



Straight from the Source

Immigration News from USCIS

August 2011

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1. **DHS Launches Effort to Stimulate Investment**—

DHS and USCIS announced policy and operational efforts to fuel the U.S. economy and stimulate investment. USCIS has published [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) which clarify how entrepreneurs may obtain an employment-based second preference (EB-2) immigrant visa. The document also describes how entrepreneurs may qualify for a National Interest Waiver under the EB-2 category. Also, in response to stakeholder feedback, USCIS has [updated existing FAQs](#) to clarify that an H-1B beneficiary who is the sole owner of the petitioning company may establish a valid employer-employee relationship for the purpose of qualifying for an H-1B nonimmigrant visa. Click here for [details](#).



2. Be Aware of Green Card Lottery Fraud—Have you received an e-mail claiming you've won the Green Card lottery and asking you to wire money? Don't fall for it – fraudsters often e-mail potential victims posing as State Department officials with requests to wire or transfer money online as part of a "processing fee."

Don't ever transfer money to anyone who claims in an e-mail that you have won the Diversity Visa (DV) lottery. The Department of State does NOT notify successful DV applicants by letter or email. DV lottery results are posted on the State Department's public website. One easy way to tell that an email is a fraud is if it does not end with ".gov". If you receive this type of email, do NOT respond. Report it immediately to the [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#) and the [Federal Trade Commission online](#) or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). If the email asks you to wire money via Western Union, you can report it to Western Union at spoofer@westernunion.com or by calling 1-800-448-1492.



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3. USCIS Begins Posting Key Production Data Online—

USCIS has begun posting 10 key data sets on agency performance at www.uscis.gov/data. Four data sets will be updated monthly:

- Form N-400, Application for Naturalization
- Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status
- Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status, and
- Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status.

In addition, the total number of receipts and approvals by quarter and year-to-date for **all** form types will be published quarterly.



4. U.S. and Russian Federation Sign Adoptions Agreement—The United States and the Russian Federation have signed a bilateral agreement to strengthen safeguards in adoptions between the two countries. Under the Agreement, only adoption agencies authorized by the Russian Government will be able to operate in Russia and provide services in adoptions covered by the Agreement, except in the case of adoptions by relatives. This will largely eliminate independent adoptions from Russia and create a better defined framework for intercountry adoptions. The Agreement also attempts to ensure that prospective adoptive parents receive more complete information about adoptive children's social and medical histories and anticipated needs. For details, click [here](#) or visit <http://adoption.state.gov>.

5. USCIS Announces End of Parole Program in Moscow—USCIS will no longer offer parole to Lautenberg category members who are denied refugee status in Moscow. People who have been offered parole by USCIS in Moscow must make plans to arrive in the United States by Sept. 30, 2011. A provision of the [Lautenberg Amendment](#) allows certain people who are paroled into the United States after being denied refugee status to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after being physically present in the United States for one year. Within the Moscow program, this provision is limited to only those refugee applicants from countries that made up the former Soviet Union who meet the Lautenberg criteria. The provision expires Sept. 30, 2011. Detailed information is available in these [Q&As](#).



6. USCIS Posts PowerPoint on Immigration Relief for Vulnerable Populations—As part of the Blue Campaign, the Department's effort to combat human trafficking, it has created several online resources including:

- A centralized web portal—www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking
- An e-mail address—ICEHumanTrafficking.HelpDesk@dhs.gov—for law enforcement, NGOs, and service providers to ask questions or share concerns.
- An e-mail resource—BlueCampaign@dhs.gov—to request Blue Campaign materials
- In addition, USCIS recently posted a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the kinds of immigration relief that may be available to victims of human trafficking and crime, entitled "Immigration Relief for Vulnerable Populations." Go to www.uscis.gov, click on the "humanitarian" icon, and the PowerPoint is posted on the right side of the humanitarian homepage.
- You may also want to watch a recent [news story](#) about combating human trafficking.

7. Helpful Fact Sheets—USCIS Published the following fact sheets that may be of interest:

- [Iraqi Refugee Processing](#)
- [The Wrong Help Can Hurt](#)
- [Reminder: Certain Fees May Not Be Collected From H-2A and H-2B Workers](#)



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8. Short Cut Web Addresses—Did you know USCIS keeps a list of easy-to-remember web addresses under www.uscis.gov/keywords? Some of these “aliases” or short cuts include:

- www.uscis.gov/citizenship
- www.uscis.gov/avoidscams (www.uscis.gov/eviteestafas in Spanish)
- www.uscis.gov/greencard
- www.uscis.gov/civilsurgeons
- www.uscis.gov/forms to name only a few. Check out the full list of [short cuts](#).

9. New Policy Memo Issued—USCIS issued and posted the following policy memo at: [www.uscis.gov>laws>policy memoranda](http://www.uscis.gov>laws>policy%20memoranda)

- July 13, 2011—[Change in Standard Timeframes for Applicants or Petitioners to Respond to Requests for Evidence](#)



10. Upcoming National Engagements—USCIS manages a comprehensive calendar of public engagements to solicit feedback on USCIS procedures and policies. Please bookmark our engagement calendar for future reference: www.uscis.gov/publicengagement. Click on the links below for details:

- **August 9**—The USCIS Verification Division will hold a national stakeholder engagement to discuss [I-9 Central](#) at 3:00 pm (Eastern Time).
- **August 10**—The California Service Center (CSC) has rescheduled its quarterly [Stakeholder Meeting](#) for August 10, 2011 at 1:00 pm (Pacific Time). (It was originally scheduled for July 27.)
- **August 10**—The USCIS International Operations Division will hold a teleconference to discuss [process changes](#) for Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, filed by petitioners residing overseas at 1:00PM (Eastern Time).
- **August 11**—USCIS will hold a [stakeholder meeting](#) to discuss issues of importance to immigrant entrepreneurs, start-up companies, and those who represent these parties at 2:00 pm (Eastern Time).
- **August 19**—The USCIS National Benefits Center (NBC) will hold a Webinar on [“Bringing Your Internationally Adopted Child to the United States”](#) at 1:30 pm (Central Time). The session will review what parents need to do after returning to the United States with their adopted child.
- **August 23**—The Service Center Operations Directorate will hold the [monthly stakeholder teleconference](#) at 2:00pm (Eastern Time). The topic will be Form I-140.
- **September 15**—The Service Center Operations Directorate will hold a [stakeholder engagement](#) to discuss the EB-5 Immigrant Investor program at 1:00PM (Eastern Time).

11. Bookmark our Local Engagement Calendar!—USCIS field offices offer presentations on citizenship and other topics that are open to the public. Bookmark this [calendar](#) and check back frequently to find events in your community. If you would like USCIS to offer a presentation in your community, write to janna.evans@dhs.gov.