

IS YOUR PROGRAM READY FOR THE NEW USCIS **FEE CHANGES?**

Prior fee increases resulted in surges of applicants seeking legal services ahead of the fee change.

What you need to know:

- The new USCIS fee schedule goes into effect Dec. 23
- Fees for the most common application types are increasing
- There is a new partial fee waiver for naturalization applications
- Applications and petitions postmarked or filed on or after Dec. 23 must include the new fees
- The fee for Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, will increase from \$600 to \$1,170.

What is not changing:

- Biometrics filing fees remain the same (\$85)



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TOP 10 TIPS FOR PRACTITIONER'S

1. Know which USCIS fees are changing.
2. Assess your program's current capacity and resources.
3. Prepare for the surge. Affiliates report significant spikes in application rates prior to the last fee schedule change in 2010.
4. Consider service delivery models that will allow your program to respond to an increased volume of applications, such as workshops. Activate volunteers to maximize services.
5. Get the word out! Don't assume your clients and your community are aware of the fee changes and when they will go into effect.
6. Review your client list to identify clients and cases that will be impacted by the fee changes to encourage them to apply at the most beneficial time.
7. Utilize CLINIC tools to help identify individuals who could benefit from the new partial fee waiver for naturalization and encourage them to save money by applying after Dec. 23.
8. Remember that USCIS will reject certain applications filed too early. Note that this does not apply to DACA applications. While USCIS recommends filing between 150-120 days prior to expiration, USCIS advises that it will not reject earlier filed applications.
9. Be sure to file those applications well before Dec. 23. If you are filing on or near the deadline, be sure to use a reliable courier service with tracking information.
10. Review your client agreements, checklists and resources to update all references to the USCIS fees, so they reflect the new amounts as of Dec. 23.

SUMMARY OF TOP FEE INCREASES

| Form Type | Current USCIS Fee | New USCIS Fee | Biometrics Fee (no change) | New Total Filing Fees |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| I-90* | \$365 | \$455 | \$85 | \$540 |
| I-129F | \$340 | \$535 | n/a | \$535 |
| I-130 | \$420 | \$535 | n/a | \$535 |
| I-131 | \$360 | \$575 | \$0-\$85 | \$575-660 |
| I-360* | \$405 | \$435 | n/a | \$435 |
| I-485 (14yrs+) | \$985 | \$1,140 | \$85 (14-78 yrs) | \$1,225 |
| I-601A | \$585 | \$630 | \$85 (78 yrs or under) | \$715 |
| I-765* | \$380 | \$410 | \$85 | \$495 |
| N-400** | \$595 | \$640 | \$85 | \$725 |
| N-565* | \$345 | \$555 | n/a | \$555 |
| N-600* | \$600 | \$1,170 | n/a | \$1,170 |

*Applicants with household income at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) may qualify for a full fee waiver. Other criteria must be met.

**N-400 applicants with household incomes at or below 200% of FPG may qualify for either a full or partial fee waiver.