

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Extension for Ukraine

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BACKGROUND

On January 10, 2025, then- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Mayorkas [announced](#) the extension of Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, from **April 20, 2025 and ending on October 19, 2026**, due to ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions in Ukraine that prevent eligible Ukrainian nationals from safely returning. The extension of TPS for Ukraine is based on the determination that the conditions supporting the initial designation continue to exist.

Specifically, the DHS determined that this most recent [18-month extension](#) of TPS for Ukraine is necessary due to the ongoing armed conflict that poses a serious threat to the personal safety of Ukrainian nationals if they were to return to Ukraine. Additionally, extraordinary conditions in Ukraine prevent its citizens from returning safely, and it is not contrary to the national interest of the United States to allow Ukrainian TPS beneficiaries to remain in the country temporarily.

The extension of TPS for Ukraine allows approximately 103,700 current beneficiaries to re-register for TPS. **The re-registration period is January 17, 2025, through March 18, 2025.**

WHAT IS TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)?

TPS is a temporary immigration status that provides protection from deportation and eligibility for work authorization for certain, eligible nationals of the designated country. Designated countries have been determined to be experiencing conditions such as armed conflict, natural disaster, or other extraordinary circumstances. The DHS Secretary, after consulting with relevant government agencies, has the authority to designate, extend, or terminate TPS for a country based on prevailing conditions. The decision to extend Sudan's TPS designation follows a review of country conditions, including input from the Department of State and other U.S. government entities.

Individuals must initially 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 for travel abroad. Thereafter, re-registration is typically required to maintain TPS status.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TPS UNDER THIS EXTENSION

This TPS extension allows Ukrainian nationals (and individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Ukraine) who have been continuously residing in the U.S. since August 16, 2023, and who have been continuously physically present in the U.S. since October 20, 2023, to re-register for TPS.

With some [notable exceptions](#), TPS applicants must also demonstrate that they are admissible to the U.S. Individuals are not eligible for TPS if they have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors in the U.S., are subject to any of the [mandatory bars to asylum](#), or are inadmissible due to immigration fraud, human trafficking, commission of serious crimes, or other security-related grounds.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR TPS RE-REGISTRATION

Individuals seeking to re-register for Temporary Protected Status apply by submitting [Form I-821](#) with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) along with biometrics fees, or request for fee waiver, 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. The 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 Ukraine webpage](#).

Note that individuals who have a TPS application (Form I-821) that was still pending as of January 17, 2025, do not need to file the application again. If USCIS approves the individual's Form I-821, USCIS will grant the individual TPS through October 19, 2026.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT PROCESSING TIME FOR TPS RE-REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

USCIS is [currently processing](#) Ukraine TPS re-registration applications in 13 months.

WILL MY CURRENT TPS-RELATED WORK PERMIT OR EAD BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTENDED?

For TPS recipients with an EAD card with these expiration dates of **April 19, 2025 or October 19, 2023** the January 17, 2025, [Federal Register Notice](#) **automatically extends the Ukraine TPS recipient's EAD through April 19, 2026** without any further action. TPS recipients may use their current EAD to use this automatic extension. **EAD "Card Expires" date of April 19, 2025 or October 19, 2023, automatically extend Ukraine TPS recipient's EAD through April 19, 2026** without any further action.

540-Day Automatic Extension of EADs

Ukrainian TPS recipients may also be eligible for a longer automatic extension of up to 540 days from the “Card Expires” date on the EAD **if they file Form I-765 EAD renewal application during the re-registration period of January 17, 2025, through March 18, 2025** (“Up to 540-Day Automatic EAD Extension”). For more information regarding the EAD auto-extension, refer to the Federal Register Notice at the section “How can I receive an automatic extension of my current TPS EAD for up to 540 days from the “Card Expires” date on the EAD by filing an EAD renewal application?”

HOW TO SEEK LATE RE-REGISTRATION

USCIS may accept a late re-registration application if the applicant has a good reason for filing after March 18, 2025. Applicants must submit a letter explaining the reason for filing late along with the TPS re-registration application. Filing a late TPS re-registration application can cause a delay in processing the TPS application and related work permit or EAD application.

ARE NATIONALS OF UKRAINE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS IN THE U.S.

Generally, most non-citizens who are present in the U.S. on TPS are not eligible to apply for federal mainstream benefits, 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. Non-citizens should **Know Your Status & Know Your Rights** and make sure they have a plan if they encounter immigration or other law enforcement officers. Be sure to rely upon Know Your Rights materials distributed through reputable agencies, including <https://familiesuniteddcmetro.org/> and <https://www.nilc.org/resources/>.
2. Individuals who have TPS should also seek comprehensive legal screenings to identify eligibility for more long-term immigration benefits such as asylum, family-based immigration, and relief for survivors of crime and violence. As eligibility for benefits may change over time, we encourage periodic screenings.
3. Individuals with a pending asylum application (Form I-589) can and **should** consider applying for TPS, if they are eligible to do so.
4. Individuals who currently hold another temporary immigration status such as 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 to learn 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/.