



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services



What are  
the benefits  
of  
becoming a  
US citizen?

## TOP 6 BENEFITS OF **CITIZENSHIP**

-  **1** PROTECTION FROM DEPORTATION
-  **2** CITIZENSHIP FOR YOUR CHILDREN UNDER 18
-  **3** FAMILY REUNIFICATION
-  **4** ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT JOBS
-  **5** FREEDOM TO TRAVEL
-  **6** THE RIGHT TO VOTE

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# The four main ways to become a citizen

There are four eligible paths to U.S  
citizenship:

Citizenship by Naturalization  
Citizenship by Marriage  
Citizenship through your Parents  
Citizenship through the Military.

<https://www.usa.gov/become-us-citizen>

# Is having a green card the same as citizenship?

While green card holders can live and work in the United States and enjoy most of the same benefits as a U.S. citizen, permanent residents are not U.S. citizens and because of this do not have the full rights of a citizen. The main limitation is that Green card holders do not have the right to vote.

<https://www.boundless.com/immigration-resources/green-card-benefits/>

# What benefits do green card holders get?

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You are eligible to receive federal benefits such as social security or education assistance. Permanent residents may apply for government-sponsored financial aid for education. Additionally, green card holders are entitled to in-state or resident tuition rates at certain colleges and universities.

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As a green card holder, you generally are required to file a U.S. income tax return and report worldwide income no matter where you live.

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To be eligible for full Medicare benefits as a green card holder, you need to be 65 or older, and you or your spouse need to have worked in the U.S. for at least 10 years (or 40 quarters during one's lifetime).

# How many times can you renew a green card

**In general, you must apply for a new green card within six months of your current green card expiring. You will often receive temporary documents that prove your status while waiting for your new green card to arrive. Your green card needs to be renewed or replaced every ten years, as it expires**

<https://www.fileright.com/blog/how-to-decide-to-renew-a-green-card-or-to-apply-for-u-s-citizenship/>

**Does  
marrying a  
citizen make  
you a citizen**

**Marriage to a U.S. citizen makes someone eligible for a green card, not for citizenship.**

**Having a green card for a certain number of years can make the person eligible for U.S. citizenship. But it's a two-step process—at a minimum.**

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/how-i-married-us-citizen-us-citizenship.html>

<https://www.alllaw.com/articles/nolo/us-immigration/how-get-green-card-after-marriage-citizen.html>

# What is the three-year citizenship rule?

**The spouse of a U.S. citizen residing in the United States must have continuously resided in the United States as a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) for at least 3 years immediately preceding the date of the filing the application and up to the time of the Oath of Allegiance.**

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-g-chapter-3>



# How long does a green card last?

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**Although some Permanent Resident Cards, commonly known as Green Cards, contain no expiration date, most are valid for 10 years.**

**If you have been granted conditional permanent resident status, the card is valid for 2 years.**

**It is important to keep your card up-to-date!**

# How do you become a citizen?

**Be at least 18 years of age at the time you file the application**

**Have been a lawful permanent resident for the past three or five years (depending on which naturalization category you are applying under)**

**Have continuous residence and physical presence in the United States**

**Be able to read, write, and speak basic English**

**Demonstrate good moral character**

**Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government**

**Demonstrate a loyalty to the principles of the U.S. Constitution**

**Be willing to take the Oath of Allegiance.**

# What are the steps to becoming a citizen?

**Step 1: Check Eligibility for US Citizenship**

**Step 2: Complete Form N-400**

**Step 3: Obtain 2 color photos**

**Step 4: Photocopy Documents**

**Step 5: Send Your Application Package**

**Step 6: Get Fingerprinted**

**Step 7: Attend Naturalization Interview**

**Step 8: Take English and Civics Test**

**Step 9: Wait for a Decision**

**Step 10: Take the Oath**

<https://www.path2usa.com/us-citizenship-steps>

# Is it hard to become a U.S. Citizen?

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**Becoming a U.S. citizen shouldn't be so hard, but it is due to the long processing time, financial and personal costs, and the fact that most immigrants do not have a direct relative that is a citizen of the United States. The requirements of USCIS are also very complex and may not be understandable to outsiders.**

<https://www.universal-translation-services.com/how-hard-is-it-to-become-a-u-s-citizen/#:~:text=Becoming%20a%20U.S.%20citizen%20shouldn,not%20be%20understandable%20to%20outsiders>

# How long does it take to become a U.S. citizen?

**The national average processing time for naturalization (citizenship) applications is around 14 months, as of April 2022.**

**Note: Once your application is being processed, you cannot leave the country unless it is for a specific emergency.  
If you leave you void out your application and forfeit the fee.**

<https://www.boundless.com/immigration-resources/how-long-does-it-take-to-get-citizenship-after-applying/>

# How much does it cost to become a citizen?

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**The current naturalization fee for a U.S. citizenship application is \$725.**

**That total includes \$640 for application processing and \$85 for biometrics services, both of which are nonrefundable, regardless of whether the U.S. government approves or rejects an application.**

<https://www.boundless.com/immigration-resources/how-much-does-it-cost-to-apply-for-us-citizenship/>