



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PATH TO CITIZENSHIP: Special Citizenship Assistance Event For Adult Immigrants and Refugees

On Wednesday, December 21, from 12:15 - 2:30 pm, the International Institute of St. Louis (3564 S. Grand Blvd.) is hosting an informational event for lawful permanent residents ages 18 and older who would like to become U.S. Citizens. This free event will provide information on:

- Benefits of US Citizenship
- Requirements to Become a Citizen
- Process to Become a Citizen
- Do's and Don'ts to Ensure Citizenship
- Services to help permanent residents with naturalization

Interpreters and translations will be provided for Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Burmese, Chinese, Farsi, Nepali, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese speakers

Many immigrant and refugee permanent residents face challenges in starting and completing U.S. citizenship requirements because of limited English, uncertainty about naturalization requirements and application process, and lack of information about naturalization instruction and application resources. Attendees to *Path to Citizenship* event will learn critical information from US Citizenship and Immigration Services representatives. In addition, they will learn about naturalization assistance services that are available at the International Institute as part of its new 2-year *St. Louis Citizenship Project*, one of 42 projects nationwide funded through the FY2011 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Citizenship. Thanks to the award, the Institute has expanded its citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to serve all adult LPRs in the St. Louis region who need assistance—especially those with special challenges of limited English and literacy skills including refugees, the elderly, victims of domestic violence, and those permanent residents who lack resources.

About the International Institute:

The International Institute of St. Louis offers comprehensive adjustment services for refugees and immigrants in our community. In turn, these newcomers expand the richness of St. Louis' diversity and help revitalize our economy. The Institute produces the annual Festival of Nations, which showcases multicultural performances, demonstrations, and food. Offered free to the general public, the festival draws more than 140,000 visitors together while raising money and awareness for people-in-need. www.iistl.org

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