Our Mission

Our aim is to achieve a vibrant, just, and welcoming democracy for all. The National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) is a national multiethnic, multiracial partnership. We represent the collective power and resources of the country’s 37 largest regional immigrant rights organizations in 31 states. Our members provide large-scale services—from DACA application processing to voter registration to health care enrollment—for their communities, and they combine service delivery with sophisticated organizing tactics to advance local and state policy. We exist to leverage their collective power and expertise for a national strategy. Our members are part of the family of organizations that comprises the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM) and the Movement of Immigrants in America (Mia).

Immigrants are the soul of our organization. We believe America’s success is rooted in our ongoing commitment to welcoming and integrating newcomers into the fabric of our nation, and to upholding equality and opportunity as fundamental American values. Immigrant communities inspire, implement, and champion our work.
It is with great joy that we celebrate 2015 and ring in a new year. This has been a monumental year, with plenty of ups and downs. We watched President Obama’s seminal announcement in November 2014, offering relief from deportation and work authorization to nearly five million people. His announcements were not everything we’d hoped for—but they represented a hard fought victory nonetheless. Since then, we’ve seen an organized effort to delay and end those programs. It hasn’t been easy to maintain optimism—especially in our current political climate, rife with vile anti-immigrant and anti-refugee attacks.

We built upon NPNA’s core strengths and expertise in 2015. This year, we continued working closely with the White House to further immigrant integration, most recently hosting a convening on naturalizing the hardest to reach. We continue to develop the Cities for Citizenship infrastructure to promote citizenship through municipalities, and we’ve built a program to bring citizenship into labor unions called the Union Citizenship Action Network with the United Food and Commercial Workers. We supported 26 organizations to become accredited to provide immigration legal services, and we assisted tens of thousands of individuals to gain legal status or become U.S. citizens.

2015 was also a year of new beginnings. NPNA’s team grew significantly. NPNA grew from two full time staff and two consultants to 5 full time staff and 5 consultants. Our budget doubled, and we re-granted $1.3 million to our member organizations.

We designed a new logo and website to better reflect our mission. We transformed the field with our Community Navigator model, a program to engage volunteers who have already begun preparing the country to implement administrative relief. With our member OneAmerica, we launched English Innovations, an English and digital literacy education program, in six of our organizations across the country. We also launched the New American Democracy Campaign, a non-partisan effort to activate latent immigrant electoral power.

In 2015, we held the largest ever National Immigration Conference (NIIC).

NIIC facilitated over 1,500 participants, three presidential candidates, and deep conversations on worker justice, health, workforce development, the arts, and much more. At the NIIC we launched our New American Dreams Platform, a policy agenda which seeks to define—by immigrants—what it means to be a successful nation of immigrants.

We’ve had a tremendous year, and we believe that 2016 will take us even closer to achieving our goals. Our most sincere thanks—now and always—to our communities, friends, partners, and sponsors, who support us in our mission and our work.

Sincerely,

Joshua Hoyt  
Executive Director  

Tara Raghuveer  
Deputy Director
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Strategic Advisor
Policy & Advocacy

In 2015 NPNA advocated for laws, policies, and programs that put the tools for successful immigrant integration into the hands of the immigrants.
NPNA launched the New American Dreams Platform at the National Immigrant Integration Conference after six months of surveying the field and drafting policy papers with the support of the field’s leading experts.

The New American Dreams Platform seeks to broaden and deepen current political discourse about immigration so that candidates and policymakers must acknowledge that immigrants are not numbers but humans, not burdens but contributors, and not criminals but mothers and fathers and laborers and taxpayers and business owners.

The Platform is comprised of six planks. These policy areas are aligned to the immigrant integration pillars — civic, economic, and linguistic — and to meet the needs of various New American constituencies — undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents, naturalized citizens, children of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and people of various countries of origin, skill, and education levels. The Platform is NPNA’s federal policy agenda for 2016 and serves as the blueprint for candidate engagement that began in October and will continue through the primary and general election cycle.

“The New American Dreams Platform builds from NPNA’s history of moving federal policy on immigrant integration. It is a critical and unprecedented step forward for our integration field. The Platform puts new Americans at the center of the conversation by empowering our communities to shape it.”

-- Eva Millona
NPNA Co-Chair
Executive Director, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
New American Dreams Platform

A Nation of Citizens
- Pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes an earned path to citizenship
- Curtail enforcement of broken immigration laws
- Promote citizenship and eliminate barriers to naturalization

English as a Gateway
- Guarantee all New Americans 300 hours of ESL instruction
- Invest in technologies and programs to innovate ESL instruction

Quality Education & Care
- Expand access, affordability, and quality to New American children for early childhood education and care
- Increase investment in outreach and training to address New Americans’ education needs
- Introduce proactive structures to make schools centers for integration

A Vibrant & Vital Economy
- Ensure access to a living wage and protect workers’ right to organize
- Increase New Americans’ access to workforce development programs
- Support New American asset building
- Develop a streamlined program for immigrant and refugee professional integration
- Address temporary and skilled worker visa needs

A Healthy America
- Expand coverage for all
- Implement linguistically and culturally competent services in all health programs and activities
- Support New American health professionals

A Welcoming & Inclusive Society
- Establish a Federal Office of New Americans and National Immigrant Integration Policy Council
- Support local communities in developing plans to institutionalize integration
- Prioritize social integration through direct service
National Immigrant Integration Conference

New American Dreams: Advancing Opportunity, Equality, and Justice

The National Immigrant Integration Conference (NIIC), in its 8th year, was the largest convening focused on immigration in the U.S. The conference plays a central role in the immigrant integration field. A project of NPNA and its member organizations, the NIIC convenes policymakers, academics, corporate and community leaders, researchers and practitioners, faith leaders and funders from across the country. In 2015, the conference was co-hosted by the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) with Executive Committee members Make the Road New York and Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.
NPNA shaped the national conversation on immigrant integration at our eighth annual NIIC.

NIIC 2015 featured a dynamic program. Content was organized into themed tracks and mainstage plenary sessions.

Here are examples of conference content:

**Track:** Welcoming Communities

- Understanding and Addressing Today’s Organized Backlash Against Muslim Immigrants and Refugees
- Beyond the Single Story: How New Waves of Asian and African Migration are Transforming Receiving Communities
- What Makes a Welcoming and Inclusive Community

**Plenary Session:** Immigration in a Broader Fight for Justice

- How does immigration fit into a larger context in terms of social justice movements?
- How is immigration connected to fights for fair wages, criminal justice reform, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ organizing, environmental justice work, and other movements?
- What does solidarity across these movements actually look like? What are models?
- What are challenges? How can we take intersectional, transformational solidarity to the next level?


Our collective research, advocacy, expertise, and political might was covered in over 200 national and local media outlets.


1,500 attendees

200 press hits

Linda Sarsour, NYIC Board Member, speaks at NIIC 2015.

“The NIIC has become a collegial crossroads to move New American communities forward.”

— Steven Choi

Executive Director, NYIC
At NIIC 2015, the three Democratic candidates for President engaged with the Platform.

**Senator Bernie Sanders** committed to fixing our broken immigration system through comprehensive reform and to investing in immigrant health, civic integration, and English.

**Secretary Hillary Clinton** promised to invest in English programs, reduce the naturalization fee, pass comprehensive immigration reform, and end private detention.

**Governor Martin O’Malley** endorsed our Platform and launched an immigrant integration platform of his own, an unprecedented victory for the immigration policy field.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, and Senator Chuck Schumer also spoke, addressing recent spikes in Islamophobic and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

In addition to many noteworthy speakers, presenters, and artists, we were honored to welcome several national leaders on immigrant integration.

Federal immigrant integration policy was addressed by **Felicia Escobar**, Deputy Director of the White House Office Domestic Policy Council and by USCIS Director **León Rodríguez**.
Federal Policy
Policy & Advocacy

This is Reynalda, a Community Navigator, celebrating the SCOTUS decision to hear the case (2016).

DAPA & DACA

President Obama announced a set of executive actions related to immigration in November 2014. The actions increased the age limit to qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program that protects undocumented individuals who entered the country as children. The actions also included a program dubbed DAPA, which would provide similar relief for parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. In total, the programs could impact the lives of over five million individuals. They were slated to begin in February and May respectively but were put on hold by an ongoing lawsuit.

In 2015, NPNA took leadership within the Committee for Immigration Reform Implementation (CIRI) to prepare the field for administrative relief implementation. We aimed to build capacity to implement the President’s programs at scale in order to reach the five million people who might qualify.

The Supreme Court decided in January 2016 to hear the case related to the President’s programs.

“We are pleased that the Supreme Court has chosen to hear this pivotal case. This is another step towards justice for millions of immigrants. We must take steps to fix our broken immigration system. While the legal and political battle continues, we must not forget the families who are impacted.”

— Julien Ross
Co-Chair, NPNA & Executive Director, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)
Meet Maria and Manuel. NPNA Outreach and Training Coordinators helped with their naturalization paperwork. Maria told us, “We have lived in America for 26 years. Manuel is 78 years old. We have six kids—they are all U.S. citizens. Manuel worked in a factory for decades making pens and folders. We own a home and love America. We are naturalizing NOW, after all this time, because we want to defend hardworking immigrants like us.”

Maria and Manuel attended a naturalization workshop on Saturday, September 19, two days after Citizenship Day. They were two of the 3,165 individuals served by our members in our 40 events across the country in celebration of Citizenship Day. We staged a similar day of action to commemorate November 20, the one year anniversary of President Obama’s executive actions on immigration. On that day, NPNA members put on over 80 events.

“The Florida Immigrant Coalition does naturalization work because NPNA has supported us to do so. It is critical to building the power of our communities, and has transformed our organization.”

-- Maria del Rosario Rodriguez Executive Director, FLIC
Submitted policy and programmatic recommendations based on feedback from our members.

Recommended short- and medium-term strategies the Administration can take to make the most of the last few years of the Obama administration.

Led community support for the “Stand Stronger” Campaign by serving on the Advisory Council, hosting a webinar with Cities for Citizenship to involve Mayors and municipalities, and holding 40+ naturalization workshops on Citizenship Day.

Compiled and submitted comments to USCIS on how the fee waiver revision could impact low income applicants. *

Compiled and submitted comments to USCIS on the naturalization form revision.

Secured three meetings with USCIS Director León Rodríguez to continue our advocacy to reduce the naturalization fee and build the capacity of community organizations to do naturalization and voter registration work.

Co-hosted with the White House a national convening, “Reducing the Barriers to Naturalize”.

*See next page.
Reducing Barriers to Naturalization

Nearly 9 million green card holders are eligible to become citizens today. One of the most significant barriers to naturalization is its prohibitively high cost. Overall, Mexicans, the working poor, and those with less than a high school education naturalize at much lower rates. United States citizenship must not be a privilege limited to the wealthy and highly educated. NPNA has fought successfully to stabilize the naturalization fee under the Obama administration, streamline the naturalization fee waiver, and continues to fight for a partial fee waiver for the working poor.

The price tag on U.S. citizenship—at $680—is a prohibitive barrier for the 8.8 million immigrants eligible for citizenship. NPNA has led the campaign to implement a partial fee waiver, and I am confident that we will win.”

-- Gustavo Torres
Executive Director, CASA

"U.S. citizenship should be a privilege affordable by all who are eligible, as they are making important contributions to our communities across the country. NPNA has been the national leader in shining a light on this issue."

-- Dr. Manuel Pastor
Professor, University of Southern California
Director, Center for Study of Immigrant Integration
Programs & Capacity Building

In 2015 NPNA built the capacity of our member organizations and the broader field to deliver high quality trainings, services, and leadership development by, with, and for New Americans.

The first Spanish language Community Navigator training, hosted by Michigan United, in February 2015.
Meet Community Navigator Mayra.

“I’ve been here for 23 years. I’m a single mother to two U.S. citizen kids. I work two jobs, at a dry cleaner and a restaurant. I volunteer at my kids’ school. I want to start a domestic violence survivors support group. I don’t always feel welcomed here but I want to give back to this country. This is my country now. I can give back by being a Community Navigator. My community trusts me, and I want to help them. I will make a huge difference.”

NPNA designed the Community Navigator model and implemented a nationwide Navigator training program. Community navigators (or promotores) are community members who receive specialized training to provide quality immigration services for their communities in an empowering and effective way. Community navigators are also liaisons between their community, legal service providers, social service organizations, and government representatives. They are often advocates, educators, mentors, and interpreters in their communities.

After just about 8 months of launching the Community Navigator program, we’ve helped to train 5,504 Navigators across the country. This program, and people like Mayra, have nearly doubled our ability as a field to implement the President’s DAPA and DACA+ initiatives and ensure relief for five million people.
Training

NPNA’s members are the country’s largest and most powerful organizations run by, for, and with New Americans. They have grown through the fight for immigration reform and have also built their legal service capacity in the following ways:

20 with legal capacity

The NPNA network has grown from 5 organizations with legal capacity to 20 with either Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Recognition or attorneys on staff.

Two key statewide immigrant coalitions, ICIRR and NYIC were approved for BIA Recognition this fall.

6 pursuing legal capacity

6 Additional NPNA groups are in the process to become BIA Recognized.

8 building legal capacity

8 NPNA groups held or are holding 40 hour Immigration Law Trainings over the course of the year, including NYIC, FLIC, ICIRR, Michigan United, TIRRC, CIRC, CHIRLA, and MIRA, thus growing legal service and training capacity across their regions.

CIRC, FLIC, TIRRC, and Michigan United held these trainings for the first time.

Community Navigator Esperanza, here with her husband, completing a sample N-400 citizenship application.
Service Delivery

NPNA organizations have engaged, assisted and completed applications for thousands of immigrant community members across the country since July 2015.

10,839 applications completed across the country for Naturalization, DACA and other forms of relief.

27,490 community members assisted across the country through information sessions, workshops and other forms of one-on-one communication.

679,757 community members engaged across the country.

“This year Promise Arizona launched two service delivery programs, both with the hands-on support of NPNA. Adelante!”

-- Petra Falcon
Executive Director, Promise Arizona (PAZ)
English Innovations

NPNA and member OneAmerica helped to establish English Innovations – an innovative English and digital literacy education program in 6 host organizations across the country – located in Michigan, Tennessee, Florida, Massachusetts, the D.C. Metro Area, and Arizona. 2015 was the program's pilot year.

- 6 pilot sites
- Assisted 6 community-based organizations in developing their organization's first ever English as a Second Language programming.
- 32 DACA applications
- Assisted 32 students in applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.
- 177 graduates
- Graduated 177 students in the first cycle.
- $3.5MM raised
- Secured $3.5 million in funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a two year pilot project.

“Once OneAmerica proved the concept for English Innovations in Washington State, NPNA was the best vehicle (anywhere) to spread the model nationally. Support from the Gates Foundation allowed us to build English Innovations through NPNA’s network of powerful base-building organizations grounded in immigrant communities who already had the experience of honing and building scalable naturalization programs through peer-learning networks. Together and over time, OneAmerica, NPNA and the Learning Games Network have the potential to reshape ESL infrastructure in the United States.”

-- Rich Stolz
Executive Director, OneAmerica
NPNA, with our partners at the Citi Community Development, the Center for Popular Democracy, and the Mayor’s Offices of New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, has built the infrastructure of support for immigrant legal services in cities, counties, and municipalities through Cities for Citizenship.

Cities for Citizenship

60 municipal leaders

Supported naturalization activities and social media strategy for Citizenship Day 2016 activities with 20 naturalization ceremonies where 11 Mayors gave keynote speeches to address the newly naturalized.

20 cities

14 press hits

Generated 14 pieces of earned media about naturalization efforts in cities.

11 mayors

11 training sessions

Hosted 6 naturalization related webinar and 5 network conference calls for the participating cities with over 400 participants in attendance.

5 new cities

Expanded the Citizenship Corner Models from LA, NYC, and Chicago to 5 new participating cities resulting in 30 new Citizenship Corners in Boston, San Jose, Reading, PA, and Atlanta.

Assisted over 60 municipal leaders with technical assistance in development of naturalization programming across the network of 19 participating cities and counties via 1:1 conversations, network conference calls, communications strategy, and naturalization related events.

Click here for more information.
Union Citizenship Action Network

NPNA has worked to build the infrastructure of allied labor organizations across the nation through UCAN.

“UCAN has helped over 400 of our members in the meat packing, food processing, and food and non-food retail industries become citizens. This is an important step for our union to continue building a diverse and strong union family.”

-- Esther López
International Secretary-Treasurer, UFCW International

A total of 324 union leaders, staff, and stewards were trained across the nation, in places from San Diego, CA to Dodge City, KS to East Moline, IL, to New York City, NY.

Over 500 Union Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) members have already been assisted with their naturalization and DACA applications through UCAN in 2015.

The $110,000 budget for this work was contributed by the UFCW and UNITE HERE.

NPNA Trainers & ARCs have also traveled to lead 12 Naturalization, DACA & DAPA trainings with our labor allies in the UFCW & Unite HERE unions in 2015.

Over 500 Union Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) members have already been assisted with their naturalization and DACA applications through UCAN in 2015.

The $110,000 budget for this work was contributed by the UFCW and UNITE HERE.

NPNA-UCAN training at UFCW Local 540 in Dallas, TX, February 2015.
In November, NPNA launched, along with the Latino Victory Foundation, a project called the New American Democracy Campaign to build a progressive on-ramp for civic engagement.

**Our Goal:**

1. To leverage this political moment into an organizing and programmatic strategy to activate latent immigrant power.

2. To increase annual naturalization rate by 35% from 654k to 1 million.

3. To register and mobilize millions of immigrant voters, by creating the first ever national vote registration program for U.S. citizen children of immigrants and for naturalizing citizens.

**Programs & Capacity Building**

- **To increase annual naturalization rate by 35% from 654k to 1 million.**

- **To register and mobilize millions of immigrant voters, by creating the first ever national vote registration program for U.S. citizen children of immigrants and for naturalizing citizens.**

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**“I’ve travelled the nation, supporting NPNA civic engagement efforts, because their groups are the best in the nation doing the hard work of naturalization, DACA, and DAPA on the ground.”**

-- Congressman Luis Gutiérrez

IL-04

This is a still from an ad produced by the New American Democracy Campaign to encourage people to become citizens in order to fight hate. View the video [here](#).
Below are some highlights of our advocacy, events, trainings, research, partnerships, and community in the national media:

- Dara Lind, What immigration activists want from Hillary Clinton, Vox, December 18, 2015, Article
- This is what candidates should be doing to support immigrants, NowThis, December 18, 2015, Article
- Chris Fuchs, At Immigration Conference, Asian Americans Discuss Language Access, DACA Enrollment, NBC News, December 15, 2015, Article
- Emily Ngo, Hillary Clinton spells out immigration plans in Brooklyn speech, Newsday, December 15, 2016, Article
- Nueva York destinará casi 8 millones para brindar asistencia legal a inmigrantes, Univision, December 15, 2015, Article
- Dana Rubenstein, Cuomo targets nativists, recalls his immigrant roots, Politico New York, December 14, 2015, Article
- Laura Meckler, Hillary Clinton Meets With an Undocumented Immigrant and His Family, Wall Street Journal, December 14, 2015, Article
- Bob Annibale, Citizenship is an Economic Asset, Huffington Post, September 23, 2015, Article
- Asma Khalid, The White House Plan That Could Get Millions Of Immigrants To Vote, NPR, September 18, 2015, Article
- Judith Bernstein-Baker and Valentine A. Brown, Stepping Up for Citizenship, The Legal Intelligencer, September 17, 2015, Article
- Eva Millona and Joshua Hoyt, A deeper debate on immigration is welcome, Chicago Tribune, September 14, 2015, Article
- “The shame of it is that the United States is the most successful experiment in building a ‘nation of immigrants’ in world history. We actually know what works and what doesn’t. Our history teaches us that what works is not ‘liberal’ or ‘conservative,’ but rather common sense. So let’s have a debate about what actually works.” — September 14, 2015

The New York Times

“‘We want to build off the negative energy,’ said Tara Raghuvueer, policy and advocacy director for the National Partnership for New Americans, a coalition of immigrant groups that is holding dozens of events during the campaign. ‘People are hearing the hate and racist xenophobia on the national stage from the presidential candidates. They are angry, and this is an opportunity for us to organize.’” — September 17, 2015

Vox

“The immigrant rights professionals at NIIC didn’t always respond to feel-good rhetoric about America — all three Democratic candidates praised America’s nation of immigrants’ heritage in their speeches to the conference, and none got a huge ovation out of it. What the audience really responded to were policy proposals.” — December 18, 2015

Chicago Tribune

“The shame of it is that the United States is the most successful experiment in building a ‘nation of immigrants’ in world history. We actually know what works and what doesn’t. Our history teaches us that what works is not ‘liberal’ or ‘conservative,’ but rather common sense. So let’s have a debate about what actually works.” — September 14, 2015
Our Sponsors

We are deeply grateful for the support of our sponsors in 2015.

Open Societies Foundation
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
OneAmerica
Citi Community Development
Center for Popular Democracy
J.M. Kaplan Fund
United Food and Commercial Workers International
NEO Philanthropy & JPB Foundation
Unbound Philanthropy

Immigrant Legal Resource Center and the New Americans Campaign
Welcoming America
Coalition for Immigration Reform Implementation
Wallace H. Coulter Foundation
Segal Family Foundation
Migration Policy Group
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.

Bloomberg Philanthropies
Western Union
Prado Family Fund
UNITE HERE International Union
Center for Community Change, Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Suzette Brooks Masters and Seth Masters
Learn more about NPNA and subscribe to our newsletter at partnershipfornewamericans.org