



Immigration Basics

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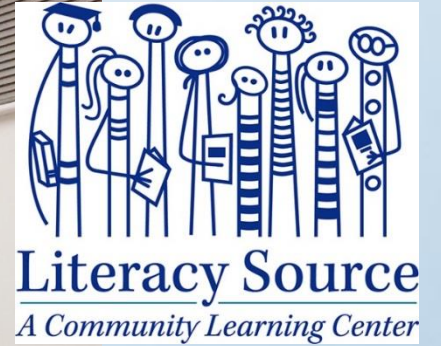
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Agenda

- Who is an immigrant?
- Stressors for New Immigrants
- Naturalization Process Basics

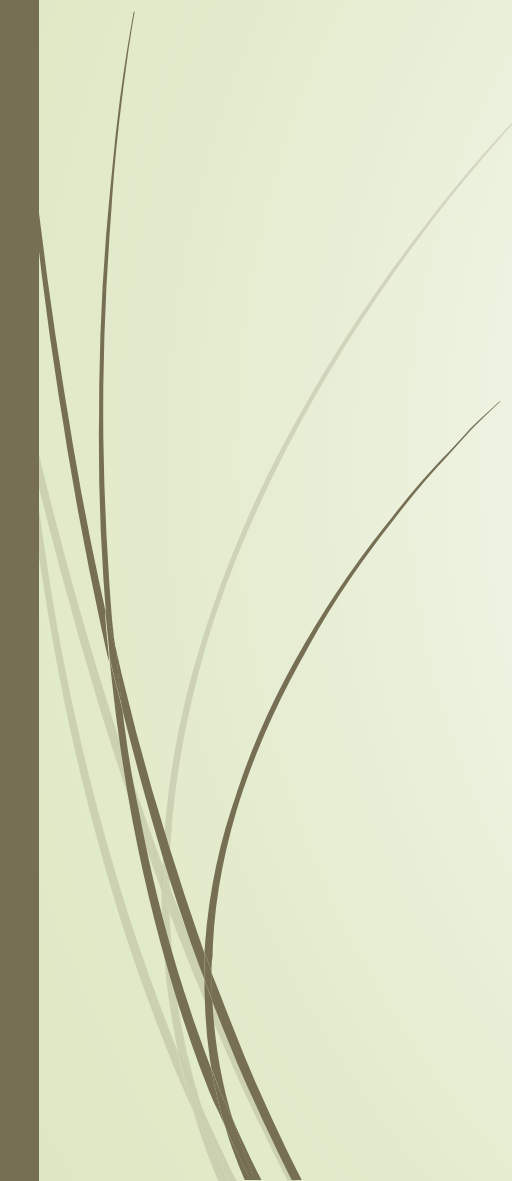


Who is an Immigrant?

- ' An immigrant is someone who chooses to resettle permanently in another country.
- ' **Foreign born** and **"immigrant"** are used interchangeably and refer to people with no U.S. citizenship at birth. This population includes naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, people on certain temporary visas, and the undocumented.

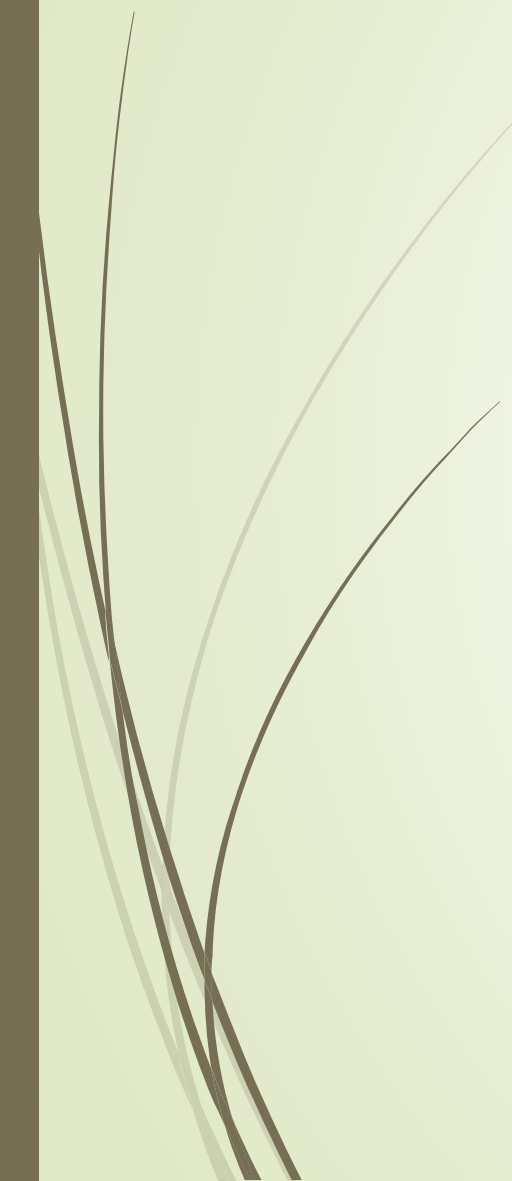


We all have an immigrant story.

- ' If not ourselves, our parents, grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, or siblings.
 - ' Only Native Americans or individuals who were brought here against their will (trafficked) are not immigrants.
- 



Stressors for New Immigrants

- ' Unemployment/Underemployment
 - ' Social Isolation/Grief
 - ' Gender Role Reversal
 - ' Intergenerational Conflict
- 



Broad Classification of Immigrants:

- U.S. Citizens (USC):

- Born, Naturalized, Acquired/Derived

- Non-Citizens: Four General Categories:

- Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) = Green Card Holders


- Asylees/Refugees

- Temporary Legal Status: Students, Temporary Workers, Visitors/Tourists, TPS, U Visas

- Undocumented (not “illegal”): Visa Overstays/Entered w/o permission

Green Card and How to Get One





Main Avenues to get Green Card, ie. Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR)

- ' Through a family member who petitions from the U.S. (around 65%)
- ' Through Employment Visa (around 15%)
- ' Asylum or Refugee Status (13%)
- ' Other (Diversity Visa or Humanitarian)



Green Card through a Family Member

Immediate Category:

- ' USC Spouse petitions Non-Citizen Spouse
- ' USC Parent petitions Non-Citizen Minor Child <21
- ' USC Son or Daughter (>21) petitions Non-Citizen Parent

Waitlist category:

- ' USC petitions Adult Children (Single or Married) or Siblings
- ' Green Card Holder petitions Spouse or Unmarried Children
- ' Note: No petition available for uncles/aunts or grandparent. Same sex marriages are now recognized by immigration law



How Long is the Wait?

- ' A spouse from Mexico: nearly 2 years
- ' An Unmarried Son of USC from Philippines: about 12 years
- ' Married Daughter of USC from Mexico: about 22 years
- ' Sister of USC from Philippines: about 24 years



Asylum/Refugee Status

- ' A Refugee obtains “refugee” status outside the U.S.
- ' An Asylee obtains “asylum” after arriving to the U.S.
- ' Both refugees and asylums must show “well-founded fear” of persecution in their home country AND that persecution will be because of one of the following:
 - ' Race, Religion, Nationality, Political Opinion, Membership in a Particular Social Group
 - ' General strife, hardship, or economics are not sufficient



Green Card to Citizenship

- Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) are eligible to “naturalize” (become a citizen)
 - After 5 years with a green card (LPR)
 - After 3 years if married to USC
- Must meet other requirements (be of sound moral character, speak English, and more)
- LPRs are not required to become citizens (but there are many benefits to citizenship)



Benefits to Citizenship

- ' Right to Vote
- ' Citizenship for Children < 18
- ' Family Reunification (parents, siblings, married children)
- ' Eligibility for Federal Jobs
- ' Freedom to Travel Abroad

Could You Pass the Citizenship Test?

- ❖ How many amendments does the Constitution have?
- ❖ Name the two longest rivers in the United States.
- ❖ We elect a US Senator for how many years? A US Representative?
- ❖ The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the Constitution. Name one of the writers.
- ❖ Before he was a President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?



Did you pass?

- ❖ How many amendments does the Constitution have? **27**
- ❖ Name the two longest rivers in the United States. **The Missouri and the Mississippi**
- ❖ We elect a US Senator for how many years? A US Representative? **6 and 2**
- ❖ The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the Constitution. Name one of the writers.
James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Publius
- ❖ Before he was a President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in? **WWII**