



New Americans Campaign Fact Sheet on Naturalizations *With Houston Case Study*

Based on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Data through June 30, 2017
10/13/2017

Applications for U.S. citizenship are on the rise.

National applications are up 5% over the previous year.

Time Period	Citizenship Applications Received Nationally	Change from Previous Year
7/1/16-6/30/17	974,003	+5%

In Houston, applications are up 19% over the previous year. The growth in Houston outpaces the national growth (19% vs. 5%).

Time Period	Citizenship Applications Received in Houston USCIS Field Office	Change from Previous Year
7/1/16-6/30/17	35,487	+19%

In Jan-Mar of 2017, applications were higher than in Jan-Mar of 2016.

This was true nationally and in Houston.

Time Period	# Naturalization Applications Submitted Nationally	Change
1/1/16-3/31/16	252,254	
1/1/17-3/31/17	289,988	+15%

Time Period	# Naturalization Applications Submitted in Houston	Change
1/1/16-3/31/16	7,937	
1/1/17-3/31/17	10,100	+27%

This continued increase in applying for citizenship differs from the decrease in applications that followed the previous presidential election.

# Naturalization Applications Submitted in Presidential Election Year	# Naturalization Applications Submitted in Following Year	Change
2012 (Oct-Sep)	899,162	2013 (Oct-Sep) 772,623 -14%
2016 (Jul-Jun*)	930,882	2017 (Jul-Jun*) 974,003 +5%

*Data for 2012 and 2013 are by Federal Fiscal Year. USCIS data from Jul-Sep 2017 are not yet available.

New Americans Campaign's Impact

Since the Campaign launched in July 2011, New Americans Campaign sites and affiliated collaborations completed over 300,000 naturalization applications for lawful permanent residents from dozens of countries around the world and conducted over 4,800 naturalization workshops.

Campaign partners in Houston have completed almost 27,000 naturalization applications and conducted over 664 naturalization workshops.

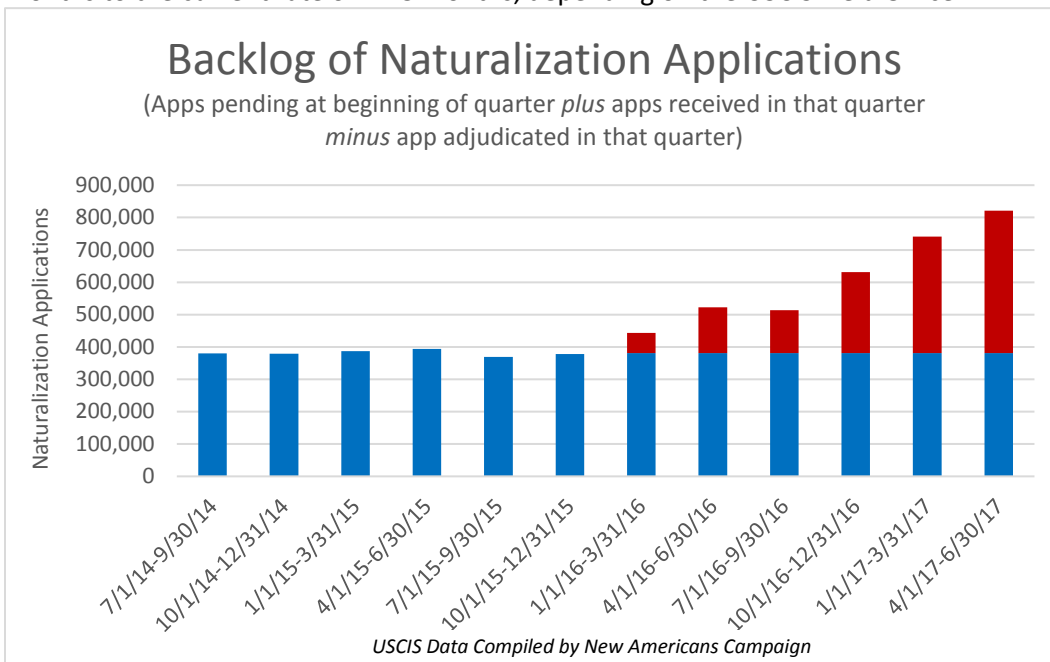
A backlog of applications continues to grow.

In December 2015, USCIS reported an average processing time for naturalization applications of 6 months. As of October 2017, the processing time has increased significantly: individual USCIS field offices show a processing time of 7-15 months (median=10). Field offices with naturalization processing times over 1 year include some of the largest metropolitan areas, such as Miami FL, Houston TX, Las Vegas NV, Dallas TX, Long Island NY, Minneapolis-St. Paul MN, and San Jose CA.

	Naturalization Application Processing Time
Dec 2015	6 months
Oct 2017	7-15 months (median=10)

The Houston Field Office is currently processing applications submitted on 7/29/2016 – over 15 months ago.

The backlog of applications waiting for adjudication has grown significantly over the past year and a half. USCIS processed an average of 380,000 applications quarterly between July 2014 and December 2015. Starting in January 2016, unadjudicated applications began to accumulate and more than doubled to 440,000 applications above the average by June 2017. During this same period, the processing time went from an average of 6 months to the current rate of 7-15 months, depending on the USCIS Field Office.



The most recent data available in Houston shows an increase in the application backlog to 28,678 – nearly 13,000 applications more than the Houston Field Office’s average of 16,000.

Data Sources:

- o <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-studies/immigration-forms-data/data-set-form-n-400-application-naturalization>
- o <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2015/table20>
- o <https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/naturalization-test/applicant-performance-naturalization-test>
- o <https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processingTimesDisplay.do>