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New York City Organizations Host Successful Launch of Local Effort to Pave Better Road to Citizenship for Legal Permanent Residents

Advocates with the New Americans Campaign held 19 workshop and clinic events that assisted nearly 300 legal permanent residents in New York City with the citizenship process

New York, NY—In coordination with the New Americans Campaign, New York City legal service providers and nonprofit organizations hosted a free week-long series of naturalization events in locations throughout the city from March 16-23, 2013.

The weeklong series of events offered participants the opportunity to receive pro-bono legal consultations, eligibility screenings, and civics and English study materials. Several computer-based workshops, including the campaign's first New York City Public Library event on March 22nd at the Brooklyn Public Library, featured the new award-winning [CitizenshipWorks](#) system, an online platform that allows service providers and volunteers to quickly guide aspiring citizens through the citizenship application process.

To date, the groups have collectively hosted more than 63 workshops and clinics in New York City, providing over 8,300 citizenship consultations to legal permanent residents in the area. According to estimates from the Department of Homeland Security, one million legal permanent residents are currently eligible to become citizens in the state of New York, including more than 680,000 in New York City alone.

“The New Americans Campaign is providing a great service to the community,” said Elizabeth Gomez, a legal permanent resident since 2008 that attended the March 18th event co-sponsored by NALEO Educational Fund and Church World Service. “I am grateful that I had this opportunity and I now have the confidence necessary to finally file my application and take the language test.”

The local launch is part of a groundbreaking effort to modernize and streamline access to naturalization services, so that greater numbers of legally qualified permanent residents take the critical step to becoming American citizens. Participating New York City organizations are part of the New Americans Campaign's national network of legal service providers, faith-based organizations, community leaders and foundations that are paving a better road to citizenship in eight cities across the country.

To schedule an interview, please contact Amanda Bosquez (202-546-2536; abosquez@naleo.org) or Paula Valle Castanon (213-747-7606 ext. 4414; pvalle@naleo.org). Organizations interested in partnering with the New Americans Campaign can contact Julissa Gutierrez (917-406-4934; jgutierrez@naleo.org) for additional information.

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About the New Americans Campaign:

The New Americans Campaign is a groundbreaking national network of legal-service providers, faith-based organizations, businesses, foundations and community leaders that is paving a better road to citizenship. We are modernizing and streamlining access to naturalization services, so that greater numbers of legally qualified permanent residents take the critical step to becoming American citizens. We are currently driving a national, nonpartisan citizenship campaign throughout the country, focused on eight major cities with large numbers of citizenship-eligible residents.

Our campaign brings together over 80 organizations across the country including the following key funders who have made an unprecedented investment in supporting aspiring citizens:

[Carnegie Corporation of New York](#); [The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation](#); [Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund](#); Grove Foundation, [Open Society Foundations](#) and [The JPB Foundation](#).

Our partners in New York City include: Asian Americans for Equality, Catholic Migration Services, Church World Service, CUNY Citizenship Now!, International Rescue Committee, Make the Road New York, NALEO Educational Fund, New York Immigration Coalition and Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

For a complete list of partners and for more information, please visit www.newamericanscampaign.org.