

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION FOR VETERANS

By the Veterans Assistance Project

In light of recent changes in immigration policy, the [Veterans Assistance Project](#) created this resource for noncitizen veterans. For more information, veterans who are immigrants can click the following link to go to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) new portal: <https://www.dhs.gov/immvets>.

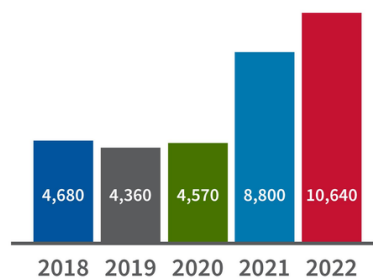


Naturalization

- If you served in the U.S. military, you could be eligible to apply for expedited naturalization under special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
- As seen in the graphic below, military-related naturalization approvals are happening at a higher rate under the Biden administration, so we recommend applying if you qualify.
- To check if you are eligible for naturalization and to apply, log in to the DHS portal.
- You can also call CBJC's [Immigrant Justice Project](#) for advice about naturalization by calling 212-382-6710.



Military Naturalization Approvals by Year (2018-2022)



Source: USCIS



Returning to the United States

- Under the previous administration, noncitizen veterans were deported without consideration of their military service. As of June 2022, a new policy directive requires Immigration and Customs Enforcement to consider U.S. military service when deciding whether and what civil immigration enforcement actions to take against noncitizens.
- The Biden administration also launched a formal program to bring deported veterans back to the U.S. This online portal can connect you with a DHS official who can provide more information.



Veterans Administration Benefits

- Your immigration status—including past or pending deportation or removal—does not affect your eligibility for VA benefits!
- If you served in any branch of the military, you could be eligible for service-connected disability compensation. For veterans located in New York City, the [Veterans Assistance Project](#) provides free legal help and can be reached at 212-382-4722.
- VA hospitals are located across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Philippines. Veterans living outside of these locations may not be eligible for VA health care but can still qualify for other benefits. More information about accessing benefits is available in the [DHS portal](#).

This communication is for the general education and knowledge of our readers. Because all legal problems involve their own specific set of facts, this informational resource is not and should not be used as a substitute for independent legal advice. This informational resource also is not intended to create, and its receipt does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship. Please contact competent, independent legal counsel for an assessment of your particular legal concerns.