

DHS Announces Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

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BACKGROUND

On June 28, 2024, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Mayorkas [announced](#) the extension and redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, from August 4, 2024, to February 3, 2026, due to [extraordinary and temporary conditions in Haiti](#). [DHS cited](#) violence, insecurity, and limited access to safety, health care, food, and water stemming from ongoing gang violence as the basis for the decision. Global Refuge was among the leading advocates calling for this decision and [applauded](#) the Secretary's decision.

Haiti was initially designated for TPS in 2011. Subsequently, the Trump administration announced the termination of TPS for Haiti effective July 22, 2019. The termination was challenged in several lawsuits, and court injunctions required DHS to temporarily continue TPS for Haiti pending a final court order. Under the Biden administration, DHS Secretary Mayorkas newly [designated Haiti](#) based on extraordinary and temporary conditions. This designation has now been extended and redesignated twice. There are currently over 200,000 Haitian nationals protected by TPS in the U.S. This redesignation decision may benefit an additional 309,000 Haitians.

TPS is a temporary immigration status that provides protection from deportation and eligibility for work authorization for certain, eligible nationals of the designated country. Individuals must register for TPS and apply for work authorization to receive benefits. If TPS is granted, the beneficiary may also seek a TPS travel authorization document which may be used for travel abroad.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TPS UNDER THIS EXTENSION AND REDESIGNATION:

This TPS extension and redesignation allows Haitian nationals (and individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) who have been continuously residing in the U.S. since June 3, 2024, and who have been continuously physically present in the U.S. since August 4, 2024, to apply or re-register for TPS.

With some [notable exceptions](#), TPS applicants must also demonstrate that they are admissible to the U.S. Individuals who have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors in the U.S., those who are subject to any of the [mandatory bars to asylum](#), and those who have been found inadmissible as an immigrant under applicable grounds in INA section 212(a), including non-waivable criminal and security-related grounds may not be eligible for TPS.

TPS Extension & Re-registration Applications

The extension of TPS for Haiti decision will allow existing TPS beneficiaries to re-register to retain TPS through February 3, 2025. They may also apply to renew their work authorization, or Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

- Applicants must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period, which is open from July 1, 2024 - August 30, 2024.
- Only individuals who have previously registered for TPS under the prior designation and whose application has been granted can re-register.

Note: Individuals with an application for TPS and/or associated EAD application that was still pending as of July 1, 2024, do not need to file either application again. If USCIS approves the application(s), they will be valid through February 3, 2026.

TPS Redesignation & Initial Applications

The redesignation of TPS for Haiti allows more newly arrived Haitian nationals to register for TPS protections and apply for an EAD.

- New applicants must apply during the initial registration period open July 1, 2024 - February 3, 2026.
- Applicants must demonstrate continuous residence in the U.S. since June 3, 2024 and also demonstrate that they have been continuously physically present in the U.S. since August 4, 2024.
- Applicants must also meet [eligibility standards](#) (INA section 244(c)(1)-(2)).
- Applicants must pay the USCIS filing fees or seek a fee waiver. The current filing fee for initial TPS applications is \$50 and \$30 for biometrics. Payment can be made online or, if filing by mail, in one single check or money order or two separate checks or money orders.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR TPS REGISTRATION

Individuals seeking Temporary Protected Status apply by submitting [Form I-821](#) with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) along with filing fees and supporting documentation. TPS applicants seeking work authorization should file [Form I-765](#) and filing fees with the TPS registration application. The filing fee for Form I-765 is the same for initial applicants and individuals re-registering for TPS. Individuals who apply online will pay \$470 for work authorization and those applying on paper will pay \$520. Complete fee schedule can be found [here](#). TPS and associated work authorization applications may be submitted online unless the applicant is seeking a fee waiver ([Form I-912](#)).

Fee waivers are available for certain individuals who cannot afford the USCIS filing fees. However, the fee waiver request and associated TPS and EAD applications must be

submitted by mail. Detailed and updated information about the application process is found on [USCIS' TPS for Haiti webpage](#).

TPS Re-registration

Generally, USCIS does not require additional evidence or documentation for a TPS re-registration application. However, we recommend applicants include evidence that the applicant continues to reside in the U.S. Such documentation may include copies of:

- Current lease or rental agreement
- Current utility bills or insurance payments
- Current school records

There is no filing fee for individuals re-registering for TPS, however, a biometrics fee of \$30 must be submitted in the form of a check or money order. Applicants seeking an extension of work authorization with TPS reregistration must also submit the filing fee associated with Form I-765.

TPS Initial Applications

When filing an initial TPS application, the applicant must submit:

- Evidence demonstrating the applicant's identity and establishing that they are a national of Haiti or that they have no nationality and last habitually resided in Haiti. Such evidence may include copies of:
 - Passport
 - Birth certificate
 - National identity documents
- Date of entry evidence to show when the applicant entered the U.S. Evidence may include copies of:
 - [I-94, Arrival Record](#)
 - Entry stamp on the passport page
 - Notice to Appear
- Continuous Residence (CR) evidence to demonstrate that the applicant has been in the U.S. since the CR date specified (June 3, 2024). Evidence may include copies of:
 - Rent or lease agreements
 - Utility bills such as cell phone bills, insurance payments
 - School records
 - Attestation by shelter, church, union, or other organization that can confirm services related to residence
- Filing fees or fee waiver request as indicated above

Note: Any document that is not in English must be accompanied by a complete English translation.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT PROCESSING TIME FOR HAITIAN TPS AND EAD APPLICATIONS

TPS Re-registration

USCIS is [currently processing](#) Haitian TPS re-registration applications in 6–8 months. For EADs, USCIS has automatically extended through Aug. 3, 2025, the validity of certain EADs issued under the TPS designation for Haiti. Visit the [USCIS TPS Haiti page](#) for a listing of EADs that have been automatically extended.

TPS Initial Applications

USCIS is [currently processing](#) initial Haitian TPS applications in 10.5 months. When an EAD application is submitted to USCIS with the TPS application, USCIS will typically process both applications concurrently. If USCIS grants TPS, the EAD should follow the TPS grant.

ARE HAITIANS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS IN THE U.S.

[Certain Haitian entrants](#) may be eligible to apply for federal mainstream benefits in their state, such as cash assistance through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), health insurance through Medicaid, and food assistance through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. Individuals with a pending asylum application (Form I-589) can and **should** consider applying for TPS, if they are eligible to do so.
2. Individuals who currently hold another temporary immigration status such as HHP humanitarian parole, F-1 student status, H-2A or H-2B temporary work visas can and **should** consider applying for TPS, if they are eligible to do so.

Note: We strongly recommend consulting with a qualified immigration legal services provider when considering TPS and how seeking TPS may interact with other immigration benefits applications. A listing of non-profit immigration legal services providers can be found at www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory/.