

New Deal for New Americans Act of 2021

The New Deal for New Americans Act of 2021 reflects a proactive, affirmative vision for our nation in which the federal government commits significant resources to support immigrants and refugees. Specifically, the New Deal for New Americans Act would:

- Establish a **National Office of New Americans** in the White House to promote and support immigrant and refugee inclusion, as well as coordinate efforts of federal, state, and local governments to support social, economic, and civic integration of immigrants and refugees;
- Establish a **Federal Initiative on New Americans** to coordinate a federal response to issues that affect the lives of new immigrants and refugees, and the communities in which they reside;
- Create a **Legal Services and Immigration Assistance Grant Program** to support organizations that provide direct assistance to those in need of immigration screening; know-your-rights education; assistance in applying for citizenship, lawful permanent resident status, or other legal status (DACA, TPS, asylum, etc.); or seeking relief from a removal order;
- Create an **English as a Gateway to Integration Program** for organizations that teach English or help individuals earn a GED or prepare for naturalization;
- Create a **Workforce Development Grant Program** to ensure that immigrant and refugee adults have equitable access to workforce programs that help equip them with occupational skills needed to secure or advance in employment;
- **Reduce barriers for individuals to naturalize** by establishing a flat application fee for naturalization, amending the English and civics exam requirements for older individuals and those with cognitive impairments, and exempting eligible U.S. high school graduates from taking naturalization exams;
- **Limit U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) ability to raise fees** without Congressional approval;
- Prohibit the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from using application fees for immigration enforcement activities;
- **Mandate quarterly reporting** from DHS on USCIS adjudication backlogs, delays, and processing times;
- Promote civic engagement through **automatic voter registration of newly naturalized individuals**;
- **Bolster family reunification** by reducing (from 21 years old to 18 years old) the age at which citizens can petition for eligible family members to receive an immigrant visa;
- Increase **refugee admissions to at least 125,000** per fiscal year;
- Rebuild the capacity and infrastructure of local communities to welcome refugees; and
- Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to **no longer allow for the deportation of an individual deemed a public charge**.