



Straight from the Source

Immigration News from USCIS

June 2011

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1. USCIS Unveils National Campaign to Combat Immigration Scams—USCIS has launched a multi-agency, national initiative to combat immigration scams to protect vulnerable immigrants from exploitation.



- USCIS has produced a new brochure, poster, public service announcements, billboard and transit ads, and a new [Web resource center](#) to raise awareness about the signs of fraud, how to avoid it, where to report it, and where to get reputable legal assistance. Printed materials are available in English and Spanish and 12 more languages are available on the USCIS [website](#). For more information, visit www.uscis.gov/avoidscams and read our [press release](#).
- The Federal Trade Commission has made it easier for consumers to report immigration scams in the [Consumer Sentinel Network](#), an online consumer complaint database. To file a complaint in English or Spanish, visit the FTC's online [Complaint Assistant](#) or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357).
- The Department of Justice maintains a [List of Accredited Representatives and Recognized Organizations](#) on its website.



2. USCIS Launches Citizenship Awareness Initiative—USCIS has begun a national education campaign to raise awareness about the rights, responsibilities and importance of U.S. citizenship. The [Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Initiative](#) includes digital media, a video PSA, and print and radio messages in several languages to

direct people to citizenship preparation materials and other resources on the USCIS Citizenship Resource Center at www.uscis.gov/citizenship. To view the video PSA, visit the USCIS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/uscis5. To learn more about the Citizenship Public Education and Awareness Initiative and how organizations can support it, visit www.uscis.gov/citizenshipawareness.



3. USCIS Launches a Revised Civics and Citizenship Toolkit—USCIS has published a revised Civics and Citizenship Toolkit, which includes a welcome guide for new immigrants, videos, civics flash cards to study for the citizenship test, and other educational products. Immigrant-serving organizations

such as non-profits, faith-based organizations, ethnic clubs, volunteer groups, libraries and schools can register for a free copy at www.citizenshiptoolkit.gov. Registering here will ensure you receive all future updates of materials. For more information, visit www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

4. USCIS Proposes Enhancements to EB-5 Program—USCIS has proposed significant enhancements to the Immigrant Investor Program, commonly referred to as the EB-5 Program, by transforming the intake and review process for immigrant investors. For more information, click [here](#).

5. USCIS and Mississippi Implement New E-Verify Tool—USCIS has launched Records and Information from DMVs for E-Verify (RIDE), a new feature that allows E-Verify to validate the authenticity of Mississippi driver's licenses when presented by employees for completion of Form I-9. More than 80 percent of employees present driver's licenses to establish their identities when completing the I-9. By enabling E-Verify to compare driver's license data against state records, RIDE will improve E-Verify's accuracy and combat document fraud. Previously, if an employee presented a driver's license to establish his/her identity and a social security card to establish work authorization, E-Verify could only confirm the validity of the social security card. RIDE enables E-Verify employers in Mississippi to confirm the validity of both documents. Mississippi is the first state to partner with USCIS to implement RIDE.



6. USCIS Centralizes Filing of Form I-130 for Petitioners Outside the U.S.—Beginning August 15, 2011, petitioners who live in countries without USCIS offices may file a Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130) with the USCIS Chicago Lockbox. Prior regulations required overseas petitioners to file with USCIS or the U.S. State Department at the local U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Under a new regulation, petitioners who live in countries without USCIS offices may file an I-130 petition at one of these addresses:

For U.S. Postal Service deliveries:
USCIS
P.O. Box 804625
Attn: CSC/I-130/OS
Chicago, IL 60680-4107

For Express mail and courier deliveries:
USCIS
Attn: CSC/I-130/OS
131 South Dearborn – 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60603-5517

Petitioners who live in a country with a USCIS office have the option of sending their I-130 forms to the Chicago Lockbox, or to the international USCIS office having jurisdiction over the area where they live. For more details, click [here](#).

7. H2-A Petitioners Questions & Answers—On June 1, 2011, USCIS issued comprehensive Questions & Answers on H2-A Petitioners.



8. Haiti TPS Extended 18 Months—DHS has re-designated Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and extended the country’s current TPS designation for 18 months, through Jan. 22, 2013. USCIS encourages Haitian nationals to read the Federal Register [notice](#) which describes how to file an initial application for TPS. People who do not have TPS or a

pending TPS application may begin filing immediately, and must file before Nov. 15, 2011. People who already have Haiti TPS must wait to file for re-registration until a Federal Register notice describing the re-registration procedure is published. For more information, click [here](#).

9. Several New Policy Memos Issued—USCIS issued and posted the following policy memos on our website at: [www.uscis.gov/laws/policy memoranda](http://www.uscis.gov/laws/policy-memoranda)

- June 9—[The Role of USCIS District Directors in the Board of Immigration Appeals Recognition and Accreditation Process](#)
- May 9—[Requests to Expedite Adjudication of Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility, filed by individuals outside the United States](#)



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

- June 28, 2011—USCIS Service Center Operations will hold its monthly [stakeholder teleconference](#) at 1:00pm Central Time (2:00pm Eastern Time) to discuss employment-based Form I-485.
- June 28, 2011—The Office of Public Engagement invites state and local government stakeholders to participate in the [Intergovernmental Affairs Stakeholder Teleconference](#) at 2:00 pm (Eastern Time).
- June 29, 2011—USCIS will hold the [quarterly national stakeholder meeting](#) at 2:00pm Eastern Time. Interested parties may participate in person or by telephone.
- June 30, 2011—USCIS Service Center Operations will hold an engagement to discuss the [EB-5 Immigrant Investor program](#) at 1:00PM Eastern Time. This is a telephonic-only engagement.
- July 13, 2011—The Texas Service Center (TSC) invites all immigration legal representatives to attend the [Business Representatives Conference](#).
- August 10, 2011—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.)

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.