

Becoming A U.S. Citizen:

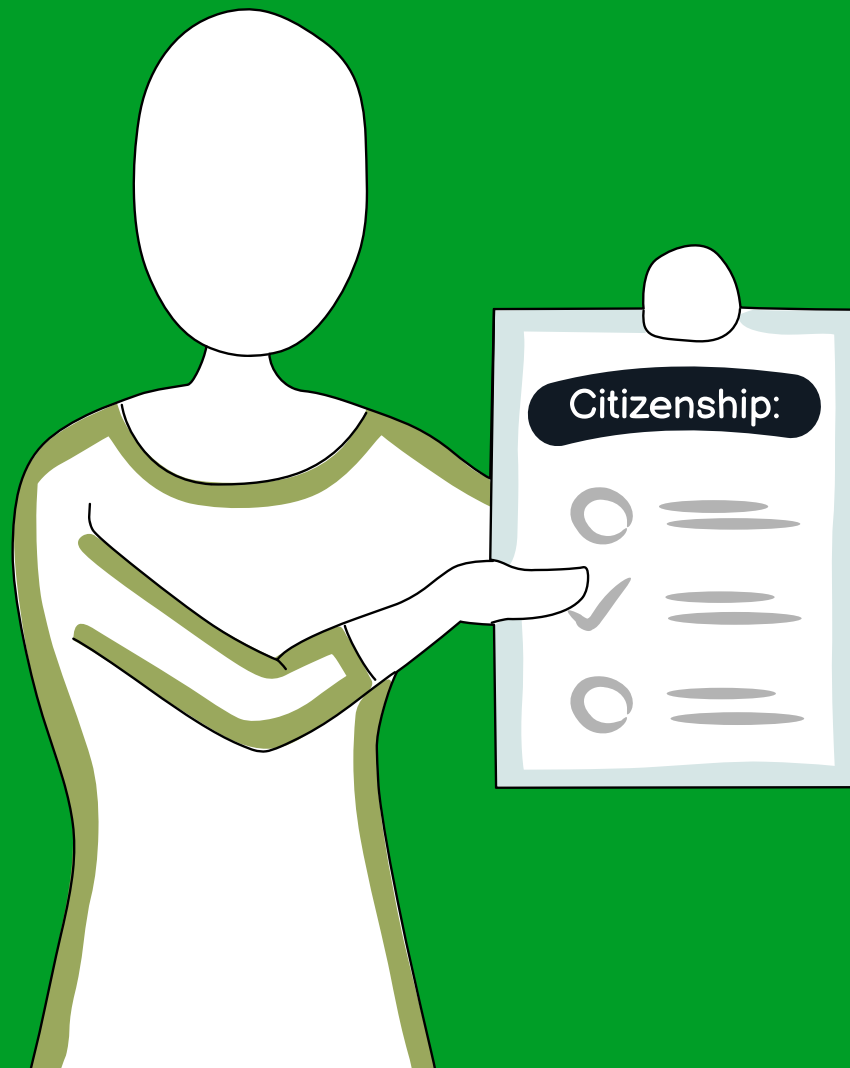
# What Is The Three-Month Residency Requirement?



Clearbox helps people become U.S. citizens.

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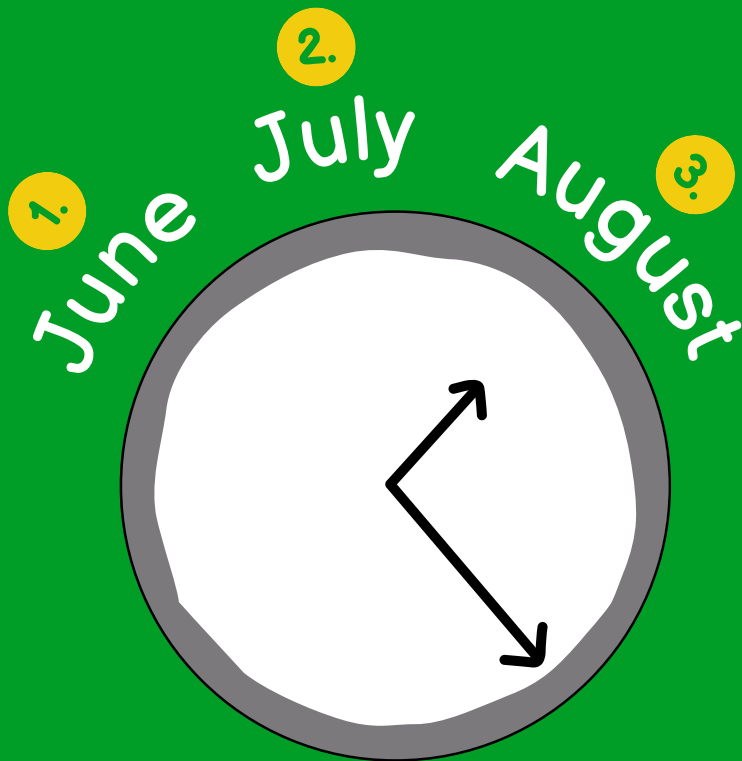
When you want to apply for U.S. citizenship, moving to a new place might cause a problem.

This is called the **Three-Month Residency Requirement.**

Today, we're going to explain what it means. Let's start!

## The Rule

You must live in the same USCIS service area for 3 months before you apply for citizenship.



This helps USCIS check where you live.

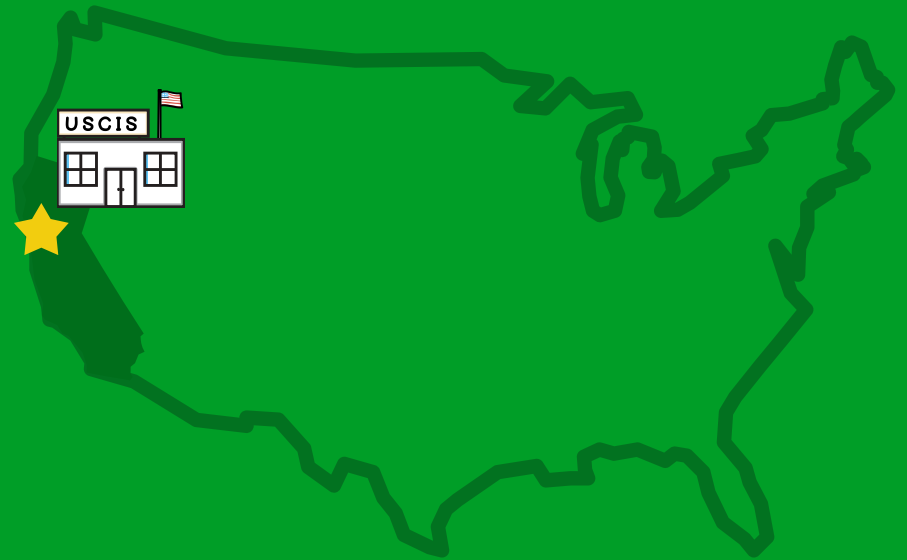
It also stops people from going to places with faster processing just to file their application.

# What is a USCIS service area?

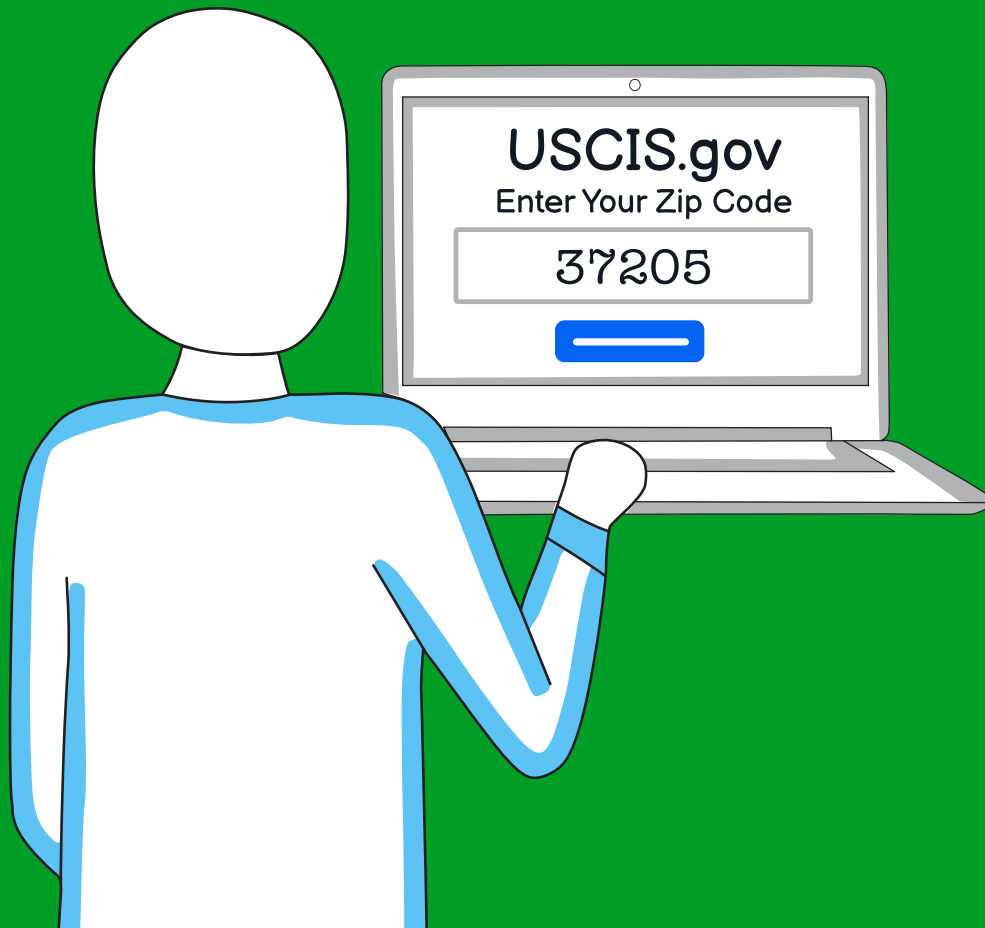
A service area is the area around a USCIS field office.

It can be an entire state, part of a state, or even several states.

The service area you live in determines which office you go to for your interview.



# How do I check my USCIS service area?



You can use the USCIS website to easily find the service area for your zip code.

Wait a minute!

**Does this mean I cannot move at all for the 3 months before I send my application?**

**Not exactly.** You do not need to live at the same address for 3 months.

What is important is that you live in the same USCIS service area.





## Examples

Let's look at real-world situations that show how the three-month residency requirement works...

**This is Maria.**

She has lived in the same apartment in Boston for 2 years.

She meets the requirement and can file her citizenship application with her local USCIS office.





## **This is John.**

2 months ago, John moved from one neighborhood in Chicago to another.

He still meets the requirement because both addresses are in the same USCIS service area.



**This is Ahmed.**

He moved from New York to Seattle 45 days ago.

Ahmed does not meet the residency requirement yet.

He needs to wait 45 more days before he can file his citizenship application in Washington State.



# What if I do not meet the 3 month requirement?



If you do not meet this requirement, do not worry!

The best solution is to wait.

3 months is a short time compared to the whole citizenship process.

## Wrapping Up

Here are important things to remember about the three-month residency requirement



If you have not moved in the last 3 months, you meet the requirement.



If you have moved to a different home in the same city, you probably meet the requirement.



If you have moved to a different city, you should check your service area before you apply.



To learn more about U.S. citizenship, or to apply with  
the help of an immigration attorney, visit

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