



LAES has developed a series of immigrant issue instructional modules entitled "Tierra de Oportunidad" for orientation to our complex society.

RESOURCE SHEET #2 Overview of the application process:

1. An applicant must submit the N-400 form, Application for United States Citizenship, along with \$95, fingerprints and 2 photographs taken specifically for the purpose of application for citizenship. Many social service agencies as well as community based organizations will help applicants fill out the form for a fee. Sometimes these services are provided by outreach workers as a part of citizenship classes and some communities hold citizenship fairs where assistance in filling out the N-400 form is provided, and fingerprints and photos are taken.
2. Applicants must pass a written or oral exam which tests their knowledge of basic United States history and U.S. government structure. The written exams consist of about 20 multiple choice questions and applicants must pass with a score of about 60% or better. Also, they must be able to write a sentence in English. Applicants may choose to take an oral exam during their INS interview for citizenship. The INS interviewer will ask them several questions about U.S. history and government and dictate an English sentence to them.
3. Applicants for naturalization must be interviewed by an INS examiner. Usually the questions asked are taken from the INS N-400 form, the application for citizenship. The questions are personal in nature and test the applicant's ability to understand and speak English. Exceptions are those people who are 50 -55 and who have been in this country legally for 20-15 years. They can be interviewed with the help of a translator, if necessary, in their native language.
4. There are numerous citizenship classes at adult schools, junior colleges, community based organizations or connected with churches which help prepare applicants for the written exam and the oral interview. Sometimes they provide help filling out the N-400 form and may even take fingerprints and photos.
5. If one passes the written or oral test and the oral interview and their application for citizenship is approved, they will attend a swearing in ceremony before a judge.
6. At this point they have become United States citizens and may now register to vote.

Authors: Ed Kissam and Holda Dorsey

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