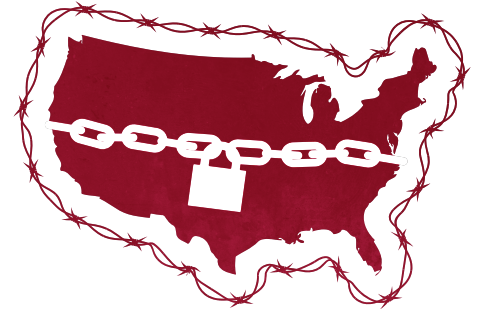


SUMMARY: TRUMP'S APRIL 2020 RESTRICTIONS ON IMMIGRATION

On April 22, 2020, President Trump issued a [presidential proclamation cutting off some forms of immigration](#) for 60 days, starting April 23, 2020. On June 22, 2020 President Trump extended the restrictions on immigration **through December 31, 2020** and also added some temporary work visas to the list of immigrants who are subject to the proclamation. It may be modified further and/or extended past December 31, 2020.

Typically, almost a million green cards (lawful permanent resident status) are issued annually in the United States. The majority of green card holders obtain this status through a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family member petitioning for them. Some people get their green card through an employer petitioning for them, because they qualify under a humanitarian option like asylum, or some other, less common options.



What does this mean and who is affected?

This presidential proclamation blocks some people who would be coming to the United States to get a green card. **It only applies to certain people who are currently outside the United States trying to immigrate.**

See [Other recent changes to immigration services](#) below for other changes that may slow down immigration cases for people applying for a green card from within the United States.

Those most likely to be affected are those who are *outside* the United States and who are:

- Lawful permanent residents' spouses coming to the United States to get a green card
- Lawful permanent residents' children coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' parents coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' siblings coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' adult children (age 21 or older) coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' married children coming to the United States to get a green card
- People who "won" the [diversity visa lottery](#)
- U visa holders' family members coming to the United States to get a green card
- VAWA self-petitioners as the spouse or child of an abusive lawful permanent resident or the parent of an abusive U.S. citizen son or daughter who are coming to the United States to get a green card

The June 22, 2020 proclamation extension also blocks some people who would be coming to the United States on a temporary work visa. It only applies to certain people who are currently *outside* the United States and trying to come to the United States as:

- H-1B or H-2B visa holders, and their spouses and children
- J visa holders as interns, trainees, teachers, camp counselors, au pairs, or summer work travel programs, and their spouses and children
- L visa holders, and their spouses and children

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The proclamation does not block immigration for:

- Those who are applying for a green card from within the United States
- Lawful permanent residents returning from abroad
- People coming on a short-term visa, like a tourist visa or a student visa, besides the temporary work visas (H-1B, H-2B, J, L) mentioned above
- People who already obtained an immigrant visa before the effective date of this presidential proclamation (April 23, 2020)
- U.S. citizens' spouses coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' unmarried, under age 21 children who are coming to get a green card
- Survivors of crimes or human trafficking who are applying for status under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the T visa program, or the U visa programs, especially if they're already in the United States
- Asylees
- Healthcare professionals and medical researchers working on COVID-19, and their spouses and unmarried children under age 21
- Certain (EB-5) immigrant investors
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses and children; and those who are considered important for law enforcement or national interest purposes
- People who already obtained an H-1B, H-2B, J, or L visa before the effective date of the proclamation extension (June 24, 2020)
- Anyone seeking to come to the United States to provide temporary labor or services essential to the U.S. food supply chain

The proclamation extension includes exceptions for:

- Children who are at risk of "aging out" of visa eligibility (turning 21 years old in a visa category that requires they remain under age 21 to qualify) due to this proclamation blocking their entry
- Those deemed critical to medical care for those hospitalized due to COVID-19 or medical research related to combatting COVID-19
- Those deemed necessary "to facilitate the immediate and continued economic recovery" of the United States

The proclamation's broader effect:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many regular immigration services were paused and therefore even those applying for a green card from within the United States were also temporarily halted. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) suspended all in-person services, including green card interviews, from March 18, 2020 to June 4, 2020. Although USCIS has now resumed green card interviews and other in-person services, they continue to operate at reduced capacity for COVID-19 health and safety precautions.

From March 20, 2020 to July 14, 2020, all routine visa services at U.S. consulates and embassies were also suspended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even now that U.S. consulates and embassies have started to resume some visa services, however, the individuals affected by these proclamations are still blocked from coming to the United States on a visa.

Unlike suspensions at USCIS offices and U.S. consulates and embassies, which were meant to maintain social distancing, President Trump's proclamations focus on limiting immigration only from certain categories of immigrants, even now that U.S. consulates and embassies have started a "phased resumption" of visa services. Estimates are that this proclamation alone could cut total immigration to the United States by 33%, with the biggest impact on immigrants from Asia, Central America, Africa. At the same time, it protects the ability of wealthy immigrants to immigrate if they have at least \$900,000 to bring to the United States.

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