



Straight from the Source

Immigration News from USCIS

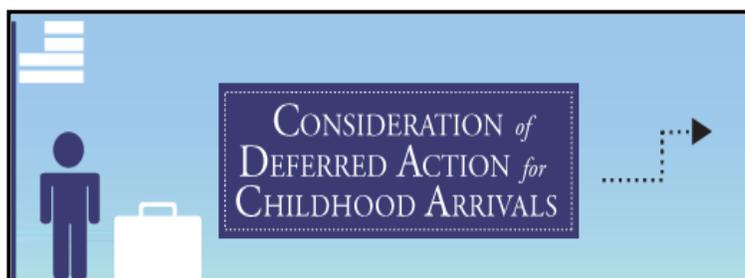
September 2012

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1. Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals—On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and who meet several key guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years. You may request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals if you:



1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007;
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and when you make your request for consideration of deferred action;
5. Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012;
6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Anyone who requests consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals must pay \$465 and file the following forms:

- [Form I-821D](#), Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- [Form I-765](#), Application for Employment Authorization, and
- [Form I-765 WS](#), I-765 Worksheet

We have a lot of helpful information, questions and answers, and videos in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese on our website at www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals or www.uscis.gov/acciondiferida. Also, we just published our first month's [intake data](#) and updated [frequently asked questions](#).



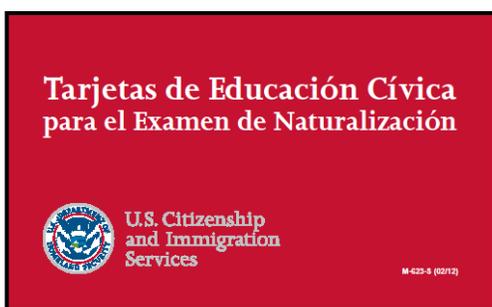


Haitian Creole, and Polish. One highlight of the Multilingual Resource Center is 13 new “How Do I...” guides translated into Chinese, which help clarify basic immigration rules and procedures. Another feature of the new site is a new Spanish translation of *The Handbook for Employers: Instructions for Completing Form I-9 (M-274)*. Visit the Multilingual Resource Center at www.uscis.gov/multilingual.

3. New Saturday Hours for the Call Center—Our national call center has expanded hours to include Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live agents will now be available at Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in each time zone. The toll-free number is 1-800-375-5283.

4. 10,000 U-Visas Approved—For the third year in a row, we have approved the maximum 10,000 petitions for U nonimmigrant status, also referred to as the U-visa. Each year, 10,000 U-visas are available for victims of crime who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse and are willing to help law enforcement investigate or prosecute those crimes. We have greatly expanded our public outreach effort through partnerships with law enforcement agencies and service providers. Our officers have traveled to more than 40 cities to train federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and immigrant-serving organizations on immigration protections available to people who are victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes.

5. Adoptions from Montenegro Suspended for Now—On July 1, 2012, Montenegro became a party to the Hague Adoption Convention. However, the Department of State (DOS) has determined that Montenegro does not have a fully functional Convention process in place yet and, therefore, is unable to certify adoption decrees or custody orders obtained in Montenegro. Without this certification, we cannot approve a Form I-800, Petition to Classify Convention Adoptee as an Immediate Relative. We strongly urge parents NOT to file any Form I-800 on behalf of a child from Montenegro. We will notify the public when DOS determines that Montenegro is compliant with the Hague Adoption Convention, which will allow USCIS to process Forms I-800 for adoptions from Montenegro.



6. New Tools to Prepare for the Citizenship Test—We’ve partnered with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History to launch *Preparing for the Oath: U.S. History and Civics for Citizenship*, a Web-based learning tool to help immigrants get ready for the civics portion of the naturalization test. This interactive resource features videos and multimedia activities that showcase artifacts from the Smithsonian Institution’s collections. The tool is based on the 100 civics questions and is organized into themes about U.S. history, government, and civics, with a short video and self-test on the content of each civics question. There is also a section for teachers, which provides materials and strategies to use *Preparing for the Oath* in the classroom. *Preparing for the Oath* is available at www.americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship. We also recently published the wildly popular Civics Flash Cards in Spanish. You can order the flash cards from bookstore.gpo.gov for \$15.00. Look up the word “tarjetas” in the search block. You can also view and download the flash cards and many other educational materials at www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

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7. **Policy Memos Issued**—USCIS issued and posted the following policy memos at: [www.uscis.gov>laws>policy memoranda](http://www.uscis.gov/laws/policy-memoranda)

- **August 10, 2012**—[USCIS Policy for Accommodating Religious Beliefs during Photograph and Fingerprint Capture](#)
- **August 8, 2012**—[Suitability and Home Study Memo](#)
- **July 18, 2012**—[Addressing Upcoming Expiration of Status for Certain Chinese and Guatemalan "Grandfathered" Orphan Adoption Cases](#)
- **July 18, 2012**—[Guidance for Determining if an Adoption is Valid for Immigration and Nationality Act \(INA\) Purposes](#)
- **July 13, 2012**—[Implementation of New Discretionary Exemption Under Immigration and Nationality Act \(INA\) Section 212\(d\)\(3\)\(B\)\(i\) for Activities and Associations Relating to the Kosovo Liberation Army \(KLA\)](#)
- **June 6, 2012**—[Requests to Expedite Adjudication of Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility, Filed by Individuals Outside the United States](#)
- **June 1, 2012**—[Submission of Form I-20 or DS-2019 in support of the Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status](#)
- **May 31, 2012**—[Exceptions for Permitting the Filing of Form I-601, and Any Associated Form I-212, at International USCIS Offices](#)
- **May 25, 2012**—[Representation and Appearances and Interview Techniques](#)
- **May 5, 2012**—[Process for Responding to Request by the DOS to Accept a Locally Filed Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative](#)



8. **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:

- **October 10, 2012**—USCIS will host its [Quarterly National Stakeholder Engagement](#) from 1:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern).
- **October 16, 2012**—USCIS will host a stakeholder engagement to discuss the [EB-5 Immigrant Investor program](#).

Straight from the Source is produced monthly by the USCIS Western Region Community Relations Program to provide a helpful "wrap-up" of key developments for USCIS stakeholders and customers. Please share this with colleagues and clients. To submit comments, or to be added to the distribution list, please e-mail janna.evans@dhs.gov.