



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2022

Contact: Marcus Silva, msilva@naleo.org
(510) 456-5444

Luis Acosta, lacosta@naleo.org
(956) 460-3598

NALEO Educational Fund and New York State Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner Announce Partnership to Assist U.S. Citizenship applicants in the Bronx

*"Naturalization has paved the way for generations of new Americans who have helped expand our diversity, grow our economy, and enrich our democracy through increased participation in our elections."
— NALEO Educational Fund CEO, Arturo Vargas*

*"I deeply appreciate the hard work of NALEO Educational Fund and look forward to being their partner as we embrace the diversity of our community."
— Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner*

NEW YORK, NY – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today announced a partnership with New York State Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (District 77) to host monthly U.S. Naturalization application assistance workshops in the Assemblywoman's Bronx District Office. The collaboration will begin this Friday, May 13, 2022, with a naturalization application assistance event in the Assemblywoman's Bronx District Office and will continue every month.

According to the University of Southern California (USC) Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), an estimated [112,545 Bronx residents](#) can apply to become U.S. citizens today. These residents are a part of the more than 9.1 million lawful permanent residents (LPRs) or "green card holders" throughout the country who are potentially eligible to naturalize.

NALEO Educational Fund is committed to facilitating Latino LPRs' access to the U.S. naturalization process. Since July 2021, NALEO Educational Fund and its sub-grantee partners have helped complete more than 7,000 applications nationally, 1,000 of which were in the New York City area alone. These efforts have also helped applicants complete their fee waiver applications and save over \$1.3 million.

"There are many benefits to becoming a U.S. citizen, including better job opportunities and having the right to vote," said **NALEO Educational Fund CEO Arturo Vargas**. "Naturalization has paved the way for generations of new Americans who have helped expand our diversity, grow our economy, and enrich our democracy through increased participation in our elections. Eligible permanent residents have the opportunity to secure their future and help uplift Latino voices by becoming U.S. citizens and participating in our country's political process."

"Our rich diversity is our greatest strength, and I am so pleased to be assisting hardworking immigrants who are striving to become U.S. citizens," **stated Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner (D-Bronx, 77th AD)**. "I deeply appreciate the hard work of NALEO Educational Fund and look forward to being their partner as we embrace the diversity of our community."

Residents with questions or interest in receiving assistance with their citizenship applications can make an appointment by calling or texting NALEO Educational Fund's toll-free, bilingual hotline, **1-888-839-8682**. Individuals can also complete [this interest form](#) to be contacted by one of the organization's representatives.

In addition to coordinating direct services, NALEO Educational Fund conducts advocacy at the administrative and legislative levels for an accessible and affordable naturalization process. The organization also serves as a partner for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), encouraging policies to reduce the application processing backlog and instill a culture of fairness and service in all agency activities.

###

About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.