U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

October 2011

External Data Interface Standards (EDIS)
October Bulletin

EDIS Timeframe

The timeframe for implementing EDIS in USCIS Transformation, as well as other core capabilities, has been revised. USCIS has re-sequenced the benefit types, system features, and functions that it will include in the new system in the next year. USCIS will develop EDIS data standards and batch upload functionality in 2012 and the EDIS functionality should be available for use by businesses and organizations in 2013.

Release A1 and Beyond Update

The initial phase of Transformation, Release A1, will include the below benefit types of the form I-539.

If you want to…	**And you…**	**Then…**
Extend status	**are a…** B-1, B-2, F-1*, M-1 or M-2	You can e-file in the new system.
Change status	**want to become a…** B-1, B-2, F-1**, F-2, J-1, J-2, M-1 or M-2	
Reinstate status	**were a…** F-1*** or M-1***	

* Limited to individuals in the F-1 classification who received a date-specific visa that requires completion of a given course of study within a specific time.
** An M-1 student may not change status to an F-1 student per 8 CFR 248.1(c)(1).
*** The spouse or child of an F-1 or M-1 student may be included in the principal's benefit request.

Releases of the new system will take place in approximately six-month intervals. The next scheduled release of the system, Release A2, will significantly enhance the internal workforce capabilities of the system.

Release A3 will increase system functionality and expand the nonimmigrant benefit types that are available to e-file using the new system. A3 also will include customer functionality such as:

- system-scheduled biometric appointments,
- biometric identity reconciliation,
- protection of safe addresses from inadvertent disclosure, and
- processing of fee waivers.

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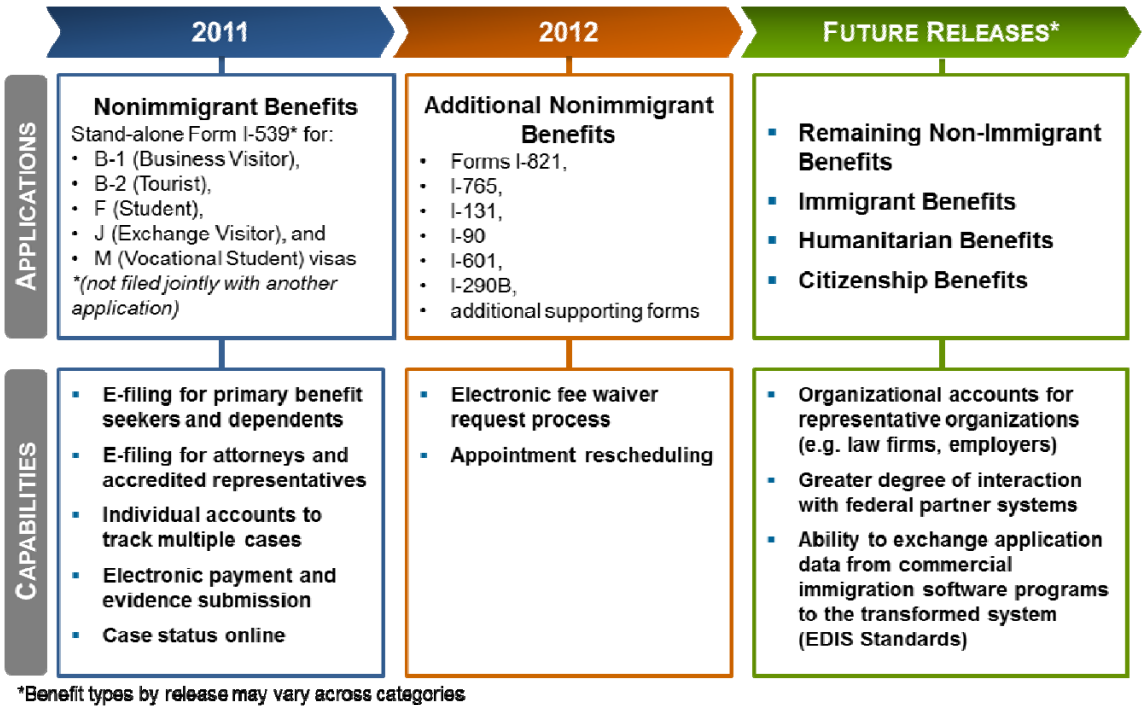

Please continue to check for website updates at www.uscis.gov/transformation.

Most Recent EDIS Transformation Mailbox Questions

Question: When will we be receiving programming specifications that we can actually use for batch submissions of new benefit requests into the new system?

> **Answer:** USCIS plans to create EDIS data standards in 2012 and have these standards as well as the EDIS certification environment ready in 2013. Prior to the intended system release that includes EDIS implementation, USCIS will aim to provide programming specifications to stakeholders with ample time for organizations to program or develop software.

USCIS welcomes your ongoing feedback on this effort. Please email any questions and comments to Transform.EDIS@DHS.gov.

Upcoming EDIS Events

USCIS will continue to provide information to our EDIS stakeholders regularly. Additional information on EDIS can be found at www.uscis.gov/outreach, under the "Notes from Previous Engagements by Topic" section, by clicking on "Transformation." Summaries from previous EDIS Exchange Collaboration Sessions are also provided under the same section.

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