



PROJECT CITIZENSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

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Executive Summary

In 2015, Project Citizenship¹ established itself as New England's largest and most successful citizenship provider. The Project Citizenship network submitted a combined total of 3,194 citizenship applications, servicing eligible legal permanent residents from 124 countries.

Throughout the year, Project Citizenship hosted 11 citizenship workshops in collaboration with various community agencies, resulting in a total of 703 application submissions.

Ten community based partner agencies were funded for citizenship application assistance work, submitting a combined 2,485 citizenship applications. The Project Citizenship network together had a projected goal of 2,555 application submissions, which was surpassed by 110%.

In direct service work, Project Citizenship outperformed its own goal for the year by 234%. Because it was difficult to set a goal for the initial full year of direct services, Project Citizenship set a goal of 300 for the year, hoping to surpass that goal. No one predicted or expected the submission of 703 citizenship applications in 2015 for an emerging organization.

Through the year, Project Citizenship developed and strengthened many partnerships. Partnerships with Boston area law firms helped create and maintain a strong volunteer network. 452 individual volunteers donated time and energy to workshops and in-office appointments. 135 volunteers returned to volunteer at least a second time.

Project Citizenship also utilized many media and government agency partnerships to outreach and market citizenship services. Elected officials, at the federal, state, and local levels sponsored events in Framingham, Lawrence, Attleboro, and Boston. Media partners helped amplify Project Citizenship's reach in the Portuguese, Spanish, and Haitian Creole speaking communities.

In total, 1,580 fee waivers were submitted by the Project Citizenship network, which saved applicants \$1,074,400.

This report will highlight the organization's direct service, the work of our partner network, the service of our volunteers, statistics related to our goal performance, and results from our fee waiver and disability waiver services.

¹ In this report, Project Citizenship refers to the staff of Project Citizenship. Project Citizenship network refers to the group of funded partners that comprise the collaboration.

Background

Project Citizenship seeks to reduce barriers to citizenship for eligible, legal permanent residents throughout New England by working with a diverse group of community partners and a strong network of volunteers. With the help of these community partners, Project Citizenship works to provide quality support to citizenship applicants throughout the extensive application process. Services include free application assistance and referrals to civics and English classes at partner agencies.

Project Citizenship began as the Greater Boston Citizenship Initiative, a collaboration of community partners in Massachusetts seeking to increase naturalization rates throughout the state. The Fish Family Foundation, a philanthropic organization with a long-standing commitment to serving immigrant communities, formed the Initiative in 2011. GBCI became Project Citizenship in January 2015. Project Citizenship has two attorneys on staff, two Program Managers, two New American Integration Program Fellows, and a number of committed high school, college, and law school interns. Project Citizenship's *pro bono* partnerships are significant and vital to its ability to provide free legal services to immigrant communities.

Project Citizenship focuses its citizenship services in the form of citizenship applications (N-400s) as well as applications for proof of citizenship for children of U.S. citizens that derive citizenship through their parents (N-600s). Community partners are funded for both N-400s and N-600s. In this report, "submitted applications" refers to a combination of N-400s and N-600s.

PROJECT CITIZENSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

Project Citizenship

Project Citizenship hosted 11 citizenship workshops in collaboration with various community agencies, resulting in a total of 703 application submissions from Project Citizenship’s direct service work from 61 different countries. Submissions increased each quarter, and over half of the applications were submitted in the latter half of the year.

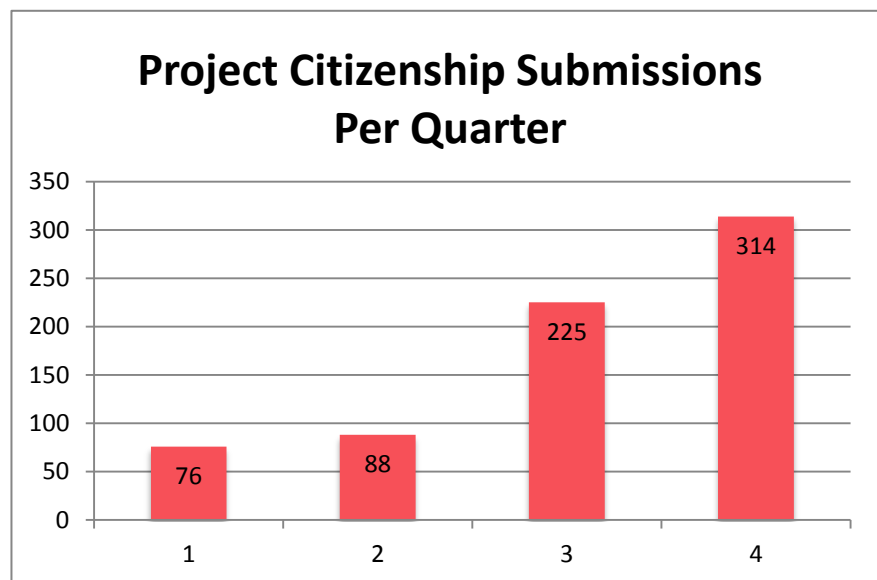
In 2015, the Project Citizenship network submitted a combined total of 3,194 citizenship applications, serving eligible legal permanent residents from 124 countries.

Derivative Citizens

An important part of Project Citizenship’s services are applications for certificates of citizenship for children who derive citizenship through their parents. In 2015, Project Citizenship submitted 20 applications for certificates of citizenship for children of U.S. citizens. The partner network submitted 257 applications for certificates of citizenship. A citizenship certificate is highly preferable to a more easily obtained U.S. passport by government officials, immigration attorneys and immigrants alike. A citizenship certificate does not expire, is recorded and stored by the Department of Homeland Security and is permanent proof of citizenship for future generations.

Citizenship Day Boston

On September 26, Project Citizenship partnered with the Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians to host Citizenship Day. The Boston event was the largest workshop of the year with 259 attendees.

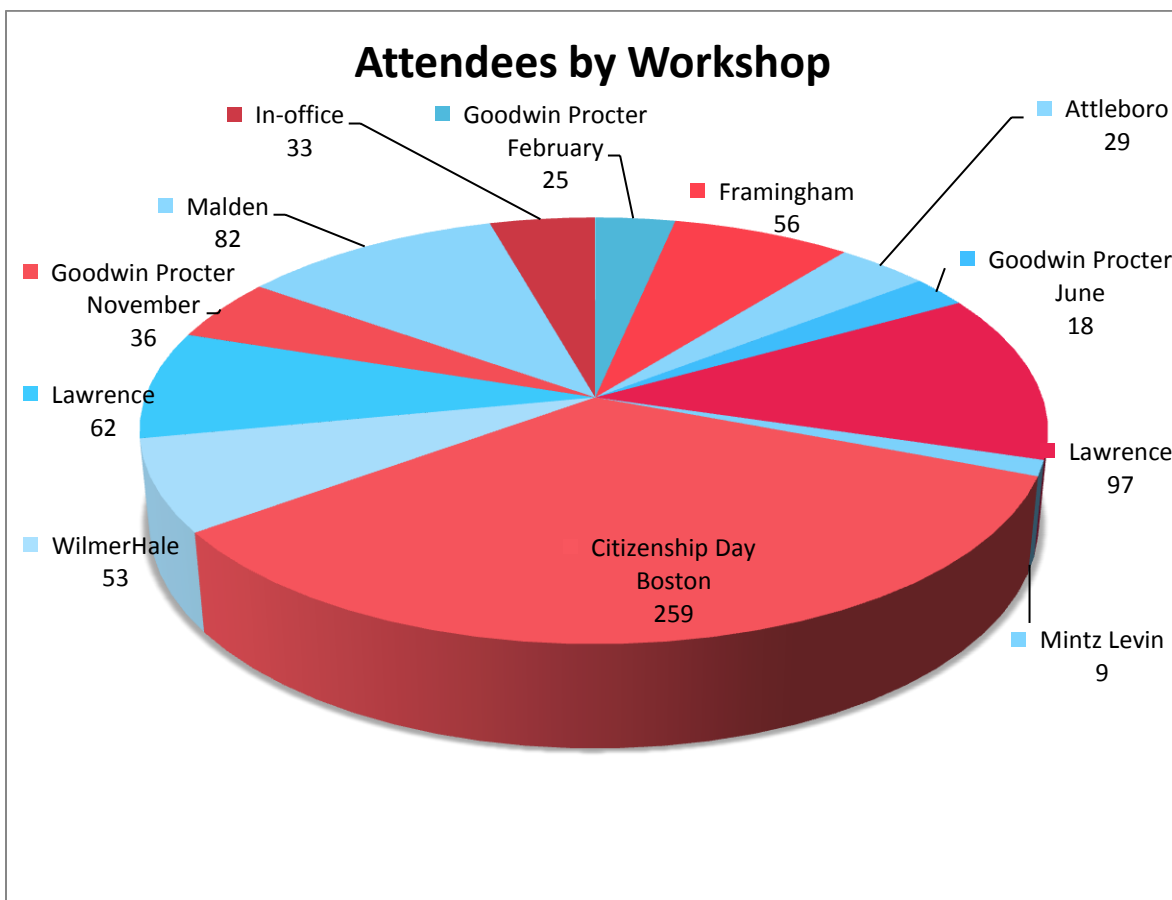


Citizenship Day Lawrence

The second largest workshop was hosted in partnership with Mayor Dan Rivera in Lawrence, Massachusetts, with an unexpectedly high turnout of 97 applicants. As a result, Project Citizenship returned to Lawrence for another workshop and established monthly office hours beginning in December in partnership with the Lawrence Senior Center. In addition to workshops, staff conducted 32 in-office appointments in Lawrence in 2015.

Citizenship Day Framingham

On March 14, Project Citizenship partnered with U.S. Congresswoman Katherine Clark and the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants to host Citizenship Day in Framingham. 56 applicants were assisted by 30 volunteers. Partnering with WSRO as a media sponsor generated demand and increased the number of applicants.



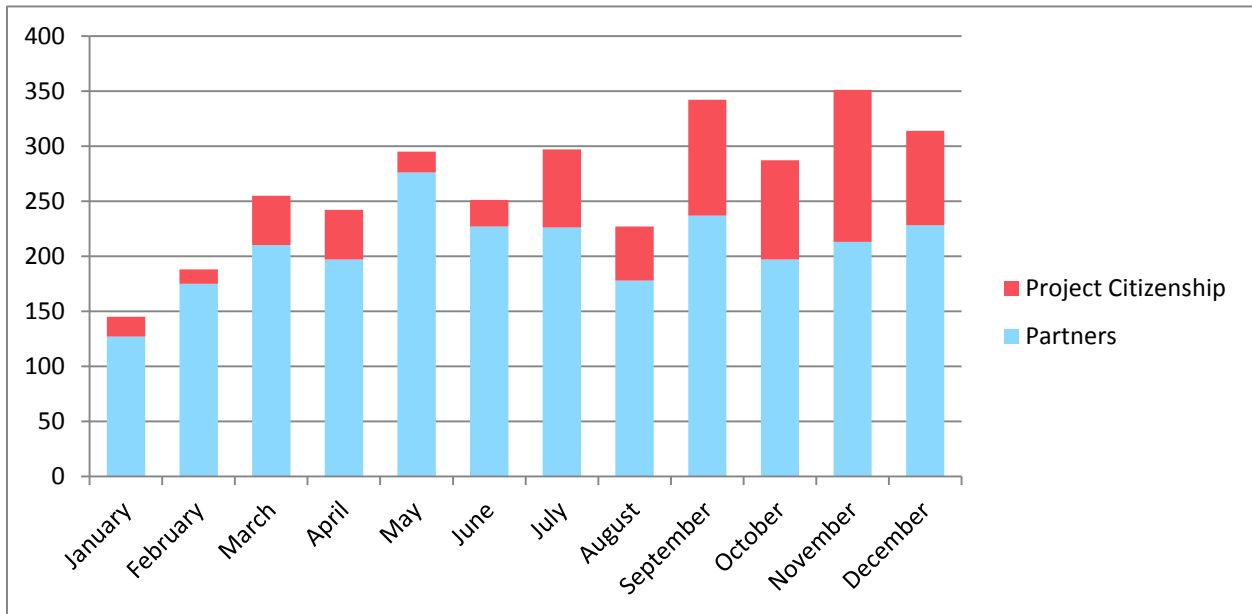
Partners

Project Citizenship funded 10 community based partner agencies to provide citizenship application assistance. Together they form the Project Citizenship Partner network:

- Asian American Civic Association
- Action for Boston Community Development
- Agencia ALPHA
- Ascentria Care Alliance
- Dorcas International Institute
- International Institute of New England Lowell
- Jewish Vocational Services
- Massachusetts Association of Portuguese Speakers
- Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
- Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center



The Project Citizenship partner agencies submitted a total of 2,485 citizenship applications. The Project Citizenship network surpassed its projected goal at 110%.



Media

Project Citizenship’s outreach was supported by media sponsors in the Greater Boston area. These sponsors were integral in advertising workshops, as well as the benefits of citizenship, and informing the public about eligibility and waivers. Project Citizenship worked with media consultant Josiane Martinez for the three biggest events, in Framingham, Lawrence and Boston. Media sponsors used various means of advertising, including PSAs, interviews with Project Citizenship Executive Director Veronica Serrato, print ads, and press releases about the events.

Citizenship Day in Framingham:

WSRO ("A Brasileira") was the most effective media sponsor for the Framingham event. PSAs aired in the weeks leading up to the event, and WSRO hosted a radio-a-thon the Monday before the event as well. Brazilians from all over the state heard about the event, and the majority who attended were from Framingham. The event garnered media coverage from the MetroWest Daily News and Brazilian Times.



Citizenship Day in Lawrence:



Print and radio ads were used primarily for outreach in the Lawrence community. Radio ads were aired on various Spanish language stations, as well as the Mayor’s weekly talk show. Since this initial workshop, most applicants in Lawrence hear about Project Citizenship through word of mouth.

Citizenship Day in Boston:

The biggest event of the year was Citizenship Day in Boston.



Media sponsors across TV, print and radio from many different communities signed on to promote the event. In addition to the media sponsors listed, ads were posted on various MBTA subway and bus lines, and Univision ran a few paid ads, covered by the Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians. Additionally, Haitian radio interviews on Planet Compas and a TV interview on Total Health TV were highly effective forms of outreach in the Haitian community.



The Dorchester Reporter covered the event in advance and increased outreach efforts.

<http://www.dotnews.com/2015/citizenship-day-sept-26-timilty-school-roxbury>

Pro Bono firms

Project Citizenship’s work is supported by law firms throughout Boston who host citizenship workshops and encourage their attorneys to provide *pro bono* service. In 2015, WilmerHale, Goodwin Procter, and Mintz Levin were key partners to Project Citizenship’s success.



“WilmerHale’s collaboration with Project Citizenship provides young attorneys like me with meaningful opportunities to help families achieve the dream of becoming United States citizens. As a child of immigrants myself, I know that the path to citizenship is both exciting and daunting, and I am thankful for the opportunity to work with Project Citizenship in helping applicants navigate the legal and emotional barriers to becoming citizens.”

–Nina Garcia, *Pro Bono* Volunteer

WilmerHale

On October 22, WilmerHale partnered with Project Citizenship to host a workshop for 44 applicants in their offices. Wilmer Hale provided the space, *pro bono* attorneys, and food for applicants and volunteers. The law firm also provided office supplies such as a printer, pens, and whiteout, and mailed all completed applications after the workshop.



Goodwin Procter



Goodwin Procter hosted three workshops for Project Citizenship in 2015 in the months of February, June and November. For each workshop, Goodwin provided office space, office supplies, application mailing and *pro bono* attorney services. Goodwin Procter also acted as a sponsor for Citizenship Day Boston, the largest workshop of the year. The majority of the *pro bono* attorneys volunteering on Citizenship Day were Goodwin Procter attorneys.

Mintz Levin



Mintz Levin hosted its first workshop in partnership with Project Citizenship on July 22. The firm provided office space, office supplies and the *pro bono* service of 11 attorneys for its desired small workshop. At the event, 9 applicants completed their application, one of whom was a Mintz Levin staff member. Mintz Levin has an immigration department and has considerable immigration expertise.

Government Agencies

Project Citizenship collaborated with many government agencies throughout 2015 in various aspects of direct service work.

Local:

At the local level, Mayor Dan Rivera in Lawrence facilitated Project Citizenship's partnership with the Lawrence Senior Center. This collaboration was very successful- Project Citizenship now hosts monthly office appointments at the Senior Center to keep up with the demand in the community. In Malden, Project Citizenship partnered with Malden High School. Outreach conducted by the high school to their families was extremely effective, in large part due to Principal Dana Brown's popularity in the community.

State:

The Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants (MORI) co-sponsored the Framingham workshop and expressed interest in working with Project Citizenship to organize a joint audit of partners who receive funding from Project Citizenship (FFF) and Citizenship for New Americans Program (CNAP) funding from MORI.

Obtaining proof of MassHealth coverage through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services proved to be a challenge in the first half of 2015. But through a collaborative effort between Project Citizenship and the senior staff at the agency, Project Citizenship developed a system to easily obtain proof of benefits and drastically hastened how quickly an application can be mailed with proof of eligibility for a fee waiver. This has also reduced the number of fee waiver rejections Project Citizenship receives.

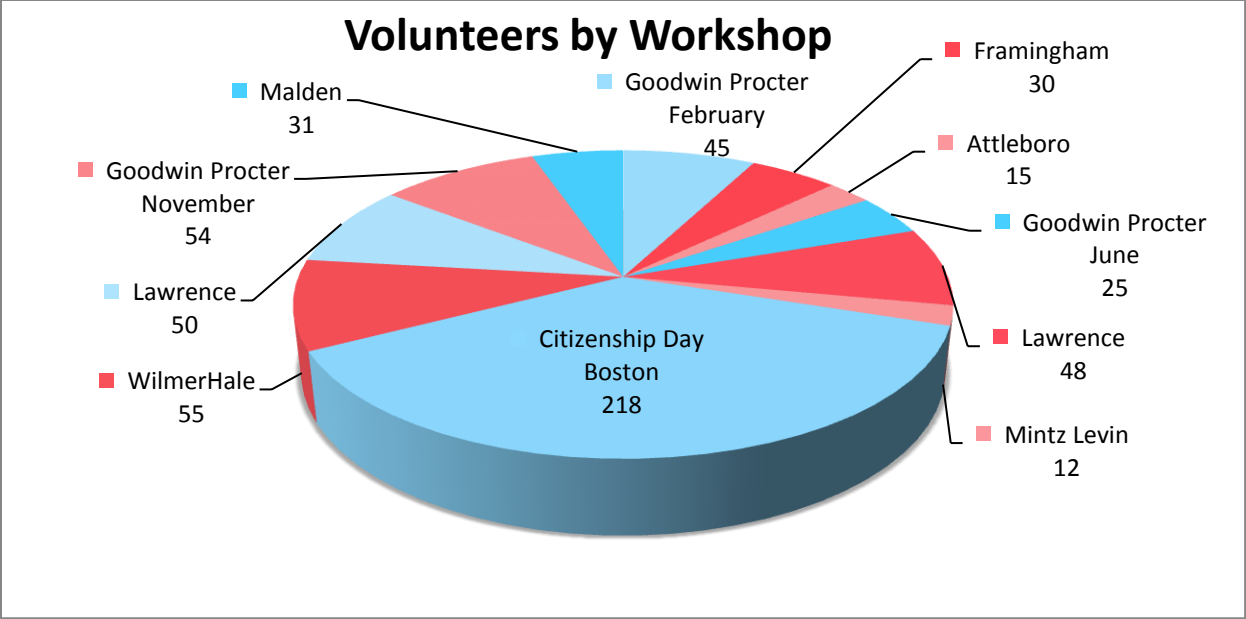
Federal:

Project Citizenship partnered with federally elected officials in 2015. Most notably, Congresswoman Clark's office co-sponsored two very successful workshops in 2015, located in Framingham and Malden. Staff members for the Congresswoman connected Project Citizenship with local community organizations, attended both events, and issued press releases after each workshop.

Project Citizenship's partnership with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service office (USCIS) has grown dramatically in 2015. USCIS hosted an oath ceremony in conjunction with Citizenship Day in Boston. The USCIS senior staff continues to be an ally in progressing the work of the Project Citizenship network.

Volunteers

Project Citizenship's work is strongly driven by a volunteer base that includes *pro bono* attorneys, law students, and community volunteers. In 2015, this network not only included 452 unique volunteers, 135 volunteers returned to volunteer one or many times. In total, 25% of Project Citizenship's volunteer base consisted of returning volunteers.



“While volunteering with Project Citizenship, I am able to be a very small part of this same journey for others, which is incredibly rewarding. Thank you to Project Citizenship for the work you do in organizing citizenship workshops, promoting the value of citizenship and advocating for the rights of immigrants.” - Neha Deshapande, Project Citizenship Community Volunteer



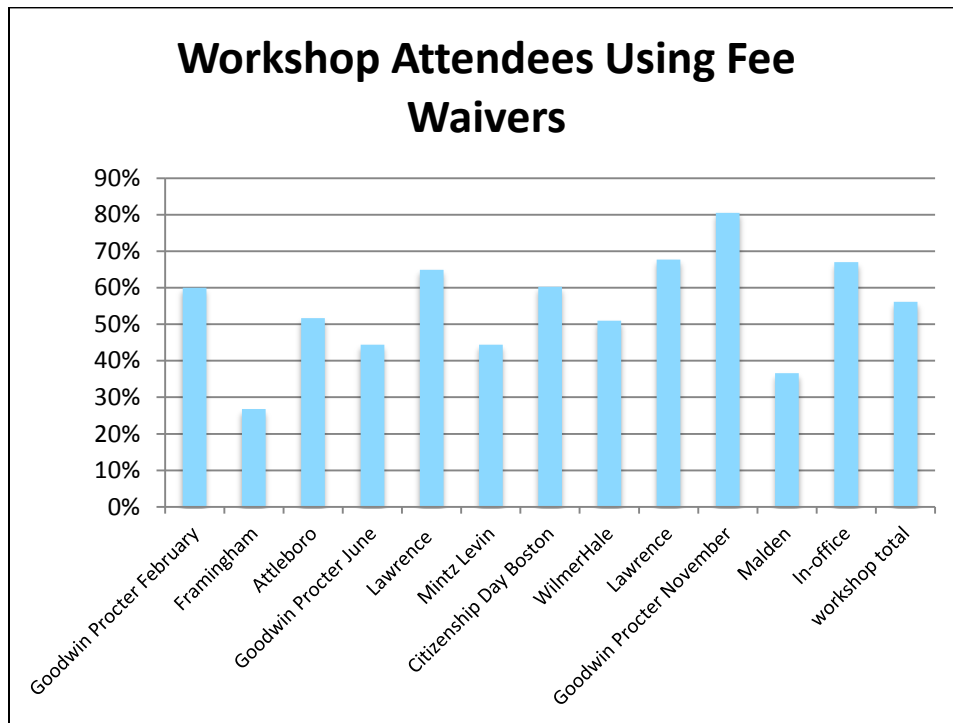
“One of the ladies I helped at the event was a day older than my mom. She was so sweet and showed me her two kids. Her older son is actually about to graduate high school this year. It reminded me that people immigrate to start a new life, to find success in a new world. But life in a foreign place isn’t always easy. This is why I volunteered for Project Citizenship, because immigrants should be able to achieve what they set out to find here. I hope that the lady I helped will find it one day.”

- Junshi Lu, Boston College Law School student

Waivers

Request for Fee Waiver

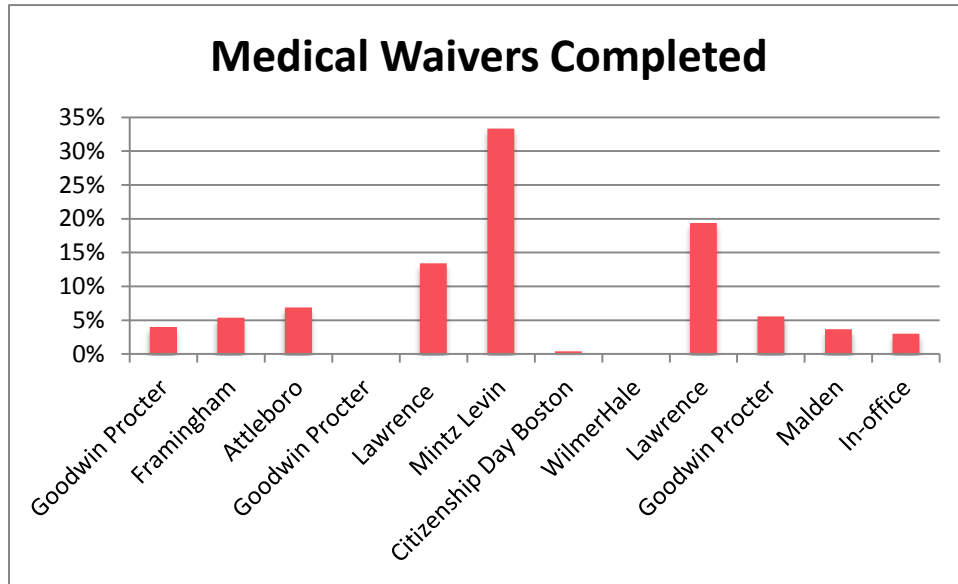
According to USCIS, the average citizenship applicant's family income is less than \$50,000. In 2015, the Project Citizenship network submitted a total of 1,580 fee waivers, which saved applicants \$1,074,400. Project Citizenship submitted 404 of those fee waivers, resulting in a savings of \$274,720 for clients. Project Citizenship noticed that a large number of applications were delayed because it was very hard for applicants to obtain proof of MassHealth that would be accepted by USCIS. In the fall of 2015, Project Citizenship collaborated with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services to quickly obtain proof of Medicaid insurance for eligible applicants seeking a fee waiver on this basis. The program has been very successful. The wait time on receiving proof of eligibility has been cut down drastically thanks to this strong partnership.



Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions

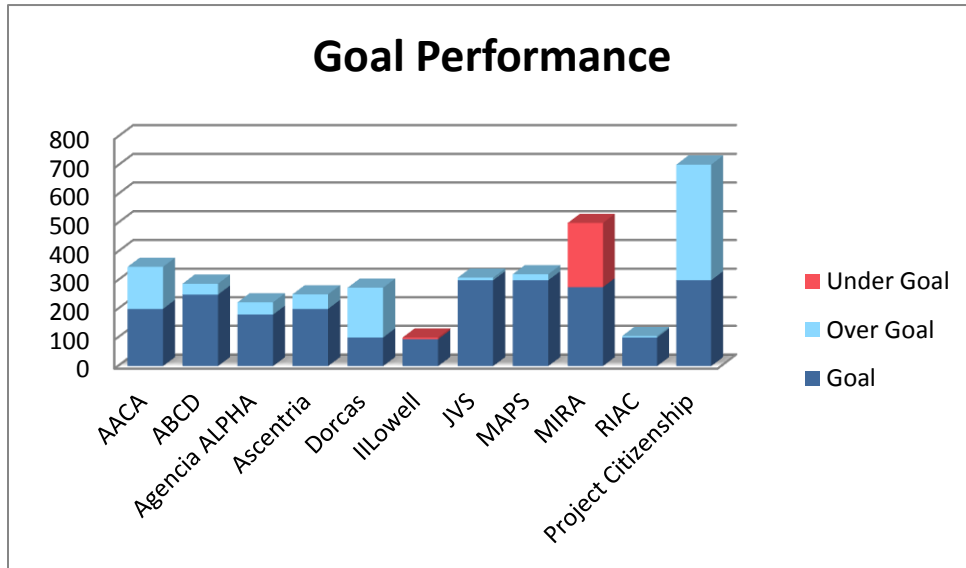
In 2015, Project Citizenship assisted with 40 medical certifications for disability exceptions, commonly called disability waivers. Project Citizenship network assisted with 234 N-648 forms in total. 7.3% of applicants submitted in 2015 used a disability waiver. Normally, an applicant must speak, read and write English as well as U.S. civics and history to be eligible for citizenship. Exceptions are made for those who suffer from

a disability that prevents the learning of English or of U.S. history and civics. In order to obtain this disability waiver, the applicant's physician, psychologist or osteopath must fill out a complex form. Project Citizenship assists with this process by providing an informational packet to the applicant's doctor and reviewing the form prior to submission. Often this step prevents applicants from having their medical waiver rejected, in which case they would have to interview in English and risk losing their \$680 application fee.

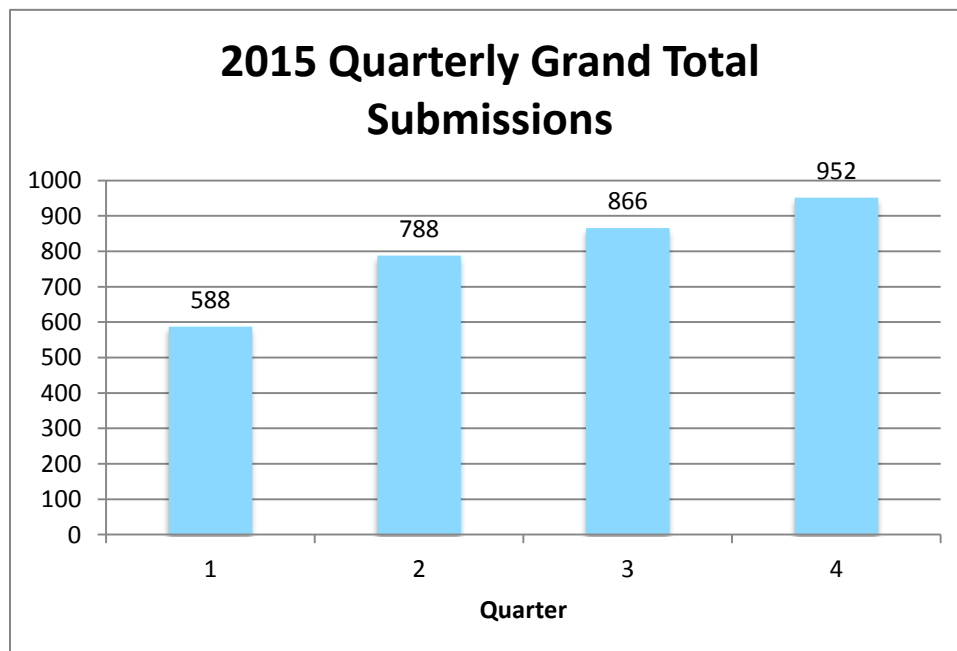


Goal Performance

Project Citizenship and the partner network together had a projected goal of 2,555 application submissions, which was surpassed by 125%. The majority of the partner agencies exceeded their individual submission goals.

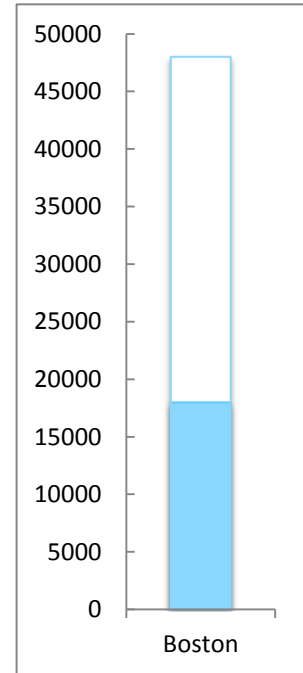
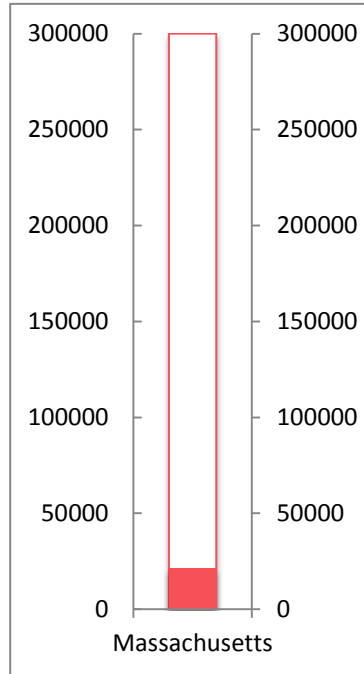
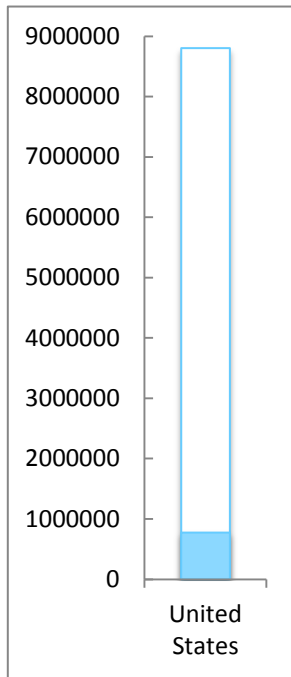


Similar to Project Citizenship's direct work, the combined work also improved performance on a quarterly basis and completed a significant portion of submissions in the final quarter.



Regional Need

Project Citizenship works to provide services to a considerable population of eligible legal permanent residents. In the United States, there are currently an estimated 8.8 million green card holders who are eligible to apply for citizenship. On average, 770,000 people apply for citizenship annually, leaving a gap between those applying and those eligible.



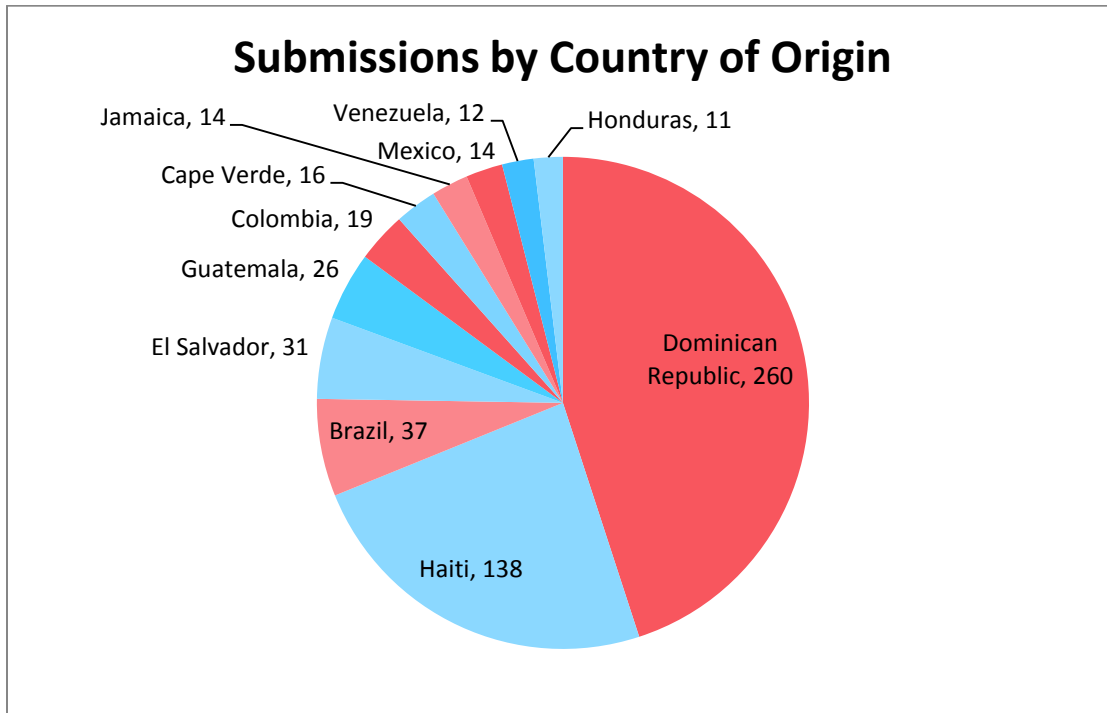
The estimates for the need in Project Citizenship's area are similar. In Massachusetts, the estimated size of the eligible population is close to 300,000, and only 21,000 are filing for citizenship on average each year. In the city of Boston, the average number of applicants who apply for citizenship annually is 18,000. An estimated 48,000 legal permanent residents are eligible to apply who reside in the city.

Demographic Data

Project Citizenship

Countries of Origin

Project Citizenship staff and volunteers submitted 703 applications from 61 countries of origin. Over half of the applicants served in 2015 were from the Dominican Republic or Haiti.



The full list of countries is as follows:

Albania	Algeria	Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina
Bahamas	Bangladesh	Barbados	Belarus
Belize	Bolivia	Brazil	Cameroon
Canada	Cape Verde	China	Colombia
Cuba	Dominican Republic	Ecuador	El Salvador
Eritrea	Ethiopia	Ghana	Guatemala
Guyana	Haiti	Honduras	India
Ireland	Jamaica	Japan	Lebanon
Liberia	Malaysia	Mexico	Montserrat
Morocco	Nepal	Nicaragua	Nigeria
Pakistan	Panama	Paraguay	Peru
Philippines	Portugal	Romania	Saint Lucia
Serbia	Sierra Leone	Somalia	South Africa

St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Uganda
Vietnam

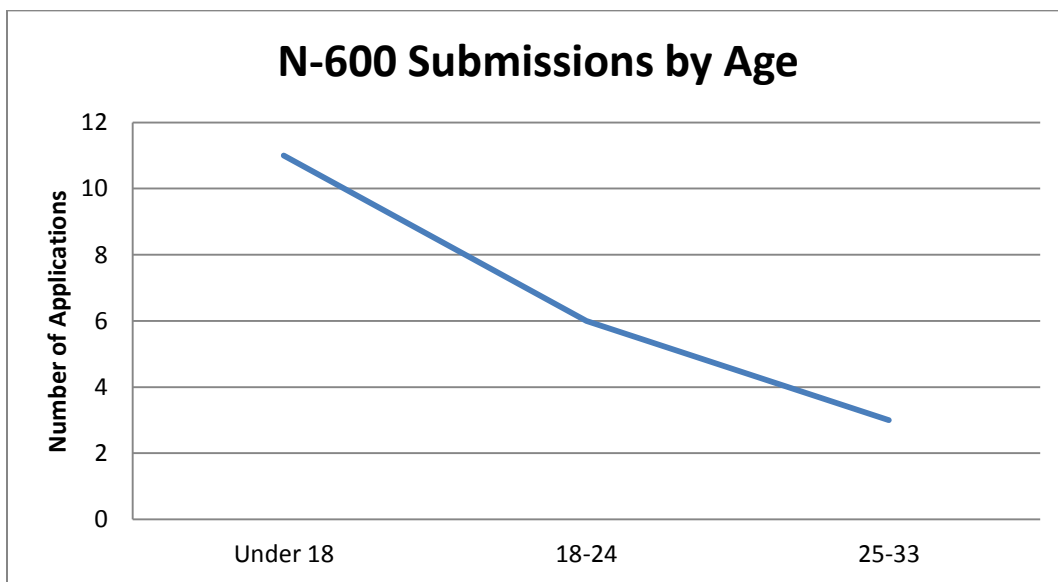
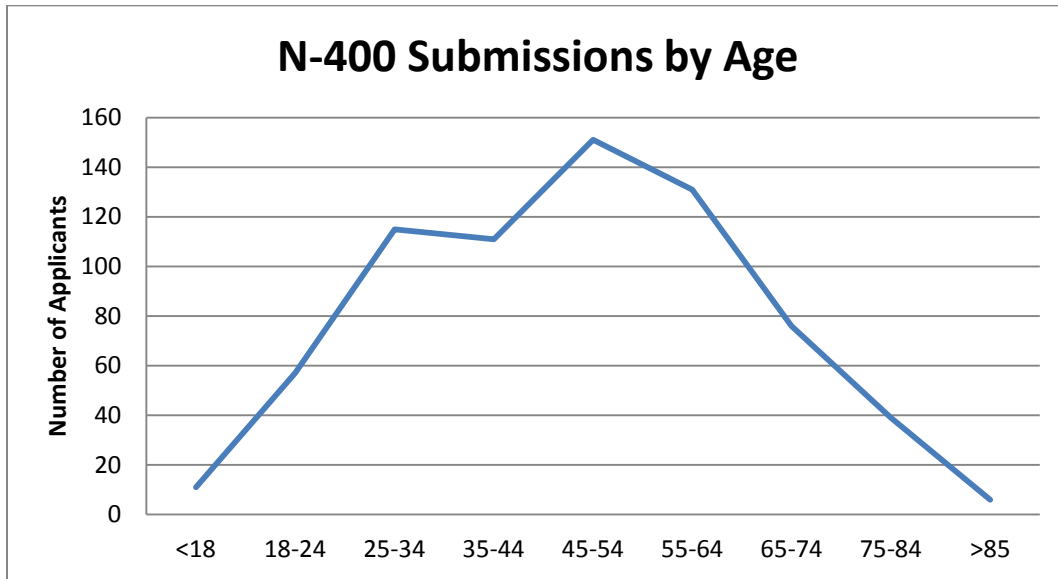
Tanzania
United Kingdom

Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay

Turkey
Venezuela

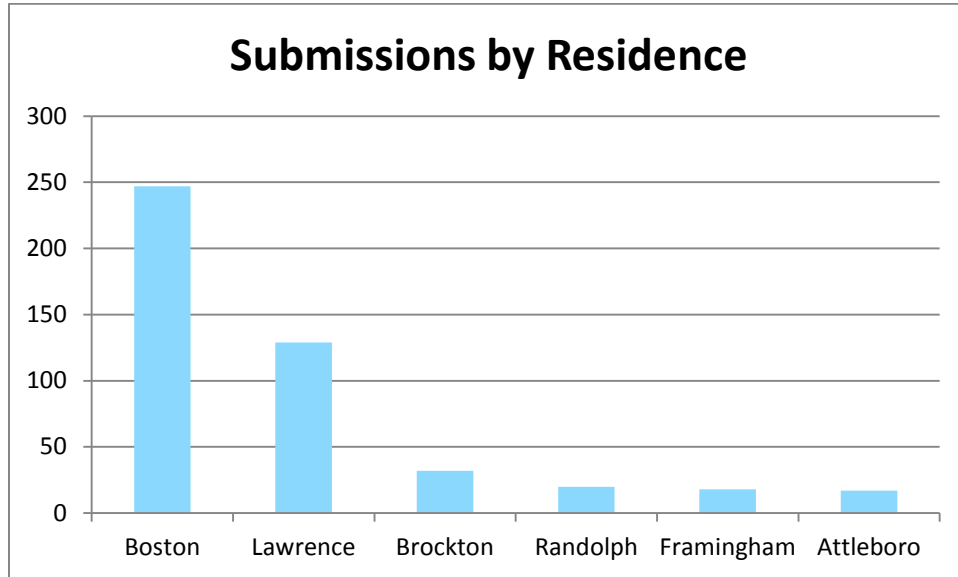
Submissions by Age

Project Citizenship assisted applicants ranging in age from 18-89 for citizenship applications. The most common age group was 45-54 years. For children seeking certificates of citizenship, the applicants ranged in age from 5-33.



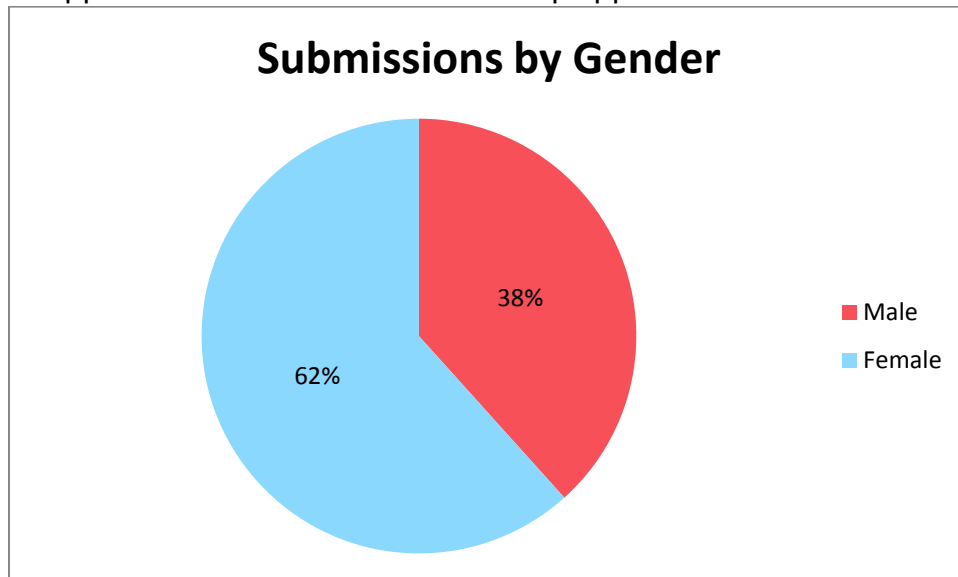
Submissions by Residence

Workshops in 2015 were held in Boston, Lawrence, Framingham, Attleboro, and Malden. Outside of Boston, a large majority of applicants assisted live in Lawrence. Project Citizenship has developed a monthly in-office appointment system to accommodate the high volume of applications from Lawrence.



Submissions by Gender

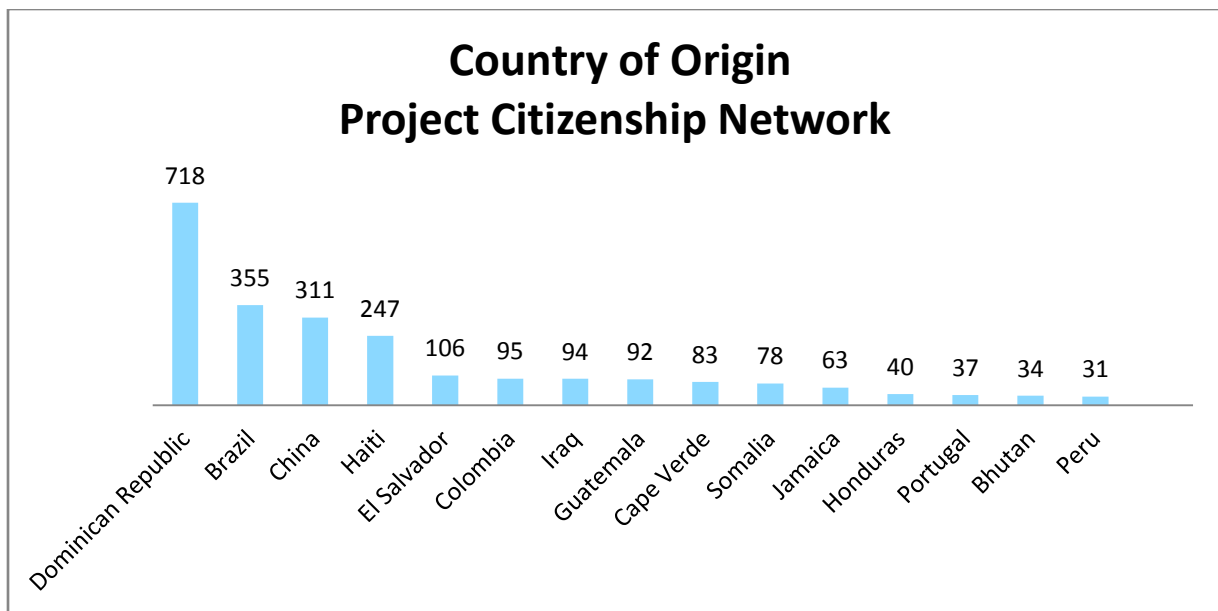
Project Citizenship offers services to anyone eligible for citizenship. In 2015, nearly two-thirds of the applicants who submitted citizenship applications were women.



Project Citizenship Network

Countries of Origin

The Project Citizenship network submitted 3,194 applications from 124 different countries of origin.

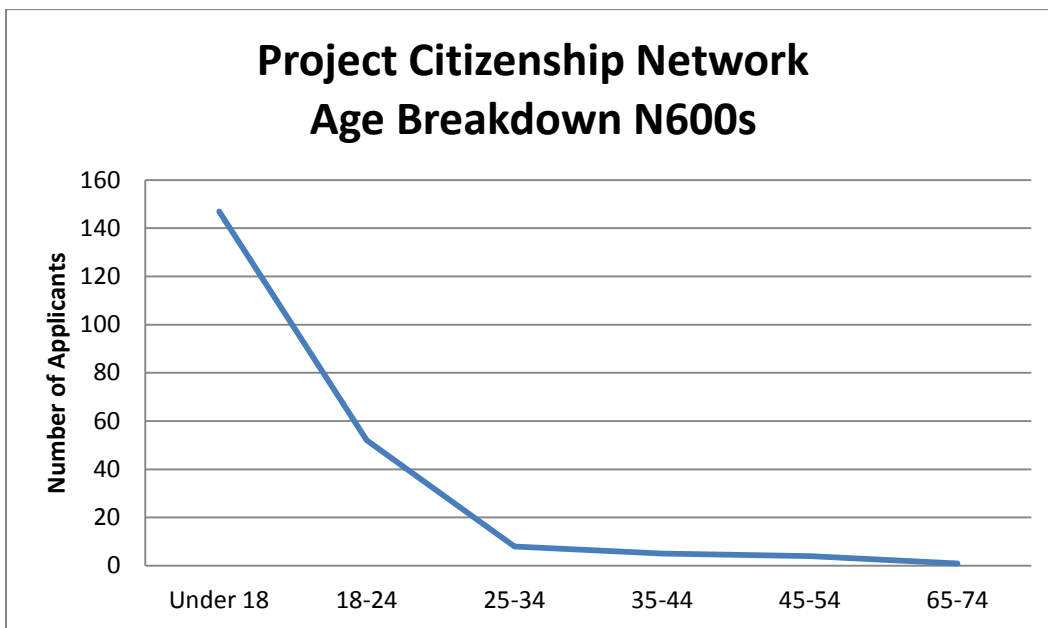
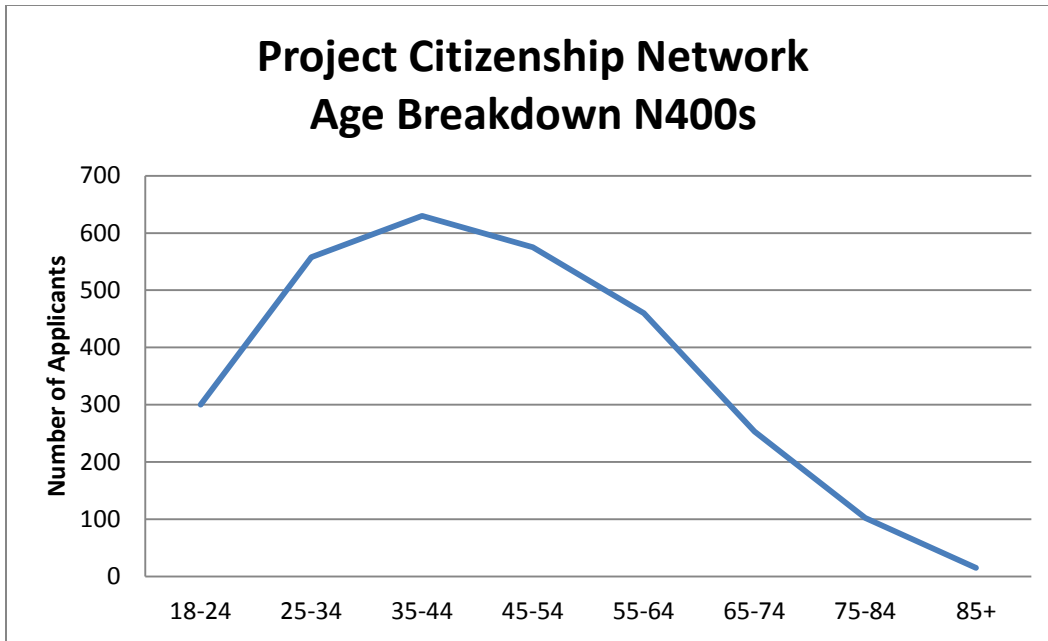


The full list of countries is as follows:

Afghanistan	Argentina	Albania	Algeria
Angola	Antigua & Barbuda	Argentina	Armenia
Australia	Austria	Bahamas	Bangladesh
Barbados	Belarus	Belize	Benin
Bhutan	Bolivia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Brazil
Bulgaria	Burma	Burundi	Cambodia
Cameroon	Canada	Cape Verde	Chad
Chile	China	Colombia	Costa Rica
Cuba	Dem. Republic of Congo	Dominican Republic	Ecuador
Egypt	El Salvador	Equatorial Guinea	Eritrea
Ethiopia	Gabon	Gambia	Germany
Ghana	Guatemala	Guinea	Guinea Bissau
Guyana	Haiti	Honduras	Hungary
India	Iran	Iraq	Ireland
Italy	Ivory Coast	Jamaica	Japan
Jordan	Kazakhstan	Kenya	Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Lebanon	Liberia
Malaysia	Mali	Mexico	Moldova
Montserrat	Morocco	Mauritania	Nepal
Netherlands	Nicaragua	Niger	Nigeria
Pakistan	Palestine	Panama	Paraguay
Peru	Philippines	Poland	Portugal
Republic of the Congo	Romania	Russia	Rwanda
Saudi Arabia	Senegal	Serbia	Sierra Leone
Singapore	Somalia	South Africa	South Korea
Spain	Sri Lanka	St. Kitts and Nevis	St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Sudan	Swaziland	Sweden
Taiwan	Tanzania	Thailand	Togo
Trinidad and Tobago	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Uganda
Ukraine	United Kingdom	Uruguay	Uzbekistan
Venezuela	Vietnam	Zambia	Zimbabwe

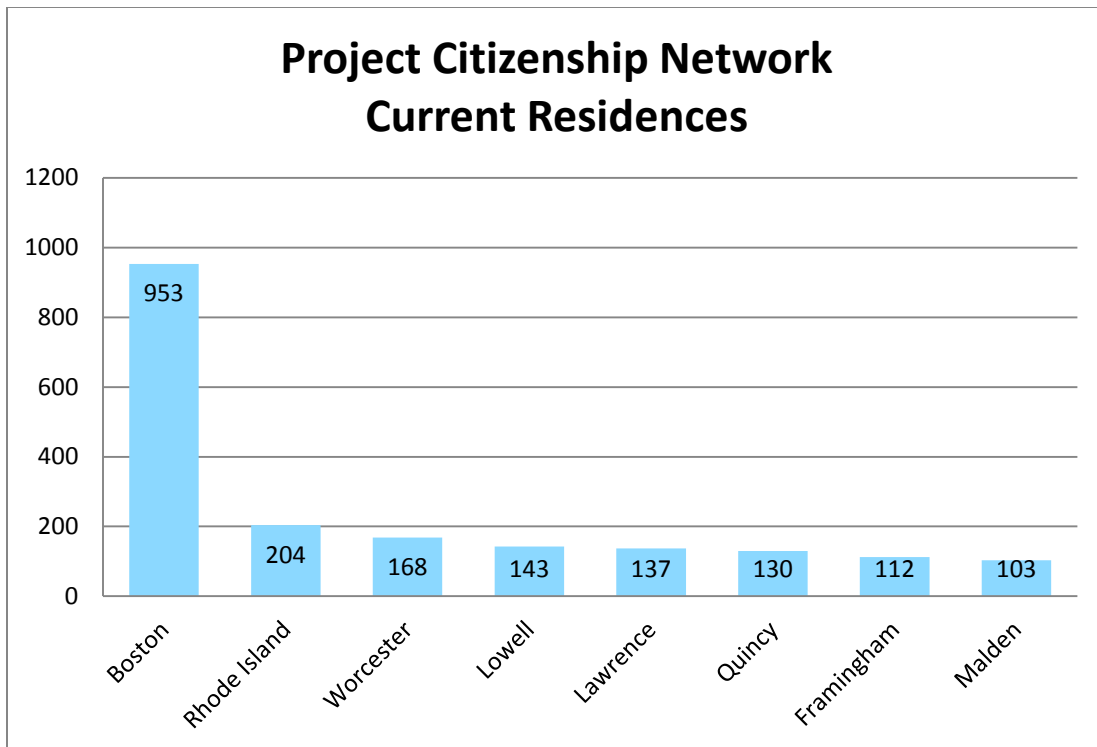
Submissions by Age

The Project Citizenship Network assisted applicants ranging in age from 18-94 for citizenship applications. The most common age group was 35-44 years. For children seeking certificates of citizenship, the applicants ranged in age from 4-74.



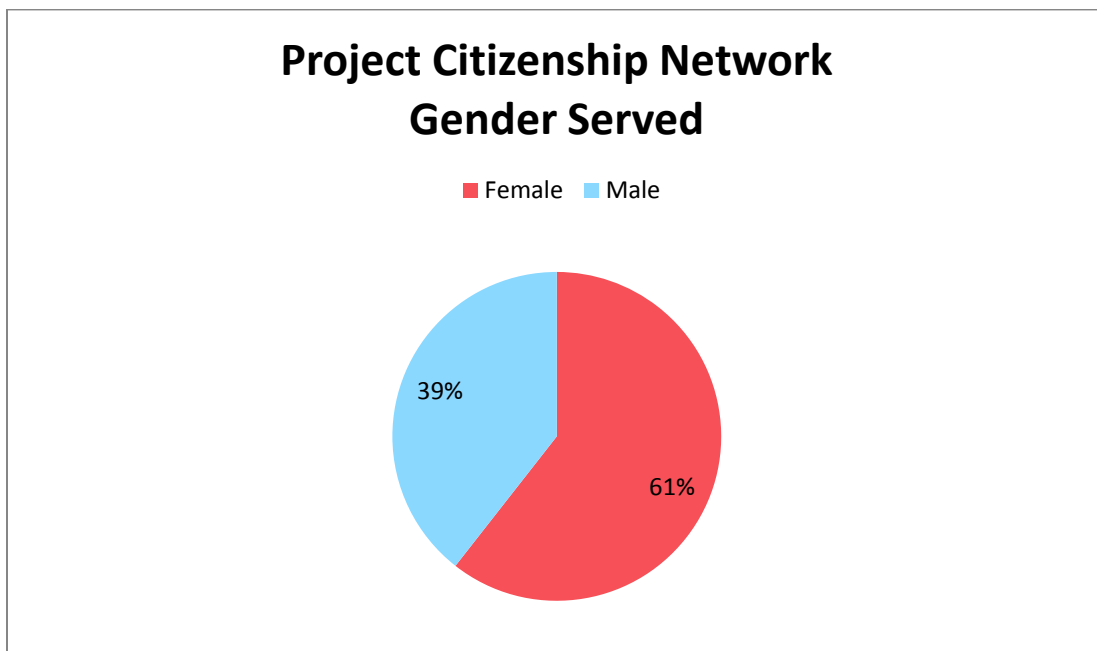
Submissions by Residence

The 2015 Project Citizenship network included partners in Boston, Providence, Worcester, Lowell, and Framingham. Similar to Project Citizenship staff applications, the partner network was primarily focused in Boston.



Submissions by Gender

Project Citizenship staff served 62% women. The Project Citizenship network served a nearly identical 61% women.



Trainings

Project Citizenship conducted 19 trainings in 2015. The majority of the trainings were related to workshops. Workshop trainings consist of basic N-400 material in addition to specific workshop procedures. 5 trainings coincided with Citizenship Day in Boston because over 200 volunteers needed training.

Most trainings were conducted by the AmeriCorps attorneys, Allison Roso and Katie Lambing. The full list of trainings is as follows:

Date	Type of Training	Location	Trainer(s)
2/3	N-400 Training	WilmerHale	Allison Roso
2/23	Workshop Training	Goodwin Procter	Allison Roso
3/14	Workshop Training	Framingham	Matt Jose
6/3	Workshop Training	Goodwin Procter	Allison Roso
6/10	Intro to Immigration	Fish Family Foundation	Allison Roso
7/22	Workshop Training	Mintz Levin	Matt Jose, Allison Roso
8/26	Interview Preparation	Lawrence Senior Center	Melanie Torres, Matt Jose
9/15	Cit. Day Training	Boston University	Katie Lambing, Veronica Serrato
9/15	Cit. Day Training	Boston City Hall	Melanie Torres, Veronica Serrato
9/21	Cit. Day Training	Boston College	Katie Lambing, Veronica Serrato
9/21	N-400 Training	Boston Bar Association	Katie Lambing, Veronica Serrato, An Le
9/22	Cit. Day Training	Boston City Hall	Melanie Torres, Katie Lambing
10/14	N-600 Training	Fish Family Foundation	Katie Lambing
10/22	Workshop Training	WilmerHale	Katie Lambing, Veronica Serrato
11/5	Citizenship 101	English-at-Large	Matt Jose
11/11	Workshop Training	Goodwin Procter	Katie Lambing, Veronica Serrato
12/1	Citizenship 101	Bunker Hill Community College	Melanie Torres
12/5	New Partner Training	Goodwin Procter	Katie Lambing
12/16	Crimimmigration	Goodwin Procter	Amy Wax, Katie Lambing