



Straight from the Source

Immigration News from USCIS

May/June 2013

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1. **TPS Extended for Syria and El Salvador**—DHS has re-designated Syria for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and extended Syria’s existing TPS designation from Oct. 1, 2013, through March 31, 2015. This allows Syrian nationals to register or re-register for TPS based on a June 17 [Federal Register notice](#). For details about TPS for Syria, refer to the chart below and click [here](#).

Who’s Eligible	Current TPS Status	When to File
Syrian nationals (and people without nationality who last habitually resided in Syria)	Have TPS	Must re-register during a 60-day re-registration period that runs from June 17, 2013 through Aug. 16, 2013.
	Have a Pending TPS Application with USCIS	You do not need to file a re-registration application during this extension. USCIS will continue to process your pending application.
	Do Not Have TPS	May apply for TPS during a 180-day registration period that runs from June 17, 2013 through Dec. 16, 2013.



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DHS has also extended TPS for El Salvador for 18 more months, beginning Sept. 10, 2013, and ending March 9, 2015. Current Salvadoran beneficiaries who want to extend their TPS status must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period that runs from May 30, 2013, through July 29, 2013. For more details about TPS for El Salvador, click [here](#).

2. New I-9 Form Mandatory for all Employers—As of May 7, 2013, we no longer accept prior versions of Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification. Employers must use the current version of the I-9 Form (Revision 03/08/13 N) for all new hires and reverifications. The revision date is printed on the lower left corner of the form. The Spanish version of Form I-9 (revision 03/08/13)N is available on our website for use in Puerto Rico only. For more information, check out [I-9 Central](#).

3. Immigrant Fee Now Paid Through ELIS—On May 1, 2013, we moved the existing online payment for the USCIS Immigrant Fee to our Electronic Immigration System ([ELIS](#)). Customers now must pay the \$165 Immigrant Fee using ELIS after they receive their immigrant visa package from the Department of State and before they depart for the United States. ELIS is easy to use and provides direct access to case status updates. For more information, click [here](#). The ELIS team welcomes your feedback at: USCIS-ELIS-FEEDBACK@uscis.dhs.gov

4. Update on the Entrepreneurs in Residence Initiative—In just over a year, our [Entrepreneurs in Residence](#) (EIR) initiative has produced real benefits that will strengthen agency policies and practices for job-creating immigrant entrepreneurs. Launched in February 2012, the EIR initiative brought together startup experts and USCIS immigration experts to work collaboratively to streamline pathways for a range of existing visa categories used by entrepreneurs. The initiative had three principle goals:

- produce clear public materials to help entrepreneurs understand relevant visa categories;
- equip USCIS staff with the right tools to adjudicate cases in today's complex business settings; and
- streamline USCIS policies to better reflect the realities foreign entrepreneurs and startups face.

A [summary](#) of the EIR team's work provides examples of the initiative's successes to date.

5. Ethiopia to Implement Pre-Adoption Immigration Review (PAIR) Requirement—Beginning September 1, 2013, the Ethiopian government will require all adoption cases filed by U.S. prospective adoptive parents to undergo the U.S. PAIR process. Ethiopia's Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) will require a PAIR letter issued by USCIS to make a best interest determination. Prospective adoptive parents will initiate PAIR by filing Form I-600 with USCIS before completing the adoption in Ethiopia. If we make a preliminary determination that the child appears eligible to immigrate to the United States, we will issue a PAIR letter. Prospective adoptive parents must include the PAIR letter in the adoption dossier they submit to the Ethiopian Federal First Instance Court (FFIC). The FFIC will then forward the dossier, including the PAIR letter, to MOWCYA for review. For more information on the process, which takes effect Sept. 1, 2013, click [here](#).

6. Sign up for Alerts from USCIS.gov—On the lower right hand corner of www.uscis.gov, you can sign up to receive automated e-mail updates from USCIS. In addition to receiving news releases, consider signing up to receive periodic "alerts" too. The alerts are the fastest notification of "housekeeping" matters like office closures, new office openings, systems outages for ELIS and the 800 number, and other time-sensitive topics that don't warrant a news release. Also, you can use this link to sign up for updates from other DHS agencies like TSA and CBP.



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7. Report Immigration Scams!—We'd like to remind everyone of the ways practitioners and the public can report immigration scams:

- Send an e-mail to: reportfraud@dhs.gov (FDNS monitors this e-mail box).
- Mail a complaint to the Executive Office for Immigration Review using the complaint form available at this [link](#). The completed form must be MAILED to EOIR.
- Go to www.ftc.gov/complaint or www.ftc.gov/queja or call 1-877-382-4357 to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC accepts anonymous and third party complaints (where you report a complaint for someone else) in both English and Spanish.
- In Los Angeles County, report consumer scams to the Department of Consumer Affairs using their [online complaint form](#) or call their consumer protection hotline at (800) 593-8222.
- Our websites, www.uscis.gov/avoidscams and www.uscis.gov/eviteestafas, have a state-by-state listing on where to report immigration scams.
- The benefit in making these reports cannot be overstated. Picking up the phone or sending an email is the first step to stopping a scam artist. Law enforcement agencies all over the country have access to the FTC's database and use it to develop leads and investigations. Your report may be just the information enforcement agencies needed to choose a target and build a case. We need you to take the first step and report immigration scams!



**We need YOU
to report
immigration
scams!**

8. Employee Rights Toolkit—To increase awareness about employee rights during the employment eligibility process, we have published a helpful online [Employee Rights Toolkit](#) for workers, worker advocates, and other stakeholders. This toolkit contains a variety of educational materials such as E-Verify videos, informative fliers, brochures, and posters. It also contains information about our multilingual engagements, how to avoid immigration scams, and information about Self Check. Most of the materials are available in English and Spanish. View the entire toolkit online or, if you'd like the CD/DVD of the Employee Rights Toolkit (Form number M-1077), [order](#) a free copy.



9. 100 Civics Questions Now in 7 Languages—We recently posted the 100 civics test questions for the naturalization exam in more languages. We now offer official translations of the 100 civics questions and answers in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Click here to access our [multilingual citizenship materials](#).

10. Policy Memos Issued—USCIS issued and posted the following policy memos at: [www.uscis.gov>laws>policy memoranda](http://www.uscis.gov>laws>policy%20memoranda)

- **June 3, 2013**—[Ethiopia Pre-Adoption Immigration Review -Filing Form I 600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative, on Behalf of a Child Being Adopted in Ethiopia](#)
- **June 3, 2013**—[Requests for Evidence and Notices of Intent to Deny](#)
- **May 30, 2013**—[EB-5 Adjudications Policy \(Final\)](#) (and, in case you missed it, [Questions and Answers: EB-5 Economic Methodologies](#) from July 2012)

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11. Notes from Previous Engagements—Did you know that we post notes of our national engagements on our website? If you missed an engagement and want a summary of what was covered, click on the “Outreach” tab on our home page. Then click on the link “Notes from Previous Engagements” on the left hand side. Here’s an overview of the notes from the last two months:

- June 20—[Limited English Proficient Individuals - Access to USCIS Information and Services](#)
- June 19—[Immigration Relief for Victims of Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence & Other Crimes](#)
- June 12—[Spanish Language Teleconference](#)
- June 6—[USCIS Electronic Immigration System \(ELIS\)](#)
- June 6—[U.S. Pre-Adoption Immigration Review for Ethiopia](#)
- May 29—[A Teleconference for Current and Prospective Civil Surgeons](#)
- May 23—[A Conversation with USCIS: USCIS ELIS and the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program](#)
- May 10—[Provisional Unlawful Presence Waiver Process](#)
- May 9—[Business Representatives Engagement at the Texas and Nebraska Service Centers](#)
- May 8—[A Conversation with USCIS \(Spanish\)](#)
- May 8—[USCIS Immigrant Fee Transition to USCIS ELIS](#)
- May 8—[Immigration & Entrepreneurship](#)
- May 7—[Revised Form I-9 Teleconference](#)
- May 1—[Immigration Relief for Victims of Human Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes](#)



12. Upcoming National Engagements—We manage a comprehensive calendar of public engagements at www.uscis.gov/publicengagement. Click on the links below for details:

- **July 17, 2013**—We will host a free national Spanish-language event, [A Conversation with USCIS](#), at 7:30 pm (Eastern time).
- **July 18, 2013**—The Nebraska Service Center will host an [Academic Community Engagement](#) from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (Central time). This is an in-person engagement.



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.