

Key Takeaways from May 18, 2022 USCIS Engagement on Uniting For Ukraine

On May 18, 2022, USCIS held a stakeholder engagement to provide updates on the [Uniting for Ukraine \(U4U\) program](#). AILA provides these key takeaways from that meeting. Representatives from USCIS Public Engagement, Office of Policy and Strategy, Field Operations, and Management Directorate shared the following information:

Program Overview:

- Uniting for Ukraine is a multiagency effort.
 - USCIS is focused on adjudicating supporter eligibility, by reviewing the [Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support](#), to determine if the supporter can provide the needed support for beneficiaries and their families.
 - After USCIS makes a determination on supporter eligibility, CBP will determine if the beneficiary should be authorized to travel, issue the travel authorization, and screen the beneficiary at the Port of Entry (POE) for admission.
 - Once an individual is paroled into the United States, they may apply for work authorization with USCIS.
 - USCIS has received requests to expedite EADs for U4U; however, they need to balance this with the needs of other EAD applicants.
- To date, USCIS has received 29,000 I-134 applications from sponsors.
 - USCIS has reviewed 25,000 of these applications.
 - USCIS has issued more than 24,000 notices of confirmation of supporter eligibility.
 - CBP has issued 14,000 travel authorizations.
- Adjudication Timeline
 - Most cases are moving pretty quickly.
 - Cases that are flagged for security reasons or other issues could move more slowly.
 - If no response after a few weeks, make an inquiry through Contact Center.
 - If non-confirmation for supporter eligibility has been issued, a supporter can reapply.
- Individuals who are paroled through the U4U program are afforded the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as other parolees.

Sponsor Eligibility

- When reviewing eligibility of supporters, USCIS considers:
 - Results of security and background checks to confirm supporter identity and whether any security or red flags for trafficking are evident.
 - USCIS is partnering with human trafficking experts to ensure that they are reviewing for trafficking carefully.
 - Financial ability
 - USCIS does not look for a set amount of money, but rather will look at a sponsor's, group of sponsors, or organizations' resources in the totality of the circumstance to determine if the sponsor will have sufficient resources to support the beneficiaries.
 - Analysis is based on 100% poverty guidelines.

- For the duration of the parole, supporters may be responsible for providing, for example:
 - Safe housing;
 - Access to health care;
 - Basic necessities;
 - Transportation;
 - Assistance in completing paperwork, such as EADs/SSN.
- USCIS views community support, group of sponsors, or organization support favorably.
- Some reasons for non-confirmations of Sponsor eligibility include:
 - Sponsor failed to include financial documentation.
 - Typographical errors in application.
- Supporters are not required to be in a specific immigration status. USCIS will review whether the supporter is in a lawful status at the time of filing the I-134. Lawful status can include TPS or parole but will not include a period of authorized stay based on a pending application.

Online Filing Issues

- USCIS is aware that there have been some technology glitches in the first few weeks of the program and are working to fix them.
- Travel Authorization was not showing up in the online account. USCIS believes that this issue should have been corrected. Recommend that individuals who experienced this problem, log back in.
 - If there are still issues, contact the USCIS contact center by sending a secure message through account. Contact Center is prioritizing U4U.
 - When selecting from secure messaging options in account select drop down “a case already filed online”, then select the receipt number for Form I-134.
 - Travel authorization CANNOT be seen by the supporter. Supporters should ask the beneficiary to confirm that the authorization is in their account.
- Wrong dates on travel authorization. Stakeholders reported Dates of Birth or passport expiration dates being off by one day before or after. USCIS has spoken to CBP about the issue and CBP said it should not impact their decision. CBP will make the correction on their end at the POE.
- What is the best way to correct mistakes?
 - When beneficiary creates account, they should verify that their biometrics information provided by the sponsor is correct – some of the fields are correctable.
 - If see error after travel authorization, need to go through Contact Center.
 - Working on capability to provide correcting documentation through account, but not yet available.

Continued Stakeholder Engagement

- USCIS is preparing an online filing video process for the Form I-134 for supporter and beneficiary. Should be available soon.
- Information available in Ukrainian on [USCIS website](#).
- USCIS welcomes stakeholders to share recurring questions and concerns, to help other engagement through public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.

- Share information about possible scams through <https://www.uscis.gov/scams-fraud-and-misconduct/avoid-scams/common-scams> and share with public engagement email.
- Welcome stories about how the U4U program is working.

For more information on the Uniting for Ukraine program or Ukraine TPS, join the conversation on the [AILA Message Center Forum on the Ukraine Crisis](#).