



# Benefits of becoming a U.S. Citizen

## **Right to Immigrate Family Members**

A U.S. citizen can sponsor a wider number of family members to come to the U.S. and the waiting time for them to receive a visa is faster than for the relatives of permanent residents.

## **Derivative Citizenship for Children**

When a permanent resident naturalizes, his or her children under age 18 may automatically become U.S. citizens by derivation. There are certain requirements to qualify for derivative citizenship.

## **More Employment and Educational Opportunities**

Many federal, state, and local government jobs, as well as certain scholarships for higher education, require U.S. citizenship.

## **Full Civic Participation**

A U.S. citizen has the right to vote in national, state, and local elections; to run for elected office; and to serve on a jury.

## **Travel Benefits**

A U.S. citizen can travel outside the U.S. for unlimited periods of time and re-enter freely.

## **Public Benefits**

A U.S. citizen can receive public benefits such as food stamps and Medicaid without the restrictions imposed on non-citizens.

## **Keep Your Residency**

In general, a U.S. citizen's right to remain in the United States cannot be taken away.

**Learn more at [cliniclegal.org/citizenship](https://www.cliniclegal.org/citizenship).**