**USCIS Updates | October 2023 Meeting**

**USCIS.gov and USCIS in Spanish -** [**https://www.uscis.gov/es**](https://www.uscis.gov/es)

**NATIONAL WEBINARS:** [**https://www.uscis.gov/outreach**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uscis.gov%2Foutreach&data=05%7C01%7Cnina.k.sachdev%40uscis.dhs.gov%7C6e910f46ae8d442faff208db44f2d3aa%7C5e41ee740d2d4a728975998ce83205eb%7C1%7C0%7C638179581998545680%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=55TLTGhRwOUszyrJHgvKjqOPNlNI7C2GxFH%2FxsOL%2FVs%3D&reserved=0)

* [Institute of Museum and Library Services Webinar: Military Family Immigration Overview](https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-national-engagements/institute-of-museum-and-library-services-webinar-military-family-immigration-overview) -Thursday, Oct. 19, 11am to 12pm PST
* [In Spanish/En Español, Temporary Protected Status for Venezuela](https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-national-engagements/temporary-protected-status-for-venezuela) - Friday**,** Oct. 27, 10am to 11am PST
* [USCIS Customer Experience Online Tools](https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/upcoming-national-engagements/uscis-customer-experience-online-tools) - October 31, 11am to 12 pm PST

**LOCAL OUTREACH**

* [How to Apply for a Green Card as a Refugee or Asylee](https://uscis.webex.com/uscis/j.php?MTID=m09f48cc455dca0f3255cd3f20d6c25c1) - Thursday, Oct. 19 at 5pm PST
  + Webex, Meeting number: 2761 462 8834, and password: myKbPr2D4M3@
* [In Spanish/En Español, How to become a U.S. Citizen](https://uscis.webex.com/uscis/j.php?MTID=m28234e22aa524872adb40762e639b264)  – Wednesday, Oct. 25, 8pm PST
  + Webex, Meeting number: 2764 105 0167, and password: Vdtj9i5xeE@7
* [Military Immigration Initiatives](https://uscis.webex.com/uscis/j.php?MTID=mbf8d703e35cd28cc04b2fc7ddb17de34) – Monday, Oct. 23, 2pm PST
  + Webex, Meeting number: 2762 402 7917, and password: VgWtrmE7g@32
* [How to Apply for an Employment Document](https://uscis.webex.com/uscis/j.php?MTID=m77157a3adf0abb529a7b09e38d6b7628) – Thursday, Oct. 26, 5pm PST
  + Webex, Meeting Number: 2761 862 6424, and password: jBAV2KDuG5\*3

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** [**https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/all-news**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/all-news)

**1. Affirmative Asylum Application Filing Tips, emailed to stakeholders on October 6, 2023**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is currently receiving increased numbers of paper-filed [Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal](http://www.uscis.gov/i-589), that we must reject because they are incomplete or improperly filed. To avoid a filing rejection and ensure timely acceptance of your affirmative asylum application by USCIS, it is important to properly submit a complete and signed application. Please carefully review the following filing tips and online resources for more information on the filing requirements.

**Filing Tips**

* Review the [Instructions for Form I-589](https://www.uscis.gov/i-589) for eligibility requirements for yourself, your spouse, and your children.
* Use our [Filing Instructions Tool](https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/form-i-589-filing-instructions-tool) to determine if you can file online.
* Submit Form I-589 with the newest edition date, 03/01/23. You can find the edition date at the bottom of the page on the form and instructions.
* You must include all pages of Form I-589.
* Make sure that the form edition date and page numbers are visible at the bottom of all pages and that all pages are from the same form edition. If any of the form’s pages are missing or are from a different form edition, we may reject your form.
* You must sign the form in Part D on Page 9.
* You must complete Form I-589 in English, including explanation fields on the form.
* Do not submit a passport-style photo, multiple copies of the form, or multiple copies of supporting documentation when submitting Form I-589.
* See the ‘Form Filing Tips’ section of the [Form I-589 page](http://www.uscis.gov/i-589) for additional filing tips.

**Filing Location**: To avoid rejections and processing delays, you must file your affirmative asylum application to the correct location. To determine where to file your Form I-589, see the ‘Where to File’ section of our [Form I-589 page](http://www.uscis.gov/i-589). You can also use our [Filing Instructions Tool](https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/form-i-589-filing-instructions-tool). After you answer a series of questions, the tool will provide information about where to file Form I-589 based on the information that you provide.

**2. DHS Announces Family Reunification Parole Process for Ecuador, announced October 18, 2023**

**3.** [**USCIS Issues New Instructions for Filing Asylum Applications with USCIS After EOIR Dismissal or Termination of Removal Proceedings**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-issues-new-instructions-for-filing-asylum-applications-with-uscis-after-eoir-dismissal-or)**, announced October 13, 2023**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing new instructions for asylum applications submitted by individuals whose removal proceedings were dismissed or terminated by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).

**4.** [**USCIS Launches New Online Change of Address Tool**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-launches-new-online-change-of-address-tool)**, announced October 12, 2023**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has launched a new Enterprise Change of Address (E-COA) self-service tool to allow customers with pending applications, petitions, or requests to update their address with USCIS more easily.

**5. Cameroon:** [**Extension and Redesignation of Cameroon for Temporary Protected Status**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/secretary-mayorkas-announces-extension-and-redesignation-of-cameroon-for-temporary-protected-status)**, announced October 06, 2023**

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas today announced the extension and redesignation of Cameroon for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, from December 8, 2023, through June 7, 2025, due to ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions in Cameroon that prevent individuals from safely returning.

Accompanying this announcement is a Special Student Relief notice for F-1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Cameroon so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain F-1 status through the TPS designation period.

**6. Venezuela:**  [**Extending and Separately Redesignating Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/dhs-previews-federal-register-notice-extending-and-separately-redesignating-venezuela-for-temporary), announced September 29, 2023

Today, the Department of Homeland Security is previewing a Federal Register notice for an 18-month extension of Venezuela’s 2021 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation and a separate redesignation of Venezuela for TPS. The notice explains how to register for TPS under Venezuela’s redesignation and how to re-register for the extension. Applicants for TPS are eligible to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) during the duration of the TPS designation.

**7.** [**USCIS Continues Fee Exemptions and Expedited Processing for Afghan Nationals**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-continues-fee-exemptions-and-expedited-processing-for-afghan-nationals), **announced** **September 29, 2023**

Today, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced it is extending and expanding previously announced filing fee exemptions and expedited application processing for certain Afghan nationals.

**8.** [**USCIS Awards $22 Million in FY 2023 Citizenship and Integration Grants**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/uscis-awards-22-million-in-fy-2023-citizenship-and-integration-grants) **announced September 28, 2023**

Northern CA recipients include Catholic Charities in Santa Rosa and Community Action Board in Watsonville

**9.** [**USCIS Increases Employment Authorization Document Validity Period for Certain Categories**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-increases-employment-authorization-document-validity-period-for-certain-categories), **announced September 27, 2023**

We are updating guidance in the Policy Manual to increase the maximum validity period to 5 years for initial and renewal Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) for certain noncitizens who are employment authorized incident to status or circumstance, including those admitted as refugees, paroled as refugees, and granted asylum, as well as recipients of withholding of removal.

**10.** [**Afghanistan: Extension and Redesignation for Temporary Protected Status**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/secretary-mayorkas-announces-extension-and-redesignation-of-afghanistan-for-temporary-protected)**, announced September 21, 2023**

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas today announced the extension and redesignation of Afghanistan for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, from November 21, 2023, to May 20, 2025, due to ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions in Afghanistan that prevent individuals from safely returning.

**11.** [**Important Update on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals**](https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/important-update-on-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals)**, announced September 18, 2023**

On Sept. 13, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas issued a decision finding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Final Rule unlawful and expanding the original July 16, 2021 injunction and order of vacatur to cover the Final Rule.