

Welcome.US Citizen Guide Program

On the long road to becoming a U.S. citizen, one person can make the difference. Offering support as a Citizen Guide takes about an hour a week, on a video call, for 8 to 10 weeks. It's as simple as helping someone practice English, study civics, or prepare for the citizenship exam. No expertise is required, just the willingness to show up the way you would for any neighbor.



What is the Citizen Guide program?

The Welcome.US Citizen Guide program matches volunteers, called Citizen Guides, one-on-one with green card holders (learners) who are preparing for the citizenship exam. Pairs meet virtually each week, set shared goals, and work together to prepare for the citizenship exam.

Why this matters

For years, green card holders preparing for citizenship could turn to local programs and community-based organizations for resources and support. Recent funding shifts and a reduction in local services have closed many of these doors.

The need Citizen Guides are meeting

1. 8.7 million green card holders are eligible to become U.S. citizens, yet fewer than 1 in 10 apply each year due to cost, complexity, or lack of support.
2. The citizenship process remains long, expensive, and unfamiliar even to most Americans; 63% of natural-born citizens would fail the civics test if they took it today.
3. Public systems alone are not meeting the need, making community-based support more important than ever.

A country ready to help

1. 79% of Americans believe immigration benefits the country (Gallup, July 2025).
2. 70% of Americans do not want immigration reduced, up from 45% in 2024 (Gallup, July 2025).
3. Volunteers tell us this work gives back: 65% report stronger ties to their community, and volunteering broadens their social networks by 44%.

Beyond structured skill building, Citizen Guides provide encouragement and mentorship throughout the process, offering a consistent, personal connection while working to reach a meaningful milestone with the learner.

How the program works

Citizen Guides complete a self-paced training and are matched with a learner whose goals and schedules align. Support is organized around three roles. Volunteers can sign up to assist in one or more areas:

- **English conversation partner:** Help a learner build language skills and communication confidence for everyday life and the citizenship exam. Typically 8 to 10 weekly sessions of 60 minutes each.
- **Citizenship test tutor:** Help a learner study for the citizenship exam, including practicing civics questions and reviewing the English reading, writing, and comprehension skills the exam requires. Typically 10 weekly sessions of 60 minutes each.
- **Mock citizenship interview coach:** Open to Citizen Guides who have served as citizenship test tutors. Conduct mock citizenship interviews so learners feel prepared and confident.

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Program scope

The Citizen Guide program is strictly a tutoring and mentorship program. Citizen Guides do not provide legal advice, act as attorneys or accredited representatives, or assist with the completion of the citizenship application (N-400 form).