

Information for Immigrants Temporarily in the United States on Humanitarian Parole

(Last Updated: February 4, 2025)

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BACKGROUND

Since 2021, over 750,000 non-citizens have been granted entry to the United States through nationality-specific parole programs for certain Afghan, Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, Ukrainian, and Venezuelan nationals.¹ Additionally, over 800,000 people have legally entered the United States at land borders on humanitarian parole after scheduling an appointment through the CBP One mobile application² since 2023.³ In August 2024, the previous administration also announced the Keeping Families Together Parole in Place program for non-citizen spouses and stepchildren of certain U.S. citizens who were already in the United States.⁴ This program has been paused due to litigation.⁵

Although the previous administration's parole programs have offered hundreds of thousands of people short-term stays and work permits, humanitarian parole is **temporary**, and the new administration has already taken actions to restrict or terminate parole. On January 20, 2025, the Trump administration issued two executive orders,⁶ Executive Order 14,159 and Executive

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *CBP Releases August 2024 Monthly Update*, Sept. 16, 2024, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-august-2024-monthly-update>.

² On January 20, 2025, U.S. Customs and Border Protection ended the use of the CBP One mobile application for requesting appointments at ports of entry. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *CBP One Mobile Application*, Jan. 21, 2025, <https://www.cbp.gov/about/mobile-apps-directory/cbpone>.

³ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *CBP Releases August 2024 Monthly Update*, Sept. 16, 2024, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-august-2024-monthly-update>.

⁴ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Keeping Families Together*, Nov. 13, 2024, <https://www.uscis.gov/keepingfamilies-together>.

⁵ Immigrant Legal Resource Center, *Where Do We Go from Here? An Update on Keeping Families Together Parole in Place Process*, Nov. 13, 2024, <https://www.ilrc.org/resources/latest-on-parole-in-place>.

⁶ Exec. Order No. 14,159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 20, 2025) <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/29/2025-02006/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion>; Exec. Order No. 14,165, 90 Fed. Reg. 8467 (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/30/2025-02015/securing-our-borders>.

Order 14,165, that direct agencies to (1) ensure that parole authority is exercised in accordance with the law and (2) terminate all categorical parole programs such as Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan (CHNV) parole.⁷ In addition, the new administration has also taken steps to expand the application of a process called expedited removal, which implements a fast-tracked removal process for persons who meet the required criteria, through publication of a Federal Register notice.⁸ A U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) memorandum issued following the submission of the notice indicates that DHS intends to review individual cases of persons with parole and determine whether any of these individuals merit the termination of their parole and placement into expedited removal proceedings.⁹

Thus, people here on temporary, humanitarian parole and who wish to stay in the United States **must take immediate action** to consider alternative available immigration options and seek qualified legal representation to assist with their applications for immigration benefits.

WHAT IS HUMANITARIAN PAROLE?

Under the law, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may grant non-citizens immigration parole, on a case-by-case basis, to enter or stay in the United States, even if they do not have immediate legal grounds for admission.

If granted humanitarian parole, the non-citizen is considered a “parolee” for the period granted, normally two years. While parole authorizes a stay in the United States, parolees are not considered officially admitted under immigration law **nor do they possess any formal immigration status**. Parole is subject to certain conditions, is temporary, and has an expiration date, which can be found listed on the parolee’s Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record issued by Customs and Border Protection (CBP)¹⁰ or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). In some cases, a parolee can apply to extend their parole, a process known as “re-parole.”

⁷ Global Refuge, *What is the CHNV Parole Program?*, Oct. 23, 2024,

<https://www.globalrefuge.org/news/what-is-the-chnv-parole-program/>.

⁸ Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal, 90 Fed. Reg. 8139 (Jan. 24, 2025),

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-24/pdf/2025-01720.pdf>.

⁹ Guidance Regarding How to Exercise Enforcement Discretion, *U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Security*, Jan. 23, 2025, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/25_0123_er-and-parole-guidance.pdf.

¹⁰ U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, *Official Site for Travelers Visiting the United States: Apply for or retrieve Form I-94, Request Travel History and Check Travel Compliance*, Nov. 30, 2024, <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/home>.

Parolees who wish to travel outside of the United States must obtain a travel document from USCIS in advance or their parole will be automatically terminated upon their departure.¹¹

Categorical parole programs are programs that allow certain groups of individuals to apply for parole, such as CNHV parole. Although these programs grant eligibility based on membership in a large group or category, applicants are nonetheless granted parole on a case-by-case basis.

COMMON TYPES OF PAROLE AND PAROLE PROGRAMS

Type of Parole	Issuing DHS Agency	Class of Admission	Parole Period	Categorical Re-Parole Available ¹²
<u>Central American Minor (CAM) Parole Program</u>	USCIS/DOS/CBP	CM	2-3 years	Yes
<u>Cuban Family Reunification Parole</u>	USCIS/CBP	RCU	Up to 3 years	Yes
<u>Cuban Humanitarian Parole</u>	USCIS/CBP	CHP	2 years	No
<u>Haitian Family Reunification Parole</u>	USCIS/CBP	HFRP	Up to 3 years	Yes
<u>Haitian Humanitarian Parole</u>	USCIS/CBP	HHP	2 years	No
<u>Humanitarian or Significant Benefit Parole</u>	USCIS/DOS/CBP	PAR	1-2 years	No
<u>Keeping Families Together</u> ¹³	USCIS		3 years	No

¹¹ 8 C.F.R. 212.5(e).

¹² Only certain parolees are eligible for categorical re-parole. A list of which parole programs are currently eligible for re-parole can be found on the USCIS website [here](#).

¹³ On November 6, 2024, a federal judge struck down the Keeping Families Together (KFT) Parole in Place policy altogether. This means USCIS can no longer accept or adjudicate KFT parole

Type of Parole	Issuing DHS Agency	Class of Admission	Parole Period	Categorical Re-Parole Available ¹²
Nicaraguan Humanitarian Parole	USCIS/CBP	NHP	2 years	No
Military Parole in Place	USCIS	MIL	1 year	Yes
Operation Allies Refuge/Welcome	CBP/USCIS	OAR	2 years	Yes
Port Parole	CBP	DT	1-2 years	No
Uniting for Ukraine	USCIS/CBP	UHP	2 years	No

EXTENSION OF PAROLE

Under current policy, the availability of extensions of parole and re-parole will depend upon the category of parole. Similarly, any parole extension request application processes and requirements are specific to the type of parole. DHS provided certain Afghan and Ukrainian nationals extensions of their initial parole periods without requiring an application, while other Afghan and Ukrainian nationals may have been eligible for streamlined re-parole application processing. Parole programs and the availability of extensions of parole or re-parole are not expected to continue under the new administration. **Thus, it is imperative that anyone currently in the United States on parole take immediate action to remain in the country.**

CANCELLATION OF PAROLE

Parole is a discretionary immigration benefit, and an individual's parole can be revoked or canceled. If the parole is revoked during the parole period, DHS is required to notify the parolee in writing. Otherwise, parole may be automatically terminated if the parolee departs or at the expiration of the authorized parole period. If an immigrant's parole status is terminated while they are in the United States, they will return to the status they had prior to parole. If they

applications. However, applications that were approved as of 6:38 p.m. on August 26, 2024, are not affected by the district court decision. Individuals granted parole before 6:38 p.m. on August 26, 2024, may continue to remain in the United States while they pursue family-based petitions and adjustment of status.

previously had no status, they may be subject to removal from the United States if they are placed in removal proceedings or expedited removal proceedings by DHS.¹⁴

Parolees should also be aware of the conditions required to maintain their parole. **All parolees are required to update USCIS of any change in address within 10 days of their move as a condition of parole and to abide by the laws of the United States.** Depending on the type of parole, there may also be additional conditions to maintain active parole. These conditions may include certain reporting requirements or meeting certain medical requirements (e.g., vaccinations and tuberculosis screenings). If a parolee has any interactions with law enforcement, they should seek counsel that can inform them of both the criminal and immigration implications of any legal proceedings.

IMMIGRATION OPTIONS FOR PAROLEES

Individuals currently holding humanitarian parole are recommended to seek qualified immigration legal services to review available benefits. When reviewing eligibility and options, it is important to consider the alternate pathways that may be sought simultaneously.

1. **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** - There are currently 16 countries designated for TPS. TPS provides temporary protection from deportation and work authorization for nationals from designated countries who were in the United States when conditions in their home country became unsafe. TPS designations are made by the DHS Secretary and can be issued in 6, 12, and 18-month increments. While the incoming administration is not expected to continue all the current TPS designations, there is a legal process that must be followed when making decisions to terminate, extend, and redesignate TPS. More information on TPS and eligibility requirements can be found [here](#).
2. **Asylum** - A grant of asylum protects non-citizens from deportation to a country where fear of facing future persecution or harm exists. Asylum allows the non-citizen to seek to remain in the United States and obtain work authorization while their application is pending. Following a grant of asylum, a non-citizen can apply for a green card once certain requirements are met. More information on asylum can be found [here](#).
3. **Family-based or Employment-based Immigration** - If a non-citizen has family members that are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents (LPRs), they may be able to have the family member petition for a green card on their behalf. In addition, a non-citizen may seek to have their employer sponsor them for a green card if they meet the eligibility requirements.
4. **Benefits for Survivors of Crime and Violence** - If a non-citizen has been a victim of human trafficking or a victim of criminal activity in which they are assisting law enforcement with the investigation and prosecution, they may be eligible for a [T-visa](#) or a [U-visa](#). There are specific requirements for each visa that must be met, and processing times can be significant. In addition, a non-citizen may be eligible for status

¹⁴ See INA § 212(d)(1).

under the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) regardless of gender, if they have been abused by their spouse or parent who is a U.S. citizen/LPR **or** their U.S. citizen child who is 21 years of age. More information on VAWA can be found [here](#).

5. **Special Immigrant Visas** - Afghan nationals who were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government in Afghanistan may be eligible for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) status. If approved, a SIV applicant will receive a green card and may naturalize once all the requirements for citizenship are met. More information on the requirements, including Chief of Mission (COM) approval can be found on the Department of State (DOS) website, including the current deadlines to file for COM approval.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Qualified Immigration Legal Services Providers

We recommend using the following resources to guide you in finding a qualified immigration legal service provider to assist you with screening or filing applications for relief:

- [American Immigration Lawyers Association \(AILA\) Lawyer Search](#)
- [DOJ Accredited Representative and Attorney Search by State](#)
- [DOJ Find Legal Representation Resources](#)
- [Immigration Advocates Network Legal Services Directory](#)

Avoid Immigration Scams

- **Beware of immigration fraud/notario fraud!** Notary publics in the United States are **not** attorneys. Be careful who prepares your immigration applications or gives you legal advice. You can find more information on how to report immigration fraud [here](#).

Use of Social Media by Non-Citizens

- Global Refuge has created a resource guiding non-citizens on using social media to avoid jeopardizing their immigration status. The resource is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Dari](#), and [Pashto](#).

What to Do If You Have Immigration Parole:

A Step-by-Step Guide

(Last Updated: November 25, 2024)

Step #1 – Carefully review your I-94 record to ensure you understand the current validity period of your parole. **Your I-94 is your most important immigration record and governs your stay in the United States.**

- You should be able to locate your I-94 record at the CBP I-94 lookup page at this link: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/home>>>Select Get Most Recent I-94 (tips for retrieving your I-94 record here in [English](#) and Spanish).
- Ensure your name is spelled properly and your date of birth and other biographical information is correct and take note of the **Class of Admission** listed on the I-94 – this is your parole category (e.g., PAR, OAR, DT).
- Also take note of your **Admit Until Date** – this is the date that your current parole ends. If you intend to remain in the United States beyond that date, you must have a plan to ensure you are able to stay and work in the country.

Step #2 – Review the conditions of your parole and ensure that you are in compliance. Knowing your class of admission and type of parole is your guide to understanding the conditions of your parole.

- All parolees are required to file AR-11 within 10 days of changing their residential address.
- Other parolees are required to complete steps upon entry to the United States. For example, entrants under the Uniting for Ukraine parole program (UHP) are required to attest that they received a medical screening for tuberculosis, including an IGRA test, within 90 days of arrival.
- All parolees who have any interactions with police and any potential violations of the law should seek guidance from a qualified attorney.

Step #3 – If you have a work permit that is based on your parole ((c)(11) filing category), carefully review your work permit, or Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to ensure you understand the validity period.

- Your EAD is valid for the duration of your parole and the category of your parole is written on the face of the card. The EAD also has an expiration date which indicates when the card is no longer valid.

Step #4 – If you have other immigration benefits pending approval, e.g., you filed an application for asylum with USCIS, keep an eye on the status of these benefits.

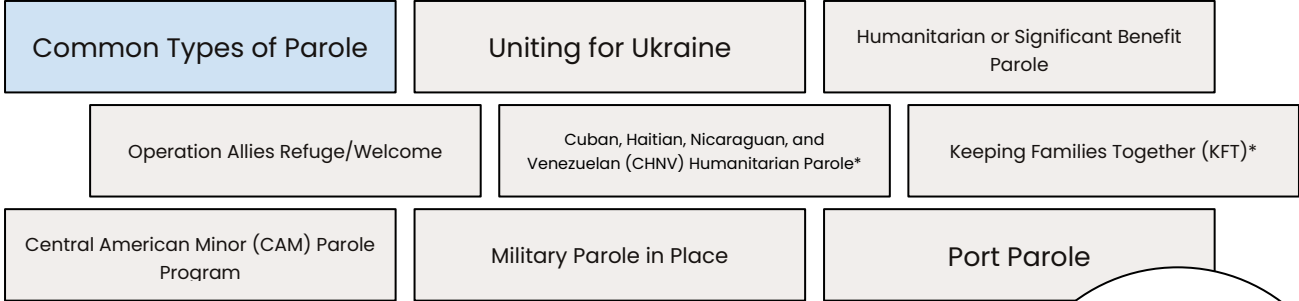
- Carefully review the requirements for each form of additional relief you have pending so that you can ensure you are meeting all of them.
- Consider the processing time for each pending benefit and whether you will need to consider any other pathways to prevent accruing a period of unlawful presence in the United States.



Parole 101: What You Need to Know About Parole

What is parole?

Parole is **temporary** permission to enter or stay in the United States for non-citizens who do not have legal grounds for admission. A grant of parole **does not** give you any immigration status. If your parole ends, you return to the status you had before you were granted parole.



Important News About Parole:

* The new administration has indicated it intends to terminate parole for CHNV program entrants. This means current parolees will need to look at other pathways to remain in the United States and be authorized for work.

*On November 6, 2024, a federal judge struck down the KFT Parole in Place policy altogether. This means U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) can no longer accept or rule on any applications for the KFT program.

Did you know?
As of August 2024, **over 530,000** non-citizens were granted parole through the CHNV program, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

I lost my parole, or my parole is expiring soon, and I cannot re-parole, what are my options?

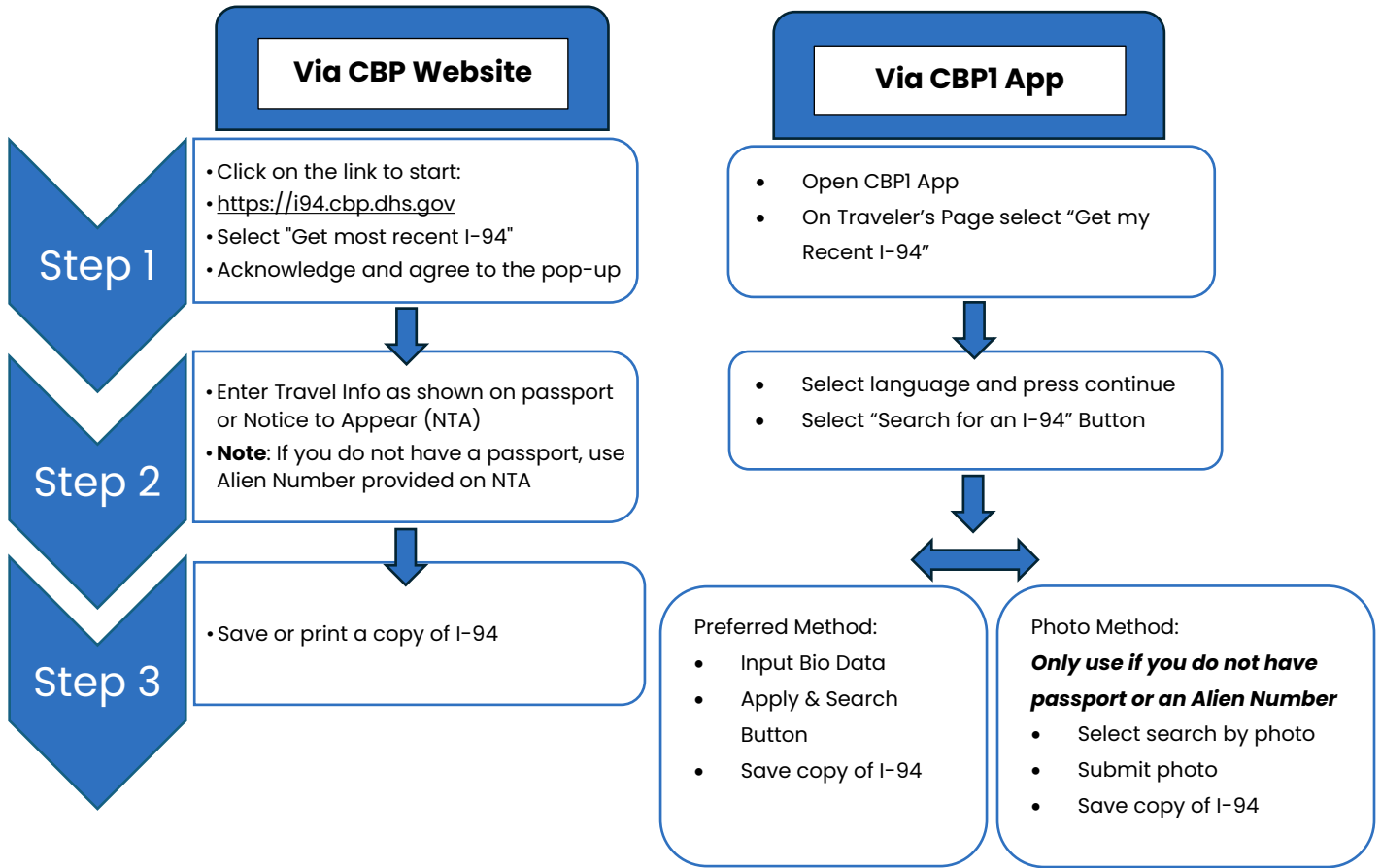
There may be other pathways for you to obtain status in the United States, some common options are explained below.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
TPS is a temporary immigration benefit that allows non-citizens from certain countries to remain in the U.S. If eligible, complete USCIS **Form I-821** with supporting documentation. Work authorization can be requested with TPS.

Asylum
If a non-citizen fears persecution or harm in their home country, they can seek asylum. Complete USCIS **Form I-589** with supporting documentation. Work authorization can be requested with asylum.

Family & Employment Based Immigration
If a non-citizen has a family member that is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR), they may be able to have the family member petition for a green card on their behalf. In addition, a non-citizen may seek to have their employer sponsor them for a green card if they meet certain requirements.

Please seek help from an **immigration attorney** or **Department of Justice (DOJ) Accredited Representative** to schedule a legal screening regarding your eligibility for these and other forms of relief that may be available to you.
Beware of immigration fraud/notario fraud: Notary publics in the U.S. are not attorneys. Be careful who prepares your immigration applications or gives you legal advice. Report any immigration fraud to USCIS.



Having Issues Retrieving? Need Correcting?

1 CBP

Preferred Method

- Only available for **Afghan Nationals:** Email CBP at OAWI94ADJUSTMENTS@cbp.dhs.gov
- Traveler Communication Center (TCC)
- Select "I94/Traveler Compliance" (Topic)
- Select "Operation Allies Refuge (OAR)" as the Applicable Issue

2

Don't Forget Your Information!

- Include the following on your selected method:**
- Complete legal name
- Date of Birth
- City of Birth
- Picture ID/Passport
- Date of Arrival
- Alien Number
- Current Mailing Address

3

Deferred Inspection Site

Last Resort

- Locate your nearest inspection site at the link below:
- <https://www.cbp.gov/about/contact/ports/deferred-inspection-sites>
- Call the Inspection Site to request an in-person appointment
- Note:** This method is difficult to access in person