

Rights and Benefits of U.S. Citizenship

Applying to become a U.S. citizen through naturalization is a personal decision. However, there are some rights and benefits of U.S. citizenship. Some of these include:

- Being a U.S. citizen may protect access to public benefits
- U.S. citizens can vote and serve on juries
- U.S. citizens can apply for more family members to immigrate, and often those relatives can immigrate more quickly
- Children under 18 who are lawful permanent residents (or “green card” holders) and are in the legal and physical custody of a U.S. citizen parent will become citizens with the parent
- U.S. citizens can travel abroad without the danger of losing legal immigration status
- U.S. citizens can’t be removed or excluded
- U.S. citizens never have to renew a green card
- There are certain federal jobs limited to U.S. citizens

This material provides general information only and is current only as of the date it is written. To receive information on how this material may apply to a specific situation, you may wish to consult an immigration attorney or accredited representative. Northwest Immigrant Rights Project can provide naturalization information and legal assistance to persons of low income. For more information, call Kristen Kussmann at (206) 587 4009, or (800) 445 5771.