



# U.S. Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

## Fact Sheet

08/014/2003

### BCIS: An Overview

- On March 1, the provision of services to legal immigrants formerly carried out by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was transferred to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The other functions of the former INS were transferred to Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, which are also within DHS.
- BCIS, which has more than 15,000 employees, is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.
- The immediate priorities of BCIS are to promote national security, continue eliminating application backlogs, and improve the overall quality of customer service.

### Goals

- Provide world-class customer service
- Establish a six-month standard for the processing of all benefit applications.
- Maintain the integrity and security of the immigration system
- Promote active citizenship

### Leadership

- Eduardo Aguirre was confirmed by the Senate as the first Director on June 19, 2003. Michael Petrucelli, who was also appointed by President George W. Bush, serves as the Bureau's Deputy Director and Chief of Staff.

### Vision

- *"My vision is to lead a world-class Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services that will excel in customer service and effective risk management. During my tenure, **Integrity, Respect and Ingenuity** will be our core values... I continue to be guided by President Bush's vision of 'welcoming immigrants with open arms...not endless lines.'"*  
– Eduardo Aguirre, BCIS Director

### BCIS Accomplishments:

#### The First 100 Days

- Initiated on-line filing for replacement/renewal of the "green card" (Form I-90) and the Application for Employment Authorization (Form I-765) through the BCIS website.
- Established the Office of Citizenship to develop and implement public outreach and education initiatives promoting U. S. citizenship.
- Created a Backlog Reduction Team to identify immediate changes that would speed up the adjudication process and to develop an implementation plan for putting these changes in place.
- Welcomed more than 100,000 new U.S. citizens in naturalization ceremonies across the country.

### Upcoming Events

- 9.17.03 – Citizenship Day, Washington, D.C.
- 9.19.03 – Inauguration, Charlotte, N.C. Office

### Website

For all of the latest on BCIS news and events, visit

***www.bcis.gov***

### BCIS Media Contact

For more information, please call  
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