

How to apply for United States Citizenship

Who is eligible

To be eligible an individual must:

- Be 18 years old or older
- Have lived as a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) in the United States for at least five years, or three years if married to a U.S. citizen.
- Be of good moral character
- Be able to speak, write and understand English. There are exceptions for LPRs over 50 who meet long term residency requirements, for certain people with disabilities, and certain military members.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and civics.

Your Steps to Citizenship

1. Fill out Form N-400

All those eligible must fill out Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. A representative of the LSS/ND Immigration Services program can assist you in completing the application.

You can also pick up an N-400 Application for Naturalization at your local United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office or download the form at

2. Send in the application

Once the application is completed, the applicant sends the following to USCIS office that serves your area:

- The form
- Supporting documents
- Filing fee
- Biometric fee

3. Have fingerprints taken

Applicants will receive a letter from USCIS specifying a time and location to have their fingerprints taken. The applicant must bring the following to this meeting:

- Letter received from fingerprint facility
- Valid photo I.D such as: Alien registration card, State or military photo I.D. or other INS issued photo I.D. and Social Security Card.

Once the applicants' fingerprints are taken, the USCIS submits them to the FBI for processing.

4. Go to an interview

Applicants will receive a letter from USCIS that schedules an interview with an USCIS officer to determine if the applicant is eligible for naturalization.

During the interview the USCIS officer will explain the nature of the interview and that it is being conducted under oath. In addition, the officer will test the applicant's knowledge of U.S. history and government. If the applicant is exempt from any of the requirements, the USCIS will not go through the tests.

The officer may also ask additional questions relating to the applicant's eligibility for citizenship.

5. Wait for a decision

USCIS will inform the applicant of its decision either at the end of the interview or by mail soon after the interview is completed.

6. Take the citizenship oath

Once approved for citizenship, all applicants must participate in an oath ceremony and swear allegiance to the United States. At the end of the ceremony, all new citizens are presented with a naturalization certificate.

*For more information about how to apply for United States Citizenship contact:
Tri Phan at New American Services - a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
(701) 235-7341 or*