, the most recent year for which official data is available, the number of LPRs naturalized in the District was 1,089, approximately 11% of those estimated to be eligible to apply.



Looking Forward: Eligible LPRs in Coming Years

Immigrants are more likely to become citizens if they speak English proficiently and if they have a higher level of education. The Maryland, Virginia and DC statistics above demonstrate the disproportionately high levels of LEP and poorly educated foreign-born immigrants.

Even with adequate instruction, obtaining proficiency in a new language is a daunting task, and learning that language while working full-time or supporting a family only adds to the challenge. For a significant percentage of LPR immigrants in our region, this challenge is further compounded by relatively low levels of prior education. Because native language literacy is very limited in some LPR communities, additional literacy instruction prior to ESOL is often required.

Many of those eligible to naturalize in Maryland, Virginia and DC are currently living slightly above or below the poverty threshold. For most of these low-income immigrants, the financial challenge of paying for classes, the newly raised application fees, and other costs of naturalization, further prohibit these LPRs from naturalizing.

In Maryland, Virginia, and DC more than 50 percent of LPRs are eligible to naturalize, but each year, fewer than 15 percent are choosing to do so. If current trends persist, the regional non-citizen LPR population will continue to grow disproportionately. In addition to the LPR populations discussed above, refugees and asylees,⁵⁹ foreign skilled workers, and foreign students who have temporary visas must be factored in when calculating those eligible for citizenship. Together, the groups of currently eligible and soon-to-be eligible LPRs, far exceed 270,000 people in Maryland, Virginia, and the District.

Legal permanent residents are a fast growing population and are active and contributing members of our region's local economies and diverse communities. To let hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants languish outside the structure of government and civic participation in our region – unable to vote, unable to run for office, unable to become federal employees, etc. – runs counter to our nation's history of encouraging immigrant integration. The current rhetoric surrounding immigration, the increasing xenophobia, and the mounting threats of civil rights, demonstrate the importance of strengthening immigrant civic participation and acculturation. In the wake of the wrenching national and regional debates over immigration reform, the public now has an opportunity to unite around a shared and positive goal: immigrant integration and citizenship. We must support LPRs as they take the final and critical step toward integration into the United States.

PART III:

COMPONENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL
NATURALIZATION PROGRAM

States around the country, including Illinois, California and New York (three of the four states with the largest LPR populations), have acknowledged the need for a comprehensive, community-based approach to immigrant integration. In 2006, it took an average number of seven years for eligible LPRs to naturalize.⁶⁰ The lack of support services is a core reason for this extended length of time. Support services help increase the number of eligible LPRs who try to naturalize, shorten the length of time that the process takes, and increase the success rates. Effective naturalization projects include the following components:

Strong infrastructure

While a successful program must be a collaborative effort, there must also be a lead organization to handle core central tasks as well as ensure overall consistency and effectiveness of the effort. The lead organizations should meet the following criteria:

- Strongly identified as a local and/or regional community-based leader that immigrants already turn to for help.
- Recognized among its peers as capable of soliciting active participation and creating a network of other community-based organizations, broadly defined to include public and private service providers as well as those rooted in the immigrant, faith and labor communities.
- Internal capacity to support an increase in staff and activities to support the effort.
- Familiarity with providing naturalization support services and the needs of LPRs.
- Proven ability to create and execute project plans in which a number of organizations have specific, publicly recognized roles in the project's overall success.

“One-Stop” Access to Core Services

Making it welcoming and as easy as possible to receive the necessary services is

essential.

Location: Services must be offered in places that are readily accessible to the public and located in or hosted by organizations that are seen as welcoming and trustworthy by immigrant communities. Locations should be accessible via public transportation, open on the weekend, and large enough to accommodate high volumes of people while also accounting for privacy needs. They must offer linguistically appropriate services and orientation that meet the needs of one or more of the major language groups of LPRs in the area being served.

Staff: A well-trained, culturally competent, and multi-lingual staff, including volunteers, is critical. There should be a core staff that designs the clinic structure, puts together volunteer training materials, conducts trainings for volunteers, and coordinates the overall operating logistics. Staff must help with the application preparation, while also assessing the needs of the applicants in order to better direct supplemental resources, such as exam preparation or legal services. Attorneys and paralegals should be available for guidance, review of naturalization applications and supporting documents, assistance to those not yet eligible, and help with appeals and petitions contesting applicant denials or undue processing delays.

Types of Services: To meet the varied needs of the eligible LPR community, there should be both one-day clinics and multi-week citizenship classes. The one-day clinics are essential for those who need little help, while the classes are geared toward those who need continual assistance throughout the process. In order to successfully move eligible LPRs through the naturalization process, as well as provide the education and tools for post-citizenship volunteerism and civic engagement, the infrastructure should include a specialized, linguistically appropriate curriculum focused on benefits of citizenship, American history, voting rights, volunteerism and civic engagement. Citizenship and exam preparation classes should be taught with a curriculum emphasizing community

building and engagement.

Follow-up Services: While citizenship is the primary goal, there should also be support services following naturalization. These should include:

- **Family Services:** An individualized analysis of citizenship opportunities for applicants' children should be provided. In certain circumstances, children of naturalized citizens are eligible to obtain derivative citizenship.⁶¹
- **Voter Registration:** A strong electoral engagement program designed to facilitate voter registration among new Americans and their eligible family members is critical. This program should be undertaken in collaboration with ongoing community registration efforts. Data generated through the naturalization support services may be used as a tool for identifying individuals who become voter registration ready. There should also be voter registration verification systems to track the outcome of voter registration efforts through final disposition. This tracking can reveal barriers to successful registration well in advance of registration deadlines and allow for time to reapply. The tracking can also uncover patterns in rejected applications and further help to eliminate barriers to voter registration.
- **Local Participation & Volunteerism:** Citizenship should be considered a beginning, not an end. New Americans should be encouraged to become actively involved in their communities through block watches, school-based organizations, and neighborhood associations. Individual counseling and group presentations will help new Americans identify how and where they can engage in their communities. Furthermore, the community involvement of New Americans should be strengthened by skill development, education about civil society structures, and continual reiteration of civic rights and responsibilities.

Evaluation

A key component in designing an integrated citizenship program is to build in metrics for measuring success. In community-based organizations, the number of individuals who complete a training program or course is a common measure of a successful outcome. In the case of a naturalization clinic, outcomes are generally measured by the number of naturalization applications completed. While these numbers are clearly important, the numbers alone do not measure the success of a comprehensive citizenship program. In addition to tracking the number of applications completed and people receiving each of the services offered, additional outcome measures will include successful completion of the citizenship process, continuing civic engagement in communities, volunteerism, and workforce advancement.

Public Education Campaign and Recruitment

Given the high levels of fear and misinformation pervasive in immigrant communities, it is imperative to begin a public education campaign that will help eligible applicants move closer to the naturalization process and inform them about naturalization support services.⁶² The campaign should take into consideration both the language needs and the varying literacy levels of the target audiences. Strategies for reaching out to the universe of eligible immigrants will include:

- § Media outreach: Television, print and radio should be a part of any public education strategy. Further, ethnic media should be a key partner in any effort. Data shows that in the U.S., as many as 29 million “ethnic adults” are the primary consumers of ethnic media, and an additional 22 million constitute the secondary consumers. The Spanish-speaking community is the single largest consumer of ethnic media.⁶³
- § Town Hall Meetings: Community-based/community-led town hall meetings should also be used to saturate the community with messages about the

importance and usefulness of citizenship. The meetings should be structured to create a safe space where the benefits of naturalization, as well as questions surrounding the process, can be freely examined and discussed.

- § Advertising: In light of the vast number of potential applicants, broader advertising should be considered. Billboard space, PSA messages on public transportation, and commercials should be used to encourage pursuit of citizenship. While traditional advertising has the potential of reaching the target audience, it can also reach family, friends and neighbors who can carry the message back into the community.
- § Toll-free Number: A toll-free telephone number connected to an automated call center allows for the dissemination and gathering of information. Because the toll-free telephone number can be seamlessly integrated into the public education campaign, a call center can serve as a central clearinghouse for directing callers to community-based naturalization clinics in their area. Automated calls centers offer multiple language features as well as a variety of information request options (voice, fax, SMS) for callers. Additionally, the call center can collect data for future outreach efforts. For example, data gathered by the call center can be used to map where interested applicants live and thereby better direct resources to the most needed places. Call centers may also offer staffed features, such as taking messages left by callers.
- Website: A website provides basic information about the naturalization process and where to go for help. For example, the website can have a database of citizenship classes offered throughout the state, searchable by city and cost.

PART IV:

THE NEW AMERICANS INITIATIVE
FOR MARYLAND/VIRGINIA/DC

The New Americans Initiative for Maryland/Virginia/DC will be a comprehensive, multi-year, collaborative effort to link legal permanent residents directly to the information and services they need to naturalize and become citizens. The service-delivery model of the Initiative centers on the creation of Naturalization Support Centers (NSCs) at existing community-based organizations representing the diverse national, linguistic and cultural backgrounds of the local universe of immigrants. The Initiative will target the more than 250,000 LPRs currently eligible to apply for naturalization, as well as those who will become eligible over the next few years. In its first phase, the Initiative will focus primarily on geographic areas with high concentrations of eligible LPRs.

There will be a designated lead organization in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC that will be responsible for soliciting the participation of partner organizations, coordinating the public education campaign, ensuring strong overall organization of the Initiative, including effective public promotion and service delivery, being accountable to stakeholders and partner organizations, and evaluation of key



components. The three lead agencies should be recognized by immigrant community members, peers and funders as leaders within the universe of local/regional immigrant-focused organizations. They should have the capacity to move a major initiative and a proven track record of coalition-building, collaboration with diverse stakeholders and strongly representing immigrant community

interests.

Finally, New Americans Policy Councils in each state, plus a Regional Policy Council comprised of representatives from the three Councils, will set the directives for the Initiative and provide oversight of the lead agencies as well as accountability to public and private sector stakeholders.

Naturalization Support Centers

Community-based organizations working with immigrants are essential to the success of the Initiative. These organizations will house the Naturalization Support Centers (NSCs) and offer integrated citizenship services. The NSCs will integrate the following components:

- 1) OUTREACH: Provide community outreach to spread the word about the importance and advantages of becoming a citizen and encourage people to start the naturalization process. These outreach activities will be accomplished through:
 - a. Trainings
 - b. Workshops to educate community members and organizations
 - c. Media Campaigns (coordinated by lead organizations)
 - d. Mass citizenship workshops
 - f. Outreach activities in churches, door to door, etc.

- 2) CITIZENSHIP PREPARATION: Coordinate services to help immigrants naturalize. These services include:
 - a. Filing applications for Naturalization.
 - b. Tracking the applicants and the applications.
 - c. Citizenship preparation
 - d. Civic Education

- e. Referrals to ESL classes
- f. Follow up on client preparation until they are ready for the test, interview and oath ceremony.

3) LEGAL: Provide legal services. These services include:

- a. Legal screening of each application filed by the collaborative.
- b. Limited legal counseling.
- c. Legal workshops at citizenship rallies.
- d. Limited legal representation for complex cases.

This integrated approach, which will be similar at all locations, will be designed to support LPRs at each stage of the process. The services provided will not end with a successful application, but will continue to ensure that the new citizens are supported in understanding their rights and duties as American citizens. Services at each Naturalization Support Center will include:

Basic Information Services

The ease with which people are able to get information will greatly impact the success of the program and so individuals will be able to receive basic information and services at the Naturalization Support Centers. For example, there will be an English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Class Referral Service. Recognizing the existing strengths in the community, the Initiative will not start a new ESOL program but rather connect interested LPRs to current ESOL resources. At each of the Initiative's Naturalization Support Centers there will be a person able to help interested LPRs register for ESOL classes. This person will collect data about the people in need of ESOL classes to make sure that there are adequate classes available. If through this

process the NSCs identify a lack of ESOL classes, the lead organizations will organize a campaign for an expansion of classes in target areas and for target populations.

Citizenship Clinics

These Clinics will be designed for people who need basic information about the process and minimal assistance completing the application form. The Clinics will last approximately four hours and include:

- An intake and screening process;
- Completion of N-400 application;
- Presentation on the rights and responsibilities of lawful permanent residents, as well as warnings on actions that endanger residence and the advantages of citizenship for those that are not prepared or are not yet qualified (i.e., don't have the requisite years of residence or don't have knowledge of civics, etc.).
- Screening for those who should not apply for citizenship.
- Opportunity to talk with representatives of various invited organizations and obtain any necessary referral materials.

The Clinics will be staffed by Naturalization Support Center staff and trained volunteers, including pro bono attorneys.

Citizenship Classes

The Initiative will provide high-quality, accessible citizenship classes. Class participants will need to pass a basic written and oral English test to ensure that they have the necessary level of English language skills. Most classes will run for 10 weeks and meet once a week for three hours. By the end of the class, participants will have completed their application and be prepared for the oral and written citizenship exams. The classes will include modules on American history, civics and other information

needed to pass the citizenship exam and support LPRs in participating more fully in their community. There will also be mock interviews to prepare individuals for their citizenship interview with an officer of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Classes will be offered in the morning and evening during the week and on the weekends to accommodate different work schedules and there will be on-site childcare at as many locations as possible.

Legal Assistance

A component of the Initiative will be to address the legal issues surrounding naturalization through community education work and individual consultations. The emphasis of the community education work will be on helping LPRs understand the immigration laws, how the laws affect their ability to naturalize and steps they can take to increase their eligibility for naturalization. There will also be legal counseling to help LPRs in their individual cases. The legal assistance will be provided through a mixture of paid staff and pro-bono attorneys.

Civic Engagement Assistance

Given that citizenship should mark a beginning, the Initiative will include a civic engagement campaign which encourages community involvement, voter registration and active civic participation. Naturalization Support Centers will assist newly naturalized citizens with voter registration and mechanisms will be established to provide periodic confirmation that voter registration of newly naturalized citizens is being efficiently and appropriately handled across the region. Additionally, lead agencies will create and distribute a civic participation resource guide or instructional unit that newly naturalized citizens may turn to for localized civic participation opportunities. The guide will include information on electoral rights and responsibilities, civic rights and duties such as jury

duty, and opportunities for participation in local commissions and boards. Finally, the Naturalization Support Centers will provide opportunities and training to integrate new Americans into opportunities to volunteer in their communities.

Lead Organizations for a Diverse Initiative

Administration and overall coordination of the Initiative's large-scale service delivery, public education and communications, fundraising and evaluation activities is an essential need of the program. Key tasks such as communications, curriculum development and teacher training, fundraising and evaluation will be centralized both to streamline as well as maximize outcomes of the Initiative. Tracking of progress, overall financial management and accountability to public and private stakeholders also require designated lead agencies that have the capacity to manage and administer the Initiative in the three areas.

The lead organizations must share a number of key characteristics. First and foremost, they must be recognized leaders within the diverse immigrant communities of the region. They must have the political respect and trust of other immigrant organizations, particularly given the ethnic and linguistic diversity of the region's LPR population. They must have a track record of success in working in coalition with diverse organizations, such as other immigration organizations, faith-based groups, labor organizations, advocacy groups, service providers and others. They must have strong experience and good working relationships with state and local agencies and have the capacity, or means to develop the capacity, for administering and raising funds for a large-scale initiative, as well as the proven ability to meet the demand of diverse stakeholders and to be accountable to the communities they serve.

Since early 2007, CASA de Maryland, Inc. (CASA)⁶⁴ and Tenants and Workers

United (TWU)⁶⁵ have been conducting the research and feasibility study that have resulted in this report and call for a naturalization and citizenship initiative for Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Beyond developing the concept and plan for this New Americans Initiative for our region, a number of factors point to TWU and CASA as strong candidates for the lead agencies in their respective states. Foremost among these, TWU and CASA have:

- Local, regional and national recognition for their leadership and commitment to the low-income immigrant communities of the Maryland/Virginia region.
- Existing organizational infrastructure, well-trained multi-lingual leadership and staff, and long-time experience with providing education and one-on-one guidance to immigrants on a range of issues.
- Strong working relationships with state and local agencies, grant makers, immigrant-serving organizations, and other key stakeholders in the region.
- A deep understanding of the capacity and range of immigrant community organizations and service providers in the region (based on surveys and interviews conducted by TWU and CASA in 2007).
- A significant number of existing partnerships with faith-based, labor, educational, and community organizations across the region.
- A history of operating successful large-scale projects with well-formulated communication and outreach strategies that effectively reach marginalized immigrant communities.
- A history of successful collaboration with each other on successful efforts to advance innovative projects and initiatives benefiting immigrant and low-income communities in the Washington-metropolitan area.
- A deep commitment to the establishment of the Initiative and the activation of the many volunteers who will be necessary to make the program successful.

- A strong track-record of national and regional fundraising, progressive growth in annual operating budgets, and the proven ability to leverage millions of additional public and private dollars for key public initiatives.

Additionally, CASA has a highly regarded citizenship education program and ESOL program. While ESOL is not a major service component of the Initiative, CASA can provide technical assistance to organizations as they develop their own citizenship or ESOL programs.

TWU and CASA's knowledge of and relationships with key stakeholders and other immigrant-serving organizations will allow them to begin implementation of this plan quickly and effectively. The immediate challenges faced by the organizations, however, are clear. In particular, while TWU and CASA are strongly identified as leaders of and within the Latino immigrant communities of the region, they have limited experience within the large, ethnically and linguistically diverse Asian immigrant communities of the region. CASA and TWU have already begun working with leading organizations of and within Asian immigrant communities in the region to identify the successful mechanisms being used to promote and facilitate naturalization and citizenship among Asian LPRs, as well as identify the unmet needs of Asian LPRs, especially low-income and elderly Asian LPRs and Asian refugees and asylees.

While a smaller population than either Asian or Latino LPRs, the African immigrant population also has significant strengths and resources to draw on and specific needs that must be met. As strongly Latino-identified organizations, TWU and CASA will work very closely with Asian and African immigrant community organizations and leaders prior to the launch of the Initiative. This process will be essential to the creation of the African, Asian, and Latino community-based naturalization and citizenship network that will be the modus operandi and first major achievement of the New Americans Initiative for Maryland and Virginia.

Lead Organization in Washington, DC

Unlike in Maryland and Virginia, no immigrant community-based organization in Washington, DC has been part of the research and preliminary planning process to this point. There are, however, organizations that meet the criteria for lead organizations as discussed above. In the coming months, Washington, DC-based organizations will be identified and consulted on the appropriate next steps for recruiting a potential lead agency for the District.

Governance

The New Americans Initiative will be governed by three Policy Councils, one in each state and the District of Columbia, and a Regional Policy Council comprised of representatives from the Maryland, Virginia and DC Policy Councils. The Policy Councils will be comprised of labor, community, business, faith, educational, governmental, and philanthropic leaders and will provide key leadership for the Initiative. While the lead organizations will have the primary responsibility for the creation of the Initiative, including fundraising and implementation, the Policy Council will:

- Represent the interests of all stakeholders in ensuring success of the Initiative.
- Join the lead organizations in determining the criteria for partner organizations.
- Have a central oversight role, including approving and reviewing financial plans and approving the metrics by which success will be measured.
- Overseeing the annual evaluation of the Initiative and issuing annual reports. Annual reports will reflect the accomplishments of the Initiative and will include recommendations for improvement as well as independently audited financial statements for the Initiative.

- Provide input on program design based on relevant professional and issue-based expertise.

Start-Up Process

The partner organizations will be selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process administered by the lead organizations. The criteria for the RFP will be set by the New American Policy Council and will focus on ensuring that the selected organizations are located in areas of high concentrations of eligible LPRs, have a demonstrated commitment and proven ability to work effectively with a range of immigrant communities, and have the capacity to support additional staff and clients. Council members will initially read and evaluate applications independently using guidelines developed by the Council and will then participate in review panel meetings during which proposals will be reviewed and scored collectively. Once selected, the partner organizations will receive a grant to fund the Naturalization Support Center and training so that all of the Centers are utilizing the same linguistically appropriate education and service delivery model.

RFP Proposal Format and Content

The RFP process will be determined by the Policy Council, but it is recommended that it will include requests for the following information:

- Organizational Qualifications, including:
 - mission and history in providing services to immigrant groups
 - experience in providing services to targeted geographic areas, ethnic groups, language groups, age and ability groups, and/or religious communities and awareness of the specific needs of the population to be served;

- ability to run effective outreach campaigns, targeting specific immigrant populations and successfully organizing large citizenship workshops to encourage immigrants to initiate the naturalization process
- capacity to run quality citizenship preparation classes
- capacity to provide effective monitoring of individuals in the citizenship process, identifying those that qualify, enrolling them in citizenship preparation classes, assisting with filing for citizenship, referrals and confirming those that are sworn in as citizens;
- awareness of and relationships with existing educational, legal and civic resources, including ESOL and citizenship classes,
- knowledge of and experience with immigration law and legal services related to naturalization
- qualifications of the staff providing the proposed services
- ability to engage naturalized immigrants in civic affairs and the democratic process, in order to learn the full rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

□ Work Plan, which is the blueprint for the NSCs work and will provide the basis for evaluation. The Plan should discuss how the NSC will use the NAI model and tailor it to meet the unique needs of the community and capitalize on the organizations work to date. The Plan must include detail on the following components:

- Outreach Component, including how the NSC will run outreach campaigns to target eligible LPRs and use of volunteers and staff.
- Citizenship Preparation Component, including the workshop and clinic schedule, the number of students participating and staffing structure.
- Legal Component, including type of legal services the NSC will

be able to provide and partnerships in the community to provide necessary legal services as related to naturalization.

- Needs Statement, including the proposed area of service, target immigrant groups and potential barriers to working with the targeted population.
- Budget

Public Education Campaign and Recruitment

An aggressive public education campaign will be the primary tool to reach the hundreds of thousands of eligible LPRs. The core messages of the campaign will be the advantages of becoming a citizen, the risks of not becoming a citizen, and how to connect to a NSC. In conjunction with public relations and media firms, the lead organizations will work with partner organizations with cultural and linguistic competence in their communities to design messaging that works for the varied target constituencies. Additionally, through partner organizations there will be opportunities to do focus group testing of messages with their current or potential clients. The Initiative will also learn from effective public education campaigns, such as Ya Es Hora, which CASA currently partners with, and APIAVOTE.org. These campaigns have highlighted the importance of PSAs and ongoing partnerships with ethnic media outlets.

The campaign will highlight the stories of Maryland, Virginia and DC immigrants who have become citizens. The lead agencies will work with public relations and media firms as well as elected officials, local governments and community based organizations in areas with a high concentration of LPR constituents to create a linguistically and culturally appropriate communications strategy which will include:

- Free and Paid Media, including television, radio, internet, and print. Media targets will primarily be the ethnic media outlets.
- Targeted Non-Media Advertising. Ads promoting the benefits of citizenship and

information about the Naturalization Support Centers will be posted in churches, supermarkets, movie theaters, elementary schools, parks, bus stops, restaurants and other highly-populated consumer areas. Another example is partnering with a local utility company to include educational materials in utility bills for zip codes where the most LPRs reside.

- Toll-Free Information Number. We will have a centralized toll-free number that connects to a multi-lingual call center that can direct callers to appropriate service providers in Maryland, Virginia and DC and provide a variety of other information services.
- Website. A multi-lingual website will provide basic information about the naturalization process and where to go for help for related services.
- Town hall meetings. We will have community-based and community-led town hall meetings to educate the community on the importance of naturalization, while also creating a safe space for questions about the process.

Program Evaluation

The evaluation model will be developed in consultation with program evaluation experts with the goal of not only assessing the effectiveness of the Initiative but also of noting the changes in LPR population so that the tactics of the Initiative can be constantly improved. There will be separate annual evaluations of the Initiative as a whole, each lead organization and each of the partner organizations housing NSCs.

Every NSC will submit a monthly performance report to the lead organizations in each state. A standard evaluation form will be provided which will include the following information:

- Outreach – actual intakes of prospective citizens;
- Classes – number of new students enrolled;
- N-400s filed

- Naturalizations – number of people who received assistance who have become a citizen
- Derivative naturalizations – number of foreign-born children of the new citizens who have become citizens as a result of their parent’s naturalization
- Ineligibles – number of people who were found to be permanently or temporarily ineligible to naturalize (e.g., no English or illiterate, abandonment of residence, etc.) and reasons for ineligibility.

NSCs will be expected to use and retain standard intake/assessment forms, agreement forms from clients, casework notes, lesson plans, activity logs, class rosters and event sign-in sheets. In addition to monthly reporting, the lead organizations will monitor performance through site visits, attendance at training sessions and monthly meetings, and as needed follow-up.

Every six months the lead organizations will use the evaluation mechanisms above to formally evaluate the NSCs on the effectiveness of their outreach to the LPRs in their targeted areas, the retention rate of those outreached to in relation to citizenship class completion, filing of the N400, and naturalization.

The lead organizations will be evaluated by the Policy Council which will use the 6-month progress reports and individual interviews with NSC staff to determine the effectiveness of the lead organizations in coordinating the NAI, supporting the NSC and running the media and messaging campaigns.

Funding

The New Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia, and DC is a three-year pilot project with a projected total budget of \$15 million. Over the three-years of the

Initiative, it is projected that \$6.2 million will come from state and federal sources, \$1.2 million from county and local governments, \$3.6 million from national grant makers, \$1.8 million from local and regional grant makers, and \$2 million from fees, corporate, grassroots, and in-kind sources. In sum, 50% of the Initiative's budget will come from government sources and 50% from a range of other sources. The lead organizations will have primary responsibility for identifying and securing funding for the Initiative. The lead organizations, in partnership with the state Policy Councils, will be the recipients of the bulk of the funding although some of the money may go directly from funders to Naturalization Support Centers. Of the \$15 million projected, it is expected that more than \$10 million will be re-granted to the estimated 20-25 organizations housing Naturalization Support Centers across the region. An additional \$2 million will be dedicated to public education and program evaluation. \$2.5 million is projected for core administrative and operating expenses of the three lead agencies and policy councils, as well as start-up costs. As the Initiative develops, it is expected that some grant funds will be allocated for capacity building and targeted community grants in areas where there is little infrastructure to deliver services or outreach, or for underserved ethnic communities.

This proposed funding structure is similar to the structure in Illinois and is intended to support a coordinated multi-jurisdictional effort while providing lead organizations the resources needed to build the infrastructure for providing the services.⁶⁶ It is anticipated that local NSCs will be funded at a level between \$50,000-175,000 per year. Funding level decisions will take into consideration a number of factors including: the target areas selected, the density of LPRs in those areas, the track record of the collaborative to penetrate the targeted communities, and the number of LPRs targeted in the work plan and the quality of the work plan itself.

Budget for the New Americans Initiative

The projected budget would fund the following each year:

- I. Initial Program Design and Implementation:⁶⁷ \$500,000 (Year 1 Only)
 - \$150,000 for state and local needs assessment through interviews, demographic research, surveys, focus groups and site visits of:
 - o The existing universe of eligible and not currently eligible LRPs. This assessment will include a range of information that will help with program delivery and targeting such as location in the state, country of origin, age, length of time in the United States, level of formal education, English language ability, organizations currently delivering them services and organizational and religious institutional affiliations.
 - o The specific needs of eligible LRPs (including English classes, financial assistance and legal advice).
 - o Services currently being provided such as ESOL and citizenship classes, legal services and voter registration assistance. Service providers will include not-for-profit organizations, for-profit companies, local, country and state governments and community colleges.
 - \$5,000 for review of best practices for citizenship integration projects.
 - \$100,000 for program design development, including target populations, teacher and legal assistant training materials, curriculum development for citizenship clinics and classes and a civic engagement campaign.
 - \$25,000 for the establishment of the Policy Council and initial meetings.
 - \$10,000 for the development of the RFP process.

- \$30,000 (\$10,000 for each state) for the implementation of the initial RFP process to select the initial partner organizations.
- \$40,000 for the development and production of materials, including recruitment materials and materials for the clinics and classes.
- \$75,000 for the initial training of the partner organizations.
- \$80,000 for development of an evaluation program that documents the successes and areas for improvement. The evaluation should be focused not just on the naturalization rates but also on the disparities in outcomes by socioeconomic and nationality group. Additionally, the evaluation should track the ways in which new citizens are engaged in the community and the effectiveness of the public education campaign.

II. Public Education Campaign: \$500,000

Design and implementation of the public education campaign, including media buys. Content will be developed by experts in media messaging and people working with the target communities. The media buys will be targeted primarily at ethnic media television, radio and print outlets in the Washington metropolitan media market (where 70% of LPRs in the region reside), as well as in smaller targeted media markets including Annapolis/Baltimore, Richmond, and Newport News.

III. Ongoing Administration of the Initiative: \$500,000 year one, \$675,000 year two, and \$800,000 year three

The lead organizations will be responsible for the ongoing implementation of the re-grant program through the RFP process, the civic engagement campaign, continuing program development, regular trainings to grantees, technical assistance on legal matters, monitoring of grantees, regular site-

visits, program evaluation and annual reports. Administration funds will be proportioned to the lead agencies for their administrative and overhead expenses based on formulas agreed upon by the Regional Policy Council. The administration category also includes costs for an annual audit by a Certified Public Accounting agency. A portion of administration funds may also support a small number of core Initiative personnel responsible for coordination of the Initiative’s regional public education and communications, media buys, as well as Initiative evaluation.

IV. Program Evaluation: \$300,000 (Years 2 and 3)

Ongoing evaluation of the program will be critical to ensure that the Initiative is meeting its objectives. Evaluation will be conducted by an independent agency, who will have responsibility for collecting and assessing data as well as providing reports to the lead agencies, policy councils, and other stakeholders.

V. Grants to Partner Organizations: \$2.9 million (Year One); \$3.6 million (Year Two); \$4 million (Year Three)

The Initiative will support between 20-25 Naturalization Support Centers in Maryland, Virginia and DC with grants that will range from approximately \$50,000 to \$175,000. Community-based organizations will be selected through an RFP process, developed by the Policy Councils and the lead organizations, to operate the Naturalization Support Centers. We anticipate the major components of the Support Centers’ operational budgets will be assistance with the citizenship application, naturalization clinics and classes⁶⁸ and general administrative and staff costs. The increase in the budget for years 2 and 3 reflects increased grants amounts to cover cost increases and expanded services as well as new or additional Naturalization Support Centers and services in targeted remote areas or for under-served ethnic communities.

CONCLUSION

The last decade has seen a tremendous growth in the rate of immigration, both nationally and locally. This growth has spurred much debate around the significance of immigration to our national identity and has caused a resurgence of staunch nativism. The reality is that we are country of immigrants and the strength of the United States depends on the contributions of more than 37 million foreign-born residents. While we must wait for a comprehensive federal immigration policy, we do not need to wait, and indeed cannot afford to wait, for a regional immigrant integration plan.

Becoming a citizen provides many concrete benefits for the individual, including the right to vote and ability to travel more freely, but it also has positive effects on the larger community. Citizenship promotes strong workforce development as it brings improved education and employment opportunities.⁶⁹ It offers better job prospects and creates more labor force participation. In turn, it has a collateral effect on the community and the economy with increased entrepreneurship and homeownership. Further, citizenship can help foster the family unit as it brings with it the opportunity for priority processing of family petitions.⁷⁰ Finally, facilitating naturalization while also fostering active volunteerism and civic participation will lead to better integration services for future waves of immigrants.



Citizenship opens the door to political participation and gives immigrants a voice in their political representation.

While the importance of naturalization is clear, few national policies promote it. LPRs receive no notice when they become eligible

to naturalize and there is a lack of funding to promote citizenship and assist LPRs in the completing the process.⁷¹ Individuals who have obtained LPR status have already achieved an important milestone to successful integration, but they need continued support to complete the process.⁷²

As our region welcomes more and more LPRs each year, the number of LPRs eligible to naturalize will continue to increase exponentially. The barriers to naturalization are real and significant, and yet with a concerted and sustained effort they can be overcome. The New Americans Initiative Maryland, Virginia, and DC was crafted to address the core reasons why people are not naturalizing and replicates best practices from around the country for creating a community-based naturalization approach: a public education and service model in which an eligible immigrant resident can go to a single location in their own community and receive in a streamlined fashion all the information and support necessary to become a citizen.

The New Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia and DC is a vital immigrant integration plan that will support the over 270,000 currently eligible LPRs in becoming citizens and in doing so unite our communities and our region around a shared value: American citizenship. The time to act is now. With each delay more and more immigrants are becoming eligible to naturalize but failing to take the appropriate next steps. As a region, we must seize the opportunity to create The New Americans Initiative for Maryland, Virginia and DC and through this program support hundreds of thousands of community members in becoming fully integrated citizens of our localities, states and country.

Notes

1 Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Population Estimates, Estimates of the Legal Permanent Residents Population in 2006* (February 2008), www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/LPR_PE_2006.pdf. See *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2006, Naturalization*, *supra* note 26 at Table 22.

2 Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., *Annual Flow Report, U.S. Legal Permanent Residents: 2006*, Table 3 (Mar., 2007), <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/index.shtm> (In 2006 alone, over 1,266,000 individuals became Legal Permanent Residents).

3 Jeff Chenoweth and Laura Burdick, *A More Perfect Union: A National Citizenship Plan*, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. at vii (2007) (citing to Farkas, S. Duffett, A., & Johnson, J. *Now That I’m Here: What America’s Immigrants Have to Say about Life in the U.S. Today*, Washington DC: Public Agenda, 2003 at 29).

4 Irene Bloemraad, *Becoming a Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006, p. 1.

5 *Annual Flow Report, U.S. Legal Permanent Residents: 2006*, *supra* note 1, at Table 4 available at --(stating that in the Metropolitan Statistical Area of Washington-Arlington-Alexandria-Rockville (DC-VA-MD-WV), LPR settlement patterns have remained steady over the past ten years, showing a consistent increase between 2003 and 2006).

6 U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, *Becoming an American: Immigration and Immigrant Policy*, Report to Congress (1997).

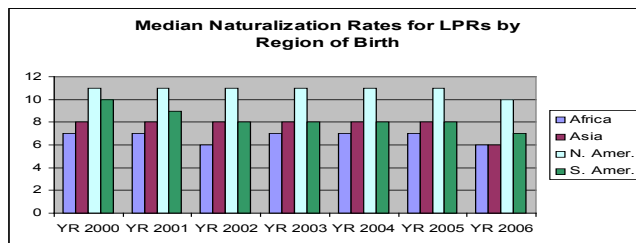
7 Throughout the history of the United States, there have been immigrant integration efforts. Beginning in the latter part of the 19th century, the government, trade unions, women’s clubs, and civic organizations, began a concerted effort to promote naturalization. In the late 1800’s, settlement houses, which primarily served European immigrants, were the most common vehicles for immigrant integration. The primary goal of settlement houses was to transition newcomers into the work force. In addition, they provided a range of services to facilitate integration into mainstream American society, such as English classes. The integration support led to many of the newly arrived immigrants becoming actively involved in their communities evidencing a commitment to American ideals. For example, they began identifying social and economic problems and lobbying for state and federal legislation to address them. State legislators responded to the interest of these new members of their state and understood the value of formally engaging them in the political process. During the period from 1776 through 1926, non-citizen residents were allowed to vote in at least 40 states. The Americanization movement ended in the 1920’s bringing with it an end to most mass naturalization efforts. Since that time, the country has not seen another mass naturalization effort in which the government has played an integral role.

8 See Appendix A for a list of organizations well-suited to house Naturalization Support Centers.

9 *Id.* at 4, Table 7. (The length of time is measured from the time the individual obtained LPR status to the time s/he naturalizes.).

10 *Id.*

11 *Id.*



12

13 See USCIS, *Adjudicator’s Field Manual-Redacted Public Version: Updated through June 18, 2007*, Chapter 73.6 (July 2007) (“One of the most important basic requirements in naturalization is that of good moral character (GMC). An applicant for naturalization must show that, during the statutorily

prescribed period, he or she has been and continues to be a person of good moral character. This period includes the time between the examination and the oath of allegiance. Although the law specifies that the good moral character requirement applies to the statutory period, conduct prior to that period may impact the adjudicator’s decision regarding whether or not an applicant meets the requirement. . . .The courts have held that good moral character means character which measures up to the standards of average citizens of the community in which the applicant resides.”)

14 *Id.* at 73.7 (“...the Act requires that during the statutorily prescribed period, an applicant for naturalization has been and continues to be a person attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States.”).

15 *Id.* at 75.1(a). (“Before an applicant is admitted to citizenship, he or she must take the oath of allegiance at a public ceremony and sign a copy of the oath to acknowledge his or her willingness to accept certain obligations of United States citizenship...[t]aking the oath usually requires the applicant to orally recite the oath during a public ceremony and is not accomplished by merely signing the copy of the oath.”)

Note: Some applicants are entitled to take a modified oath or receive a waiver of the oath, *see* Chapter 75.1(b) and (c).

16 *Id.* (Applicants who are over 50 at the time of applying and who have lived in the U.S. as LPRs for periods totaling at least 20 years and applicants who are over 55 at the time of applying and who have lived in the U.S. as LPRs for periods totaling at least 15 years do not have to take the English exam and the civics exam can be taken in the language of the applicant’s choosing. Applicants who are over 65 at the time of applying and who have lived in the U.S. as LPRs for periods totaling at least 20 years do not have to take the English exam and can take a simplified civics exam. Minor children of U.S. citizens do not have to apply for naturalization but rather, may apply for derivative citizenship if certain eligibility requirements are met. Persons serving the U.S. honorably during wartime and other conflicts and LPRs who serve in the military are subject to different requirements).

17 *See* USCIS at 12 (Jan., 2007).

18 *Id.*

19 Jeffrey S. Passel, *Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing to Naturalize*, Pew Hispanic Center (March 28, 2007), www.pewshipanic.org.

20 *Id.* at v

21 *Id.* at 10

22 Jennifer Kim, et al., *Americans on Hold: Profiling, Citizenship and the “War on Terror,”* The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law (Apr., 2007).

23 *Id.*

24 Pamela Manson, “Racial profiling?: Names put citizenship on hold,” *The Salt Lake Tribune* (July 27, 2007).

25 USCIS Form N-400 (Rev. 11/01/06). The N400 requires a married applicant to include her/his spouse’s name, country of citizenship, and immigration status.

26 National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, *Adult English Language Instruction in the United States: Determining Need and Investing Wisely* at 3 (July, 2007) (citing to *Trends in Naturalization, Washington, DC*, The Urban Institute Press, 2003).

27 *Id.* at 48.

28 *Id.* at 48-49 (“For example, if an immigrant is convicted of petit larceny for which the sentence of imprisonment is one year, the offense is treated as a misdemeanor under state criminal law, but immigration law treats it as an aggravated felony. For several of the listed crimes, if a sentence of imprisonment for one year is ordered, the person is considered an aggravated felon even if the sentence was suspended and the person never served time in prison.”).

29 Michael Fix, et al., *Trends in Naturalization*, The Urban Institute Press at 6 (Sept., 2003), http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310847_trends_in_naturalization.pdf

30 *Supra*, Jeffrey S. Passel, *Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing to Naturalize* at 13.

31 *Id.* at 6 (in order of LPR flow from highest to lowest flow in 2006, the other states include California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Virginia, Massachusetts, Georgia and Maryland).

32 See Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, “Estimates of the Legal Permanent Resident Population in 2006,” February 2008. . Most naturalization seekers will have to satisfy the requirement that s/he hold LPR status for five years before becoming eligible to apply for naturalization, meaning that the majority of those who received LPR status between 2003 and 2006 are not currently naturalization-eligible. Additionally, it is difficult to determine precisely how many applicant-eligible LPRs there are in the Maryland/Virginia region at any one time since data for migration patterns does not necessarily reflect immigration status.

33 In Maryland, about 12% of those eligible naturalized in 2002 and that number increased to about 14% by 2006. In Virginia, about 8% of those eligible naturalized in 2002 and that number increased to about 20% by 2006.

34 *Id.* See Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics:2006, Naturalization* at Table 22, <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/YrBk06Na.shtm> (stating that while there were 105,074 LPRs eligible to naturalize in MD, only 14,465 did and while there were 104,128 eligible in VA, only 20,401 LPRs became citizens).

35 *Population Estimates, Estimates of the Legal Permanent Resident Population in 2006*, *supra* note 28, http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/LPR_PE_2006.pdf.

36 *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics:2006, Immigrants*, *supra* note 30 at Supplemental Table 1, <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/yearbook.shtm>.

37 *Id.* Central and South American statistics include LPRs from Mexico. LPRs from Caribbean countries of origin make up 13,485 LPRs currently residing in Maryland. Please note that the total may not add up exactly to the current number of eligible LPRs as these breakdowns are based on an earlier and smaller estimate of the LPR population.

38 *Id.*

39 *Population Estimates, Estimates of the Legal Permanent Resident Population in 2006*, *supra* note 28, http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/LPR_PE_2006.pdf.

40 *We Are America Alliance* data.

41 Fact Sheet on the Foreign Born, Demographic and Social Characteristics, Migration Policy Institute, MPI Data Hub, <http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/acscensus.cfm>.

42 *Id.* at Language and Education Characteristics.

43 *Id.* (Indo-European languages include: French, Italian, Portuguese, German, Yiddish, Scandinavian, Greek, Russian, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, other Slavic languages, Armenian, Persian, Gujarathi, Hindi, and Urdu, among others. Asian and Pacific languages include: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mon-Khmer/Cambodian, Miao/Hmong, Thai, Laotian, Vietnamese, and Tagalog, among others. Other languages include: Navajo, other Native North American languages, Hungarian, Arabic, Hebrew, and African languages, among others).

44 *Id.*

45 Fact Sheet on the Foreign Born, Income and Poverty Characteristics

46 *Population Estimates, Estimates of the Legal Permanent Residents Population and Population Eligible to Naturalize in 2004*, *supra* note 27. See *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics:2006, Naturalization*, *supra* note 26 at Table 20, <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/yearbook.shtm>. (The most recent national data available demonstrates that in 2004, about 8 million LPRs were eligible to naturalize but only 537,151 LPRs were naturalized).

47 *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2006, Naturalization*, *supra* note 26 at Supplemental Table 2, <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/yearbook.shtm>.

48 *Id.* at Supplemental Table 1 (5,787 LPRs from countries of Asian origin naturalized in 2006).

49 *Id.* (Specifically in Maryland, 3,149 LPRs from Africa, 1,687 from Europe, 2,698 from North America, 24 from Oceania, 1,112 from South America, and 8 LPRs from unknown countries of origin were naturalized in 2006).

50 *Annual Flow Report, U.S. Legal Permanent Residents: 2006*, *supra* note 1, at Table 4.

51 Central and South American Statistics include LPRs from Mexico. 5,650 LPRs currently residing in Virginia are from Caribbean countries of origin. Again, the total may not add up exactly to the current number of eligible LPRs as these breakdowns are based on an earlier and smaller estimate of the LPR

population.

52 *Id.*

53 *Id.*

54 *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics:2006, Naturalization*, *supra* note 26 at Table 22, <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/yearbook.shtm>. (specifically in VA, 10,598 LPRs chose to naturalize in 2002; in 2003, 9,583 LPRs became citizens; 13,478 LPRs naturalized in 2004; in 2005, 17,653 successfully naturalized; and 20,401 LPRs naturalized in 2006).

55 “Estimates of the Legal Permanent Resident Population in 2006,” Office of Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security, February 2008. *See Yearbook of Immigration Statistics:2006, Profiles on Naturalized Citizen*, <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/yearbook.shtm>.

56 *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics:2006, Naturalization*, *supra* note 26 at Supplemental Table 1, <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/yearbook.shtm>. (According to USCIC, in Virginia, 9,704 LPRs from African countries of origin, 3,016 LPRs from Asian countries of origin, 3,320 from North American countries of origin, 2,323 from LPRs from Europe, 1,950 from South America, 62 LPRs from Oceania and 30 LPRs from unknown countries of origin naturalized in 2006).

57 Official estimates of the LPR and eligible LPR population in Washington DC have not been published, as it is a very small population. We estimate these numbers based on the number of new LPRs as well as actual naturalization rates of LPRs from 1997-2006 contained in the DHS *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2006*. We estimated the LPRs eligible for naturalization using a rate of 50% of all LPRs, lower than the average rate in both Maryland and Virginia.

58 See <http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub> for fact sheets on Washington, D.C.

59 Refugees can adjust to LPR status after one year of residence in the U.S. and asylees can apply for LPR status one year after receiving asylum. For example, in 2004, 52,837 refugees were admitted into the country, of which 30,508 were over the age of 18. In 2005, the country accepted 53,738 of which nearly 32,000 were 18 or older, while in 2006 another 25,700 adults were admitted. *Supra*, note 1 at 3. **See also:** U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, *Annual Flow Report: Refugees and Asylees: 2006* at 1 (May 2007).

60 *Id.* at 4, Table 7. (The length of time is measured from the time the individual obtained LPR status to the time s/he naturalizes.).

61 According to the USCIS, certain minor children of U.S. citizens can apply for citizenship via the Certificate of Citizenship which is obtained by filing USCIS Form N600. Generally, a child can seek derivative citizenship if: (1) S/he was born outside of the United States and is under the age of 18 at the time of applying, (2) Has at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen (either by birth or naturalization), (3) S/he lives in the U.S. in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent(s), and (4) Is an LPR. Because the USCIS requires children to be “legitimated,” children born out of wedlock are entitled to file an N600 if their mother becomes a citizen.

62 **See:** American Bar Association, Commission on Immigration, *The Dangers of Notario Fraud* (<http://www.abanet.org/publicserv/immigration/home.html>). (Noting that supposed “immigration consultants” also known as “notarios,” often times use false advertising and fraudulent contracts for service designed to lure immigrants into believing the consultant is able to provide a service s/he cannot provide.).

63 Bendixen and Associates for New California Media, *Ethnic Media in America: The Giant Hidden in Plain Sight* (June 7, 2005).

64 CASA was established in 1985, and its primary mission is to work with the community to improve the quality of life and fight for equal treatment and full access to resources and opportunities for low-income Latinos and other immigrants and their families in Maryland.

65 TWU was established in 1986 and is a democratically-controlled, grassroots organization committed to winning social and economic justice and building the power of low-income people in Northern Virginia.

66 California has earmarked \$2.8 million for its 2007 statewide naturalization program. Under the program, California’s Department of Community Services and Development will distribute the funds to community-based nonprofits and local public agencies. In Illinois, the state funded a three-year, \$9 million New Americans Initiative which distributes grants to community-based nonprofits to support eligible LPRs.

67 Some of the initial program design and implementation can be done in the same way for both states while other elements need to be customized for each state. The elements that need to be done for each state are indicated by a dollar amount for each state.

68 A 10-week, 4-hour per class citizenship class costs approximately \$6,000.

69 For example, Georgetown University offers an English for Heritage Language Speakers Program through which US citizens who are native speakers of Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Pashto, Farsi, Dari, Urdu, and Punjabi can receive full scholarship to their Career Development program. Additionally, since 1939 the U.S. Federal Government has included language in its annual appropriations bill prohibiting the use of funds to compensate any employee who is not a U.S. citizen. There are few exceptions to this ban. **See:** U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Ensuring the Federal Government has an Effective Civilian Workforce: Federal Employment of Non-Citizens, <http://www.opm.gov/employ/html/Citizen.asp#competitive%20service>.

70 United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, *A Guide to Naturalization* at 3 (January 2007).

71 Urban Institute, Immigration Studies Program, Trends in Naturalization, 2003.

72 United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, *A Guide to Naturalization* at 17 (January 2007).

APPENDIX A
NATURALIZATION SUPPORT SERVICES
IN MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND WASHINGTON, DC

Integrating, coordinating and, where necessary, supplementing the already available resources will be essential to the success of The New Americans Initiative. In 2007, Tenants & Workers United conducted a preliminary study of the potential prospects and challenges of forming a statewide, multi-racial immigrant rights coalition in Virginia. TWU consulted with immigrant groups and associations, labor and religious organizations, grassroots and civil rights organizations, local government agencies, immigrant media outlets and others across the state. Organizations were asked to assess if they would be likely members of a statewide, pro-immigrant rights coalition as well as to specify what kinds of resources they might bring to a statewide coalition. The survey also included a basic organizational profile for each respondent. All surveys were conducted in person or by phone. Respondents included:

ACLU of Virginia
 Arlington Interfaith Council
 AYUDA (DC/VA)
 Buyers and Renters Arlington Voice - BRAVO
 Central Virginia Soccer Leagues
 Chesterfield County Hispanic Liaison
 Church of the Incarnation (Charlottesville)
 City of Richmond Hispanic Liaison Office
 Creciendo Juntos (Charlottesville)
 Dar Al-Hijrah (Falls Church)
 El Eco de Virginia (Norfolk)
 El Pueblo Unido (Annandale)
 First Baptist Church (Galax)
 Hacienda (Roanoke)
 Harrisonburg Area Hispanic Services Council
 Hispanic Apostolate of Virginia
 Hispanic Committee of Virginia
 Hispanic Community Dialogue
 Holy Cross (Lynchburg)
 IAF Northern Virginia Sponsorship Committee
 Laborers Union Local 11
 Latino Connection (Winchester)
 League of Korean Americans-VA
 Legal Aid Justice Center/Immigrant Advocacy Program
 Liga Latina de Futbol de Charlottesville

Ministerio Hispano de St. Gregory (Virginia Beach)
Muslim American Society
Nuevas Raices / Zona Latina (Charlottesville)
Oficina Latina de Servicios de Roanoke
Otterbein United Methodist Church (Harrisonburg)
Progreso Hispano (South Alexandria/Fairfax County)
Rappahannock Legal Services, Inc.
Refugee and Immigration Services of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Sleepy Hollow United Methodist (Falls Church)
St. Augustine (Richmond)
St. Gerard (Roanoke)
St. Joseph (Woodlawn)
Tahiri Justice Center (Northern Virginia)
Telamon Corp.
Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Virginia Muslim Political Action Committee
Virginia Organizing Project
WBTK Poder 1380 A

In Maryland and Washington, DC, there are also numerous community-based organizations that work with immigrants. A first step in the Initiative planning process will be to do a comprehensive review of the naturalization support services, and other related services such as ESOL classes, that are already being provided. The following examples of the naturalization support services already being provided is not a full review of the organizations active in this area.

Adventist Community Services Center

Services: Planning on offering a class in 2008
 Contact: 501 Sligo Ave
 Silver Spring, MD20910
 301-585-6556

African Immigrants & Refugees Foundation (AIRF)

Services: Referrals to other naturalization classes
 Contact: Wanjiru Kamau, airfound@aol.com, 301-593-0241
 Sissy Keglen, Sissy.keglen@verizon.net, 301-588-4333

Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC)

Services: Have organized naturalization clinics based on demand, register people to vote, legal support to clients who are rejected or experiencing delays, refer people to the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC)
 Contact: 11141 Georgia Avenue, Suite 515
 Silver Spring, MD 20902
 301-942- 2223/ 2263
 Marita Etcubanez (Director of Legal Services)
Marita@apalrc.org
 202-393-3572 ext.12
 (located in Wheaton, MD)
 Jayne Park, jayne.park@apalrc.org, 202-393-3572 ext 10

AYUDA, Inc.

Services: Legal assistance including political asylum, filing for family petitions, naturalization, advance parole, work authorization, and adjustment of status.
 Contact: Yvonne Vega, Executive Director, 202-387-4848
 1736 Columbia Road, NW, Washington, DC 20009
www.ayudainc.org

Baltimore City Community College/ ESL Citizenship Program

Services: 14 classes, at 10 community centers in Baltimore and DC suburbs in different languages

Contact: Gail Uramer Modol, 410-580-2756, gmogol@bccc.edu
BCCC/ Reisterstown Plaza Center
6764A Reisterstown Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21215

Boat People SOS

Services: Assistance in filling out citizenship applications and legal assistance

Contact: Christy Hoang, Christy.hoang@pbsos.org
1401 University Blvd., Suite G115
Hyattsville, MD 20783, 301-439-0505

Thang.nguyen@bpsos.org
6066 Leesburg Pike , Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041 703-538-2190

7411 Riggs Road, Suite 328
Adelphi, MD 2073 301-439-0505
adelphi@bpsos.org

Caribbean Help Center

Services: Citizenship classes, help filing out application, transportation to interview

Contact: Evans Faustin, 301-593-6922, carribbeanhelpcenter1@juno.com
33 University Blvd. East
Silver Spring, MD 20912

CARECEN - DC

Services: Assistance filling out citizenship application, civics/citizenship preparation classes for \$75, register people to vote, legal services in case of delay or rejection.

Contact: Saul Solorzano, Executive Director, 202-328-9799, SSolorzano@carecencdc.org
www.carecencdc.org
1459 Columbia Road, NW, Washington, D.C. 20099

CASA de Maryland

Services: Citizenship classes

Contact: Paul Zilly, pzilly@casamd.org, 301-431-4185, ext 207
734 University Blvd. E
Silver Spring, MD 20903

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services

Services: Legal assistance for people who are eligible for naturalization and filling out the forms, preparation for the interview and informal individual assistance coordinated by ESL coordinator

Contact: Kathy Zehr, kzehr@cc-md.org, 410-534-8015
 Patricia Chiriboga proby@cc-md.org
 Leila Borrero Krouse, lkrouse@ccwilm.org

Catholic Community Services/ Catholic Charities

Services: Citizenship classes (free), 7 or 9 week class

Contact: Tiffany Groff , 202-481-1420, tiffany.groff@catholiccharitiesdc.org
 1001 Lawrence St, NE
 Washington, DC 20017

Center for Multi-Cultural Human Services

Services: Attorneys who will help clients fill out the citizenship application, legal representation for clients with immigration-related matters and referral help line. Range of other multi-lingual services and programs.

Contact: 703-533-3302
 701 W Broad St., Suite 305
 Falls Church, VA 22046

Charles County Adult Education Programs

Services: Students already enrolled in ESL or Adult Ed classes can do a short 4 week program for citizenship
 12300 Vivian Adams Dr
 Waldorf, MD 20601
 1774-1774-1774 esinnes@ccboe.com

Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC)

Services: Citizenship support

Contact: President, Ms. Rita Lewi, 301-309-9050, ritalewi@yahoo.com
 16039 Comprint Circle,
 Gaithersburg, MD 20877
<http://www.ccacc-dc.org/>

Comite Hispano/Hispanic Committee of Northern VA

Services: Assist clients in filling them out citizenship application for a \$200 fee and referrals to other organizations and private attorneys.

Contact: Norma Lopez, 703-671-5566, Normalopez@hcva.org
 5827 Columbia Pike, Suite 200, Falls Church, VA 22041

Coordination Council of Chinese-American Associations (CCCAA)

Services: Citizenship support through partner organizations

Contact: President Xiaohui Helen He, xiaohuihe04@yahoo.com, 301-512-3316
(cell)

27 Timber Rock Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Elkridge Branch Library

Services: No classes but written resources on how to pass the exam and access to sample tests

Contact: 6540 Washington Blvd
Elkridge, MD 21075
410-313-5077
Phil Lord phil.lord@hclibrary.org

FIRN

Services: Has an immigration attorney and does citizenship applications, has done citizenship workshops and naturalization ceremonies. Planning to start a class on citizenship test prep in Laurel Office

Contact: Jennifer Blake at (410) 992-1923 Ext. 11, jblake@FIRNonline.org
Catherine Chen Hester, Esq. chester@firnonline.org, 410-992-1923 ext28
Walter R. Rodriguez, wrodriguez@firnonline.org,
410-992-1923 Ext.19, 443-472-8463 (cell)
5999 Harpers Farm Rd
Columbia, MD 21044

Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity

Services: Citizenship class offered every Sat 11:30-1. A person can drop in and covers the interview and what people need to study.

Contact: Kaori Hirakawa, kaori.hirakawa@montgomerycountymd.gov
240-777-4958
Director: Maritza.Rivera-Cohen@montgomerycountrymd.gov
Elizabeth Ortega-Lohmeyer, 240-777-4940
11319 Elkin Street
Wheaton , MD 20902

Up-County Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Road
Germantown, MD 20874
240-777-6940

Hogar Hispano, Hispanic Apostolate/Immigration Legal Services

Services: Naturalization workshops where they instruct clients on how to fill out the application. These workshops cost \$60 and they had 8 in 2007 and will have 6 in 2008. The workshops are taught by volunteers and monitored by attorneys.

Contact: John Odenwelder, Director, 703 534-9805 x234 jodenwelder@ccda.net

Hogar Hispano
 Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington
 6201 Leesburg Pike, Suite 307, Falls Church, VA 22044
www.ceda.net

Howard Community College ESL/ ABE/ GED/ EDP

Services: Citizenship classes (free), 25 hours
 Contact: OFC of Continuing Ed/ Basic Skills, 410-772-4740
 10650 Hickory Ridge Rd
 Columbia, MD 21044
 Rebecca Price, rprice@howardcc.edu

JCC of Greater Washington/ Gateway Services of New Americans (JCCGW)

Services: Citizenship classes for Russian speaking senior citizens
 Contact: 6125 Montrose Rd
 Rockville, MD 20852
 301-881-0100
 Polina Vladimirsky, pvladimirsky@jccgw.org, 301-348-3876
 Svetlana Danshes, sdanshes@jccgw.org

Korean Association of the State of Maryland Metropolitan Area

Services: Citizenship support
 Contact: President, Kun K. Sin, 301-875-7007, ksin42@msn.com
 Kwon Hu, hukwon38@hanmail.net, 240-271-0093
 10207 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20903

Korean American Senior Citizen Association of Maryland

Services: Citizenship classes each semester. Class meets twice a week, Tuesday & Thursday for 16 weeks. Cost: \$50.
 Contact: 301-438-7304
 Mr. Park, kascamd@hotmail.com

Korean Resource Center of Maryland

Services: Citizenship support
 Contact: President Dr. Kim B. Kim, 410-203-1111, kbkim@ikorean.org
 3201 Rogers Ave., Suite 203 Ellicott City, MD 21043

Korean Society of Maryland

Services: Citizenship Support
 Contact: President David Han, 410-382-9685, kifirst@aol.com
 P.O. Box 18273, Baltimore, MD 21227

League of Korean Americans (primarily Virginia)

Services: Distribute citizenship applications, attorneys assist clients in filling out citizenship application, civics classes and register people to vote.
Contact: President Jeff Ahn, 703-492-4647, jahn10@hotmail.com
3300 Old Bridge Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Lifelong Learning Center

Services: Citizenship classes (free) for students already enrolled in the center
Contact: 12300 Vivian Adams Drive
Waldorf, MD 20601
301-753-1774
Mary Vargo, mvargo@ccboe.com

Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association

Services: Assistance in filling out citizenship applications
Contact: Diana Vy

Montgomery College Community

Services: Citizenship classes (free) in three locations
Contact: 301-650-1404 or 301-650-1405
<http://montgomerycollege.org/wdce/aelg/citizenship.htm>
Noa Sadan (Director of Refugee Center)
Noa.Sadan@montgomerycollege.edu
Tiffany Shao (Project Manager) Tiffany.shao@montgomerycollege.edu

Muslim Community Center

Services: Individual counseling to fill forms; moving toward a class model
Contact: Abdul Kamus, board member
202-413-1332 (cell)
azizkamus@aol.com
15200 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905
301-384-3454 (main) 301-384-2166 (clinic)

Refugee Center of Montgomery College

Services: Referral and classes
Contact: Yetlie Kern, 240-567-1405, yetlie.kern@montgomerycollege.edu
Noa.sadan@montgomerycollege.edu
Tiffany.shao@montgomerycollege.edu

Spanish Catholic Centers

Services: Citizenship classes and application support services

Contact: Gaithersburg (301-740-25230)

Silver Spring (301-942-1790)

Langley Park (301-434-6453)

Celia Rivas (immigration attorney) Celia.rivas@catholiccharities.org

Jean.Atkinson@catholiccharities.org

Spanish Education Development (SED) Center

Services: Referral and classes

Contact: Jose Gonzalez, jose@L82training.com, 301-562-9301

Tenants & Workers United

Services: Referrals; naturalization application workshops (begin 4/08); citizenship classes and democracy schools (begin 5/08).

Contact: Tram Nguyen, New Virginians Program Director, tnguyen@twsc.org

703-684-5697

3801 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22305

www.tenantworkers.org

APPENDIX B

IMMIGRATION INTEGRATION EFFORTS
IN OTHER STATES

COMMITMENTS AT THE CITY and STATE LEVEL

Some cities and states have demonstrated the importance of providing funding for efforts specifically designed to move LPRs into citizenship. Their commitment to facilitating immigrant integration by funding local organizations is important to consider in designing The New Americans Initiative for Maryland/Virginia/DC. A sampling of city and state-level efforts already in place include:

California

California has earmarked \$2.8 million dollars for its 2007 state-wide naturalization program.¹ On September 26, 2006, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 2060 into law, funding a program designed to assist LPRs with the process of obtaining citizenship. California's naturalization program has a goal of moving as many as 8,200 individuals into citizenship in its first year.² Under the program, California's Department of Community Services and Development will make the \$2.8 million available to community-based nonprofit organizations and local public agencies, provided these organizations provide all of the following: outreach, intake and assessment, collaboration with and referral to other naturalization service organizations, citizenship application assistance, citizenship testing and interview preparation, and follow-up.³

Illinois

In 2004, the state of Illinois funded a three year, \$9 million initiative to promote citizenship among its estimated 500,000 LPRs.⁴ Illinois' naturalization program is a partnership between the state and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). Together, they have formed a nonprofit, nonpartisan effort called the New Americans Initiative.⁵ This Initiative provides a series of naturalization services,

including naturalization workshops at which attendees have access to: “qualified volunteers and staff” who will help with intake and screening, completion of the N-400, legal screening for those individuals who need help determining their eligibility to pursue citizenship, opportunity to speak with representatives of partner organizations and obtain referrals, including referrals for ESOL and citizenships classes.⁶ The Illinois New Americans website provides a number of resources, including access to a list of ESOL classes organized by area and sample citizenship exam questions.⁷ Additionally, the website makes available an outline of how to organize and execute a naturalization clinic.

In selecting the organizations to fund, they first figured out the target percentage of immigrants per county and then, using that number, figured out the recommended allotment of organizations for each county (high concentration of immigrants in x area, needs x number of organizations). In 2004, they sent out a request for proposals and if more than one organization applied from each county, they chose the organization with the most experience, the longest history with the ICIRR (the “lead” organization) and the best structure (i.e. outreach, processing, education plans, experience with immigrants). Certain counties needed more than one organization to assist the high number of immigrants.

The funding comes from the Illinois Department of Human Services, then goes to the ICIRR and then they distribute it out to the organizations. ICIRR is the regulatory body and each local organization sends their records to them. If an organization is under-performing, they have three months to correct the situation. Rarely have they had to defund any organizations and if they do the organization is given six months notice.

New York City

In its fiscal year 2007 budget, New York City allocated \$9.25 million to its Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI).⁸ While this budget is also meant to support

legal services related to wage and hour disputes and other work-related issues, the funds are primarily earmarked to “help immigrant adults gain access to the information and resources that English literacy skills provide and to strengthen their participation in the democratic process. IOI provides funding for ESOL classes [and] legal services for recent immigrants to assist with applications for citizenship and permanent residency.”⁹

PROGRAMMATIC COMPONENTS OF IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION EFFORTS

The following are examples of existing immigrant integration efforts that will be instructive in the formation of The New Americans Initiative for Maryland/Virginia/DC:

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc (CLINIC)

CLINIC provides a number of legal and non-legal support services to low-income immigrants through member agencies. CLINIC has developed a program dedicated solely to assisting LPRs with the citizenship process. Included in its most recent successes is a California-based citizenship program in which it partnered with the Knights of Columbus to provide full-service citizenship workshops and The DC Citizenship Project serving the DC metropolitan area. Additionally, in 2007, CLINIC released “A More Perfect Union: A National Citizenship Plan,” a comprehensive report proposing a national program for using mass naturalization as a tool for integrating the country’s estimated eight million LPRs.

New York Immigration Hotline

This hotline is staffed by multi-lingual counselors who provide a variety of services—including general information on how to file a naturalization application and referral services to reputable low-cost agencies providing naturalization assistance—in 16 different languages.

The New Americans Democracy Project

In addition to its key role in the Illinois New Americans Initiative, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) also has a New Americans Democracy Project (NADP). NADP works to “create a trained and experienced organization of immigrant leaders who are highly effective in electoral organizing.”¹⁰ NADP is committed to employing nonpartisan electoral action as a mechanism for building political support for immigrant issues; identifying and training future immigrant politicians and political professionals; and creating a support network through active participation and membership.¹¹ Further, NADP “encourages participation by registering new citizens to vote” in addition to engaging in get out the vote efforts.¹² Through NADP, ICIRR has registered over 16,000 individuals since January 1, 2006 in addition to training and mobilizing over 300 volunteers.¹³ They further report to have increased voter participation in high Latino/Asian/Muslim precincts employing a “sophisticated direct voter contact program.”¹⁴

Ya es Hora ¡Ciudadanía!

The stated goal of this campaign is to lead a nationwide effort to naturalize over 1 million new citizens during 2007. Ya es Hora was launched in the Los Angeles metropolitan area at the beginning of 2007 and has now expanded to other parts of the country. Ya es Hora takes a multi-faceted approach in its efforts to reach eligible LPRs. Univision Communications (including Univision Television, Univision Radio, and Univision Online) serves as the campaign’s media sponsor while the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), and the Service Employee International Union (SEIU) jointly coordinate the campaign at the national level. Additionally, the campaign

incorporates attorneys and other experts as well as over 150 national and regional organizations and institutions. To date, Ya es Hora has over 250 Centros de Ciudadania (citizenship centers¹⁵) providing information or assistance with the naturalization application. Ya es Hora also incorporates ESOL and U.S. citizenship preparation providers into the campaign. Finally, the Ya es Hora website contains critical information for a citizenship integration program.

APPENDIX C

ETHNIC MEDIA OUTLETS IN MARYLAND,
VIRGINIA AND WASHINGTON, DC

MEDIA	LANGUAGE	TYPE
Korea Times	Korean	print
The Korean Daily Washington	Korean	Print
Washington Korean TV	Korean	TV
Bao Tre	Vietnamese	Print
Thu Do Thoi Bao	Vietnamese	Print
Pho Nho	Vietnamese	Print
Asian Fortune	Vietnamese	Print
VATV	Vietnamese	TV
Song Than	Vietnamese	Print
Thoi Moi Phu Nu	Vietnamese	Print
Tuoi Tre Viet Hai Ngoai	Vietnamese	Print
Gio Moi	Vietnamese	Print
Hoa Thinh Don Viet Bao	Vietnamese	Print
Radio America - WACA - 1540 AM	Spanish	Radio online
Centrodeportivo.com	Spanish	magazine
Imagenes de Washington	Spanish	photo
EFE	Spanish	Print
El Comercio	Spanish	print
El Diario De Hoy (El Salvador)	Spanish	Print
El Financiero	spanish	Print
El Norte/Reforma	spanish	print
El Nuevo Dia Newspaper in Puerto Rico	Spanish	print
El Pregonero	Spanish	print
El Tiempo Latino	spanish	print
Hechos	Spanish	print
Las Americas	Spanish	Print
Linea Directa	Spanish	tv
La Nacion	spanish	print
Los tiempos USA	Spanish	print
Los Tiempos USA	Spanish	print
Metro Latino USA	Spanish	web
Metropolis Newspaper	Spanish	print
Prensa Grafica	Spanish	Print
Sin Censura DC	Spanish	Print
Washington Hispanic	Spanish	print
Zona Vip	Spanish	Print
Aqui y Alla	Spanish	Radio
Radio 1600 AM	Spanish	radio
Radio 1600 AM (La Universal)	Spanish	radio
Radio America - WACA - 1540 AM	Spanish	radio
Radio El Zol 99.1 FM	Spanish	radio
Radio Fiesta (AM1480)	Spanish	radio
Radio la Campeona (AM1420)	Spanish	radio
Radio La Continental AM 1390	Spanish	Radio
Radio Union (1350 AM)	Spanish	radio
SABROSA 1520 AM	Spanish	radio

VIVA 900	Spanish	radio
Televisa	Spanish	TV
Telemundo - WZDC	Spanish	TV
Univision - WMDO	Spanish	TV

(Endnotes)

- 1 Department of Community Services and Development, *Request for Application, 2007 Naturalization Services Program*, (06-RFA-05) at 1.
- 2 Office of the Governor, GAAS:690.06 (September 27, 2006).
- 3 *Id.* at Note 56.
- 4 **See:** State of Illinois Executive Department, Executive Order No. 10 (2005) (<http://www.illinois.gov/gov/execorder.cfm?eorder=43>).
- 5 The Illinois New Americans Initiative has a website at: <http://www.newamericans-il.org/>.
- 6 **See:** New Americans Initiative (<http://www.newamericans-il.org/>).
- 7 *Id.*
- 8 United Neighborhood Houses, *Summary of New York City's FY 2007 Adopted Budget*, at 3 (June 2006).
- 9 *Id.*
- 10 **See:** <http://www.icirr.org/nadp.htm>.
- 11 *Id.*
- 12 *Id.*
- 13 *Id.*
- 14 *Id.*
- 15 **See:** <http://www.yaeshora.info/> “(To be recognized as a Centro de Ciudadania, organizations must agree to execute a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the agreed-upon policies and parameters as set by each of the community’s campaign steering committee. The campaign MOU’s is a contract not with one organization with another, but the executing organization with the community. Principals common in all communities include a maximum fee for naturalization services, a universal Citizenship workshop date, and distribution of packets and information to the public.”)