



# US Immigration Newsletter

May 7, 2019

Volume 14, Number 14

## In This Issue

- Over One Million Applicants Have Applied for US Citizenship and Permanent Residence Online
- USCIS Struggling to Fight Immigration Fraud
- Warrant Service Officer Program Offers "Flexibility to Make Immigration Arrests"

## Over One Million Applicants Have Applied for US Citizenship and Permanent Residence Online

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has stated that [over one million online applications](#) for permanent residence and citizenship have been received.



The federal agency was proud of its achievement and celebrated this milestone since it automates and streamlines processes, and makes operations a lot more efficient. Since the US government and federal agency have made online tools available, there has also been a decrease in wait times of applicants.

In a statement, USCIS spokeswoman, Jessica Collins, said, "Online filing is a more convenient and interactive way for applicants to submit applications, check the status of their case, and receive notices from USCIS."

Since all information is digitized, it also becomes possible for immigration officers to go through cases a lot more easily than they would in the past. Additionally, immigration officers also save time and effort that would otherwise be required in storing and sharing information.

## USCIS Struggling to Fight Immigration Fraud

Immigration fraud has been rampant in the United States over the last few years with despite new marriage fraud and misinformation cases being highlighted on a daily. This is particularly because there is currently not a single federal agency with complete authority to investigate and prosecute offenders who have been violating immigration laws.



Under President Obama, the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement department was divided into the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) directorate, and the Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) directorate.

Currently, the ERO is only responsible for removing those who are convicted of immigration crimes, whereas the HSI is meant to be the investigative unit. Despite this, however, immigration enforcement has not been mentioned in the mission statements of either of the two directorates.

---

## Warrant Service Officer Program Offers “Flexibility to Make Immigration Arrests”

According to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement department, a new Warrant Service Officer program has been [launched](#) in Florida allowing participating police departments and sheriffs to make “immigration arrests.”



A Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Pinellas County and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement department states that selected personnel “will be nominated, trained, and approved by ICE to perform certain limited functions of an immigration officer.”

All of this comes as part of the Trump administration’s plan to curb immigration.