



**TPS-DED
AAC**



Application process for Temporary Protected Status

An application to receive Temporary Protected Status (TPS) benefits requires submission of the following to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):

Forms: There are two primary forms that must be submitted: [Form I-821](#), *Application for Temporary Protected Status*, and [Form I-765](#), *Request for Employment Authorization*. The application can be submitted online or by mailing a paper application. Both forms must be completed and signed with the required evidence and application fee (see below). While the forms may look straightforward, immigration applications are highly scrutinized under strict rules and a small error could result in a denial. We highly recommend having an experienced immigration practitioner review your application before you submit.

Fees: The forms must be accompanied by the appropriate filing fee, which is subject to change, and must be monitored on the USCIS [website](#). The filing fee for Form I-821 is **\$50**. The filing fee for Form I-765 is **\$410**. Biometric fees may apply and is an additional **\$85**.

Fee waiver: Under certain circumstances, USCIS may consider your request to waive the fees associated with the application. You are eligible for a fee waiver if: **1)** you are experiencing financial hardship, **2)** your household income is below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, or **3)** you, your spouse, or the head of household living with you, are currently receiving a means-tested benefit. If you meet one or more of the eligibility requirements, you can file [Form I-912](#), *Request for Fee Waiver*, and provide evidence of the hardship. USCIS makes the final decision whether to waive the fee based in the applicant's circumstances. We highly recommend providing detailed information and supporting documentation.

Evidence: To be eligible for TPS benefits, the applicant must be: **1)** a national or have last been a resident of the designated country, **2)** physically present in the United States, and **3)** living in the United States since the date notified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at the time of the designation. An applicant must meet all of the above requirements and provide documentation to prove nationality, past residence in the designated country, and current residence in the United States.

Grounds of inadmissibility: If you were ever arrested, charged, or convicted for a criminal offense, you may still be able to apply for TPS benefits. There are certain grounds that make you ineligible for relief, such as criminal offenses, immigration violations, or medical diagnosis. If you have a conviction for a felony or two or more misdemeanors, you are ineligible to apply for TPS. While some of the grounds may not be waivable, USCIS has the discretion to waive certain offenses for humanitarian purposes, family unity, or otherwise in the public interest. If you think you may qualify for TPS, but are unsure because of past violations, please consult with a legal practitioner.

Travel document: USCIS has the discretion to authorize non-citizens to travel outside the United States for emergency purposes. You must file [Form I-131](#), *Application for Travel Document* in order to receive advance parole, also known as Form I-512T, *Authorization for Travel by a Noncitizen to the United States*. The application must be accompanied by supporting evidence of the emergency reasons warranting travel outside the United States. We recommend that you seek the advice of an experienced practitioner in filing the form.

The [TPS-DED AAC](#) is a national coalition of more than 100 organizations with deep expertise in law and policy surrounding TPS. Member organizations range from community-based organizations directly serving impacted communities in the United States to international NGOs, working in and providing insight from affected countries.

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