



Cities for Citizenship (C4C) is a collaboration co-chaired by the mayors of Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City with support from the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) and the Center for Popular Democracy (CPD). The goal of the campaign is to support mayors and municipal governments to initiate or enhance citizenship programs in their cities.

Over 8.8 million immigrants in the United States are currently eligible to become citizens. Faced with high naturalization fees and a complicated application process, many are choosing to put off citizenship in favor of the simpler and cheaper option of renewing their legal permanent resident (“LPR”) status. This is a missed opportunity both for immigrants and for the cities they call home. The benefits of naturalization include higher earning potential for new citizens, increase voting and political participation, improved connections between communities and local services, and reduced deportation rates.

Cities are uniquely situated to encourage their immigrant constituents to apply for citizenship both by offering material support to existing naturalization programs, and by promoting naturalization in the media and through community outreach. C4C facilitates collaboration between participating cities to provide:

- Technical support and policy advice
- Assistance with organizing strategies
- Best practices from other cities
- Communications and press strategy support
- Planning and implementing C4C events and activities

Leadership Council

Joining the Initiative at the Leadership Council level means a higher degree of responsibility and a higher degree of influence over strategy and operations of the Initiative. Cities who join the Leadership Council must commit to:

- Participating in quarterly planning calls.
- Creating or expanding existing naturalization programs in partnership with organizations in their city.
- Track naturalization numbers and report regularly to the C4C Leadership Council.
- Establish a target for annual naturalization numbers.

- Budget or fundraise a minimum of \$100,000 for naturalization initiatives annually, to support public private naturalization partnership and encourage investment by businesses and governments as well as philanthropic and community based organizations.
- Designate one staff person with naturalization program planning and implementation duties
- Ensure Mayoral participation in at least four naturalization events annually (clinics, oath ceremonies, public service announcements, recognition events, etc.) in coordination with the Initiative.
- Lead local communication efforts for Initiative activities.

Participating Cities

Participating cities join in C4C Initiative events and activities and benefit from Initiative coordination, but do not share in management responsibilities. In order to participate in the Initiative at this level, cities must:

- Track naturalization numbers and report regularly to the C4C Leadership Council
- Establish a target for annual naturalization numbers
- Participate in at least one C4C Initiative event per year
- Share citizenship initiative materials and plans with the C4C Initiative

For more information, please contact Cities4Citizenship@populardemocracy.org