

# Your Citizenship Journey

The Road to a Brighter Future  
Begins with Citizenship



# Congratulations on beginning your citizenship journey!



# 1

## Prepare Your Application

Gather the documents and information below before your appointment with the NYCitizenship Lawyer.



### Document Checklist

#### My documents

- Green Card
- Social security card
- Driver's license or government-issued ID
- Passports for the last 5 years
- Marriage certificate(s)
- Divorce decree(s)
- Certificate of disposition for any arrests or summons
- Award letters for any public benefits (SNAP, SSI, Medicaid)

#### My spouse's documents

- Prior marriage certificate(s)
- Prior divorce decree(s)

#### My children's information

- Name, address, birthdate, country of birth
- Green cards

#### My address, employment and travel information

- Addresses where I have lived for the last 5 years\*
- Employment or schools information for the last 5 years\*
- Travel information for all of my trips outside the U.S. during the last 5 years\*

\*Use the worksheets on pages 6-7 of this workbook to help organize your address, employment, and travel information.



### Are you eligible for citizenship?

Are you 18 years or older?

- Yes  No

Have you had your green card for the past 5 years (or the past 3 years if you are married to a U.S. citizen)?

- Yes  No

Have you lived in the U.S. for at least half of the past 5 years (or half of the past 3 years if you are married to a U.S. citizen)?

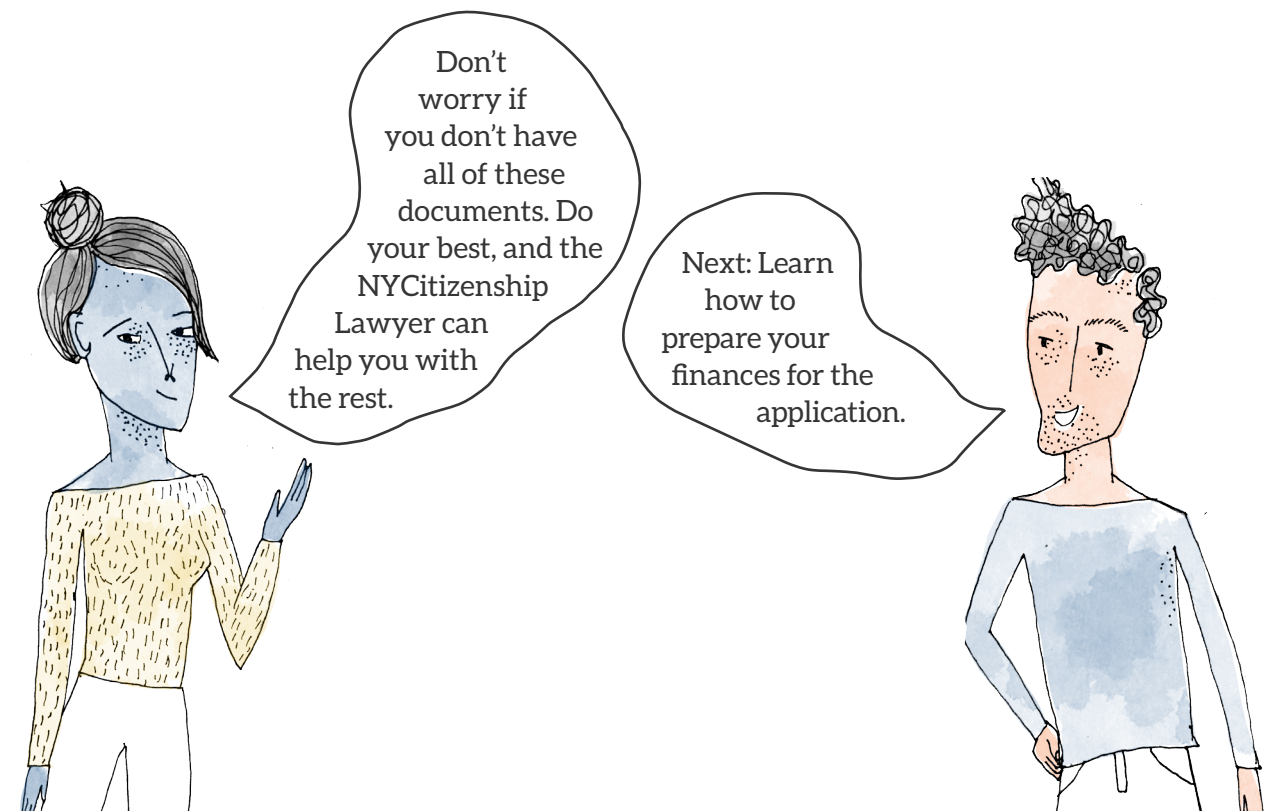
- Yes  No



### STOP HERE!

If you answered **YES** to all these questions, you may be eligible to apply for citizenship. Continue to **Step 1: Prepare Your Application** (next page).

If you answered **NO** to any of these questions, do not fill out the rest of this workbook until you meet with the NYCitizenship Lawyer.



## Your Citizenship Journey

The road to a brighter future begins with citizenship.

Apply for citizenship in four steps

1

Prepare Your Application

2

Prepare Your Finances

3

Prepare for the Interview

4

Prepare for Success as a U.S. Citizen

# 2

## Prepare Your Finances

Applying for citizenship can cost up to \$725. NYCitizenship can help.



### Meet with the NYCitizenship Financial Counselor

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Do you have a budget you and your family use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you debt free?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to improve your credit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What financial goals do you have? _____			
_____			
_____			

If you answered “No” to any of these questions, meet with a NYCitizenship Financial Counselor, who can help you save more money, get out of debt, and get your finances ready for citizenship.

### MAKE AN APPOINTMENT\*:

NYCitizenship Financial Counselors:

**Mario Gutierrez**  
 mgutierrez@nylag.org  
 212-613-7362  
 Brooklyn, Queens, & Manhattan

**Ruth Cedeño**  
 rcedeno@nylag.org  
 212-613-6556  
 Bronx, Manhattan, & Queens

**Ervis Burda**  
 eburda@nylag.org  
 212-613-6554  
 Brooklyn

\*Financial services are also available over the phone.

# 3

## Prepare for the Interview

After you submit your application, you will have an interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

- Study U.S. history and government.**  
Ask your librarian about civics and English classes.
- Practice reading, writing and speaking English.**  
Ask the NYCitizenship Lawyer if you qualify for an exemption.
- Organize your financial documents for the interview.**  
Ask the NYCitizenship Financial Counselor for help.



# 4

## Prepare for Success as a U.S. Citizen

If you pass your interview, you will take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States. Once you have taken the oath, you are officially a U.S. citizen—congratulations!



### Do you qualify for the fee waiver?

Some people do not have to pay the application fee. Bring any of these documents to your appointment and the NYCitizenship Lawyer can tell you if you qualify for a fee waiver:

- Food stamp award letter (call 718-722-8009)
- SSI award letter (call 1-800-772-1213)
- Medicaid award letter (call 718-557-1399) or visit your Medicaid office
- Tax returns
- Other proof of income

If you qualify for a fee waiver, the NYCitizenship lawyer can also help you complete the paperwork.



### Tips for Success

- » Check your mail. USCIS will send you all notifications by mail.
- » Contact the NYCitizenship lawyer right away if you move. You must notify USCIS about your change in address so that you don't miss any notices about your application.
- » Keep a copy of your application and your naturalization certificate in a safe place.

Talk to your NYCitizenship Financial Counselor to improve your finances as you prepare to become a U.S. citizen.



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**Proud  
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