

NYCitizenship In Schools

Overview

The NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), in partnership with CUNY Citizenship Now!, the NYC Department of Education, the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Financial Empowerment, the East River Development Alliance and the Neighborhood Trust, will provide information, free naturalization application assistance, and access to micro-loans and financial counseling to foreign born, non-citizen parents of New York City public school children.

Process & Benefits

MOIA estimates that nearly 30,000 parents with children in New York City public high schools are eligible to become citizens, yet significant barriers to naturalization—such as lack of access to quality legal assistance and the escalating cost of the application fee—may prevent them from seeking this benefit. In order to ensure that eligible immigrant parents are able to take advantage of the civic and economic benefits of citizenship, MOIA will launch NYCitizenship In Schools citywide in Fall 2012. In addition to providing a direct service to parents, this program will also directly benefit students: eligible non-citizen children below the age of 18 may automatically derive citizenship when one or both parents naturalize.

As a school-based initiative, NYCitizenship In Schools will bring quality information and legal assistance directly to participating high schools through a series of information sessions and service events. Parents who are eligible to become citizens will be invited to attend naturalization service events at their child's school, where immigration law experts will be present to guide them through the application process, ensuring that they are fully prepared to submit information to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Additionally, parents who feel they are unable to pay the \$680 application fee will have the opportunity either to secure a fee waiver or to speak one-on-one with Mayor's Office staff about the micro-loan and free financial counseling services available.

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and CUNY Citizenship Now! will provide all necessary materials and personnel to run these events. Funding for this project was generously provided by Citi Community Development.

Contact Us

Please contact Alejandro Alvarez at 212-788-7654 or aalvarez@cityhall.nyc.gov to learn more about this partnership opportunity. For more information on NYCitizenship in Schools, please visit www.nyc.gov/immigrants.

