

[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/bronx/2009/04/16/2009-04-16\\_get\\_free\\_help\\_at\\_5boro\\_event\\_by\\_citizenship\\_now.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/bronx/2009/04/16/2009-04-16_get_free_help_at_5boro_event_by_citizenship_now.html)

# Get free help at 5-boro event by Citizenship Now!

Thursday, April 16th 2009, 4:00 AM

Get free citizenship assistance on Saturday, April 18, at [New York's](#) first five-borough Citizenship Now! event.

The event is organized by [City University of New York's](#) Citizenship and Immigration Project in celebration of [New York City](#) Immigrant Heritage Week. Applicants will be provided with free legal assistance, and free photos will be available.

To naturalize, only the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) filing fee is required.

Among the event co-sponsors are the [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#), the city [Department of Youth and Community Development](#) and the [Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs](#).

An experienced attorney or paralegal will be on hand to review applicants' qualifications. If an applicant is qualified to naturalize, help in completing the application will be available. The necessary photos will be taken and a preaddressed envelope for mailing the application will be provided.

We encourage mailing application Certified Mail/Return Receipt Requested. We will provide the necessary post office forms.

The filing fee is \$675, but don't bring your check or money order Saturday. If you can't afford the filing fee, ask about applying for a fee waiver.

If your case is particularly complicated, we may suggest you visit one of the many not-for-profit groups providing immigration law services.

To see whether you qualify to naturalize, let's review the qualifications.

**1. You must be at least 18 years old.** If at least one of your parents has naturalized and you were a permanent resident at the time, come see us. You may have become a citizen derivatively through your parent.

**2. You must have been a permanent resident for at least five years.** You need only three years if you have been married to and living with the same U.S.-citizen spouse while a permanent resident. You may apply for citizenship four years and nine months after you became a permanent resident.

If you are qualifying under the special rules for the spouse of a [U.S.](#) citizen, you may apply two years and nine months after you became a resident, provided you were married to your U.S. citizen spouse for three years.

**3. You must have been in the U.S. for half the days of the five or three years needed to qualify.**

**4. You must have been a person of good moral character for the five (or three years if applying under the spouse of a U.S. citizen rule).** If you have ever been arrested, bring your criminal record, including a certificate of disposition.

If you think you qualify to naturalize, please bring the following :

- Your permanent resident card (green card). If you have lost it, you can still apply for citizenship. You also can apply if your card has expired.

- All passports you have had since you became a permanent resident. This is to help you answer the question on the form N-400, Application for Naturalization, about your travel since becoming a permanent resident.
- Home addresses and employment history for the past five years.
- You children's addresses and dates of birth. If they are permanent residents, bring their permanent resident card numbers, sometimes called their "A" numbers. You must list all your children on your application, including adult children.
- Marriage and divorce history. If possible, bring the dates of all marriages and of any divorces. If your spouse petitioned for you for permanent residence and you separated or divorced shortly after you got your residence, the naturalization examiner may question whether your marriage was bona fide, or real.

To get help with your naturalization application, come to one of these sites between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**BRONX:**

CUNY on the Concourse

2501 Grand Concourse, 3rd Floor

Bronx, N.Y. 10468

**BROOKLYN:**

[NYC College of Technology](#)

285 Jay St., Klitgord Gym

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

**MANHATTAN:**

CUNY Xpress

560 W. 181st St.

New York, N.Y., 10033

**QUEENS:**

100-01 Northern Blvd.

2nd Floor Auditorium

Corona, N.Y. 11368

**STATEN ISLAND:**

[Project Hospitality Help Center](#)

514 Bay St.

Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

*For information, call (212) 568-4679.*