

Temporary Protected Status: An Fact Sheet



What is Temporary Protected Status or TPS?

Sometimes, when a country is experiencing a natural disaster, political upheaval, or a similar issue, the US government permits people from that country to continue to stay in the United States while their country of origin remains unsafe.

These grants of temporary protected status or TPS only apply to foreign nationals of specific countries who have been residing in the United States for a certain period of time. TPS grants allow a person to live and work in the United States for the duration of that time. If the US extends the duration of TPS for their country, people must renew their TPS status.

TPS is not a path to a more permanent US status like a Green Card or citizenship.

Who can apply for TPS?

Citizens of a country designated for TPS who have resided in the United States in the required time period. Check USCIS' [website](#) for the most up-to-date list of countries designated and re-designated for TPS. The list can and does change regularly. The current list includes the following countries:



Current US immigration status does not matter for TPS: people with H-1B or other visas, pending US immigration applications, or no status at all can be eligible for TPS if they meet the entry, presence, and nationality requirements.

Not all nationals of the listed countries are eligible for TPS. The residence date and physical presence date vary by nationality. The US government sets two critical dates that govern who can apply:

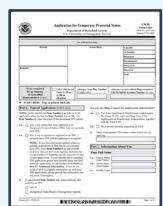
- 1** a date by which the person must have been residing in or living mostly in the United States and
- 2** a date by which a person must have been continuously present in the United States (i.e., without leaving the United States even for a short time).

Be sure to check the USCIS website for your country for the most up to date information on date requirements and extensions.



Check the [USCIS TPS website](#) to see the current list of designated countries. If your country is designated for TPS protections, click on the country page to see the eligibility dates, country-specific filing information, and the initial registration period by which applicants should register.

What is the process for applying for TPS?



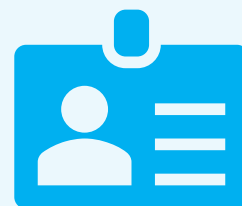
Prepare the I-821 Form to register for TPS. Each eligible TPS applicant will need his/her own application, including forms and fees.



Gather the evidence to prove citizenship from a TPS-eligible country, residence, and continuous US presence.



Consult the [USCIS fee calculator](#) and **pay the required fee** per applicant. See the full TPS guide to learn more.



Request an employment authorization document as needed using USCIS' [Form I-765](#), which lets you work in the United States. Amazon will reimburse EAD fees. See [Amazon's Employment Authorization Document \(EAD\) Guide here](#).



Processing Times

Shortly after the application is submitted, applicants will receive a receipt notice by mail. USCIS processing times vary, but TPS-related case wait times often exceed six months.

To check the current processing times, visit USCIS' case processing [website](#), select "form I-821," and choose the applicable service center listed on the bottom of the receipt notice.



Outcome

If granted TPS, the applicant's permission to stay is temporary and will depend on how long the US government designates the country of origin as eligible for TPS. The USCIS website has specific per-country information that lists this date as the "TPS Designated Through" date. You can only be granted TPS through that "TPS Designated Through" date.

The US government can and does regularly extend TPS designations for up to a year and a half at a time. TPS recipients are responsible for maintaining and timely renewing their TPS status prior to their country's current expiration date. Monitor the [USCIS website](#) for any changes to the "TPS Designated Through" date and for information about the opportunity to renew. It is critical to renew TPS within the registration window to avoid losing protections.

TPS Frequently Asked Questions



Can I apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) if I came to the United States illegally or if I overstayed my authorized period?

Yes, TPS is available to people independently of whether they entered unlawfully (without inspection) or stayed beyond the period for which they were authorized. You can also apply for TPS if you have another immigration status, such as H-1B, or if you have a pending application for another immigration benefit.

What should I do if I want to apply for TPS?

If you believe you may be eligible for TPS, you should consult the accompanying [TPS Guide](#) for instructions on how to assemble forms and evidence necessary to make that filing.

Is there a filing fee associated with TPS?

Yes — there are separate form filing fees associated with the primary TPS form (Form I-821) and with the separate form used to seek employment authorization tied to TPS (Form I-765). Those filing fees vary by your age, and you should always consult USCIS’ website to determine which form filing fees are in effect for you. Amazon will reimburse for Employees’ EAD filing fees and biometric fees. For instructions on how to submit reimbursements, visit [Welcome Door](#).

Can my dependents get TPS as well?

Each person in your family will need to apply for and qualify for TPS separately. TPS does not have “dependents” like with other immigration mechanisms. If your family members share your nationality and meet the entry and continuous presence date requirements, they would also be eligible for TPS. Each family member—even minor children—will need their own separate application.

It may be possible for your immediate family members (i.e., spouse or children) to obtain TPS if you filed for TPS during the initial period for TPS for your country, but they did not make filings. Those situations can be complicated, and you should check with an immigration lawyer if that situation applies to your family.

If I get TPS, how long will it last?

That depends. Your grant of TPS will be tied to how long the US government has “designated” your country as eligible for TPS. USCIS’s website has specific per-country information that lists this date as the “TPS Designated Through” date. You can only be granted TPS through that “TPS Designated Through” date.

The US government can and does regularly has to extend TPS designations for up to a year and a half at a time. You should regularly monitor the USCIS website to see whether the “TPS Designated Through” date changes for your country. Typically, USCIS will designate a new “registration period” during which you can renew your TPS, and it is critical that you seek to renew your TPS within that registration window.

Can TPS be cancelled?

The US government can decide to withdraw a TPS grant to a country with 60 days notice and terminate all TPS grants for that country. However, this is very unusual, and courts can sometimes stop the government from ending TPS. Check USCIS’ page for your country periodically up to date information regarding TPS for your country.

Can I use TPS to get a Green Card or stay in the US permanently?

TPS does not give you any additional benefits beyond being able to remain and work in the United States during your TPS period. TPS can prevent your removal from the United States if you are in immigration court proceedings. Sometimes, you may be able to adjust your status if you become eligible for a Green Card through your family or employment. You should consult with an immigration attorney to understand whether and how TPS might impact your immigration court case or ability to get a Green Card through marriage or other ties.

How long will it take to hear back if I file for TPS?

USCIS wait times can vary over time, but TPS-related processing times can regularly exceed six months. You can check the latest wait times by going to USCIS’s case processing [website](#) and selecting “I-821” under “Form” and then choosing the service center where your nationality’s request must be filed.

You should plan to file an initial TPS request within the initial registration period for your country. You should also plan to renew your TPS and accompanying EAD as soon as possible to prevent you from having a gap in your employment authorization. To figure out when you can renew, you will need to monitor for any “registration window” that USCIS sets for your nationality. You should regularly consult your country-specific page on USCIS’s [website](#) to ensure that you know when you can renew.

Can I apply for TPS without requested an employment authorization document (EAD)?

Yes. Most people seek an EAD tied to their TPS request, but it is not a requirement. If you already have an EAD through some other path, like a pending asylum application, you do not need to seek an EAD through TPS as well. If your other EAD is expiring soon, however, you may want to seek an EAD through TPS to try to prevent a gap in work authorization. You are permitted to have EADs through separate bases that overlap in time.

Can I still file for TPS if I am outside of the registration or re-registration period?

You should make every effort to file within your country’s initial registration or re-registration period. Filing late is much more likely to cause a denial of your TPS request. That said, you can file late in certain circumstances. If you have been granted TPS before and missed the period in which to re-register, you will need to convince USCIS that you missed the window for a good reason, such as a medical issue that prevented you from filing. You will need to submit a letter explaining that reason and including whatever evidence you can about the issue, like medical records regarding a health condition that prevented the filing.

If you have never had TPS and missed the initial filing window, filing late can be more complex such that you likely should consult with an immigration attorney. You may be able to file a late initial TPS if you had another kind of status or parole grant or a request for status pending and did not realize you would need TPS. You may also be eligible for late filing if you were a child (unmarried and under 21 years old) during the initial window. An attorney can help you make a plan for documenting your eligibility for an exception.

Can I apply for TPS if I am also seeking asylum or have another status?

Yes — asylum and TPS are not mutually exclusive. If you are waiting for an asylum decision or have been referred to immigration court for defensive proceedings, you can apply for TPS as well. People with immigrant and non-immigrant visas or no status at all can be eligible for TPS as long as the country requirements for TPS are met.

When should I get help from an immigration attorney for TPS?

Issues like arrests, immigration court proceedings, or options for longer term immigration status can sometimes complicate TPS applications. If you have a criminal conviction, cannot easily show how long you have been in the United States, or have other complex factors, it is best to consult an immigration attorney for help. For instance, you can become ineligible for TPS if you are convicted of certain crimes or if you have been barred from receiving asylum. If you are in immigration court proceedings, you can receive TPS from an immigration judge, and an immigration attorney can help you apply for TPS in those circumstances. If you become eligible for a Green Card through family or employment ties, consulting with an immigration attorney is also recommended to understand whether and how TPS might impact your ability to become a Lawful Permanent Resident through other means.

Ready to apply for TPS? Consult the accompanying [TPS Fact Sheet](#) and [TPS Guide](#) for details on eligibility and step-by-step instructions on how to assemble forms and evidence necessary to apply for and renew TPS.