Naturalization: An Immediate Defense Strategy
Mobilizing Coherent Community Responses to Changing Immigration Policies, Houston, TX, June 9, 2017
Explosion in Demand

• USCIS #s: FY2016 → 950K apps (average 750K-850K)
• Election year bump higher & sustained
• Huge uptick in turnout at NAC workshops
• High demand even after too late to vote in Presidential election
• USCIS processing time: 8-9 months instead of 5 months
Quarterly Year-Over-Year Applications Have Increased

Data through Dec 2016

Apps in NAC Sites
All Funding Sources
Growth in Number of Workshops

Workshops of All Sizes Increased by 57%

- 2013-14: 624
- 2014-15: 751
- 2015-16: 980

Large and Mega Workshops Increased by 46%

- 2013-14: 48
- 2014-15: 37
- 2015-16: 70
New Motivators for LPRs

• Increased desire to vote after 2016 outcome
• Fear of deportation
• Fear of not being able to return from travel
• Traditional motivators: better job opportunities, increased earnings, civic participation
Seizing the Moment

• Sense of urgency among LPRs
• One time intervention with lifelong benefit
  – Citizen for life
  – Minor children may be able to derive citizenship
• An immediate defense strategy
  – Long-term game changer electorally
  – Builds immigrant power
Recommendations

• Increase # of workshops
• Build capacity - can scale up with funding
• Increase USCIS staffing to process apps
• Donate space, food, volunteers for workshops