

July 13, 2020



Homeland Security

The Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman on the Impact of Potential USCIS Furloughs

Dear Stakeholder,

On May 15, USCIS notified Congress of a projected budget shortfall and requested emergency funding of \$1.2 billion. USCIS notified a significant portion of its workforce that, absent action by Congress, it would need to furlough employees for up to 90 days. The furloughs, which are expected to start August 3, will have an adverse impact not only on applications and petitions pending with USCIS, but also on the work of the Ombudsman to perform its key statutory function of assisting individuals and employers who are experiencing difficulties in the processing of immigration benefits and services.

The Ombudsman's Office will continue to intake and submit requests for case assistance to USCIS, but anticipates delayed responses from USCIS due to its limited capacity to respond. While we may receive some timely responses, we expect there will be differences in response times between USCIS offices. At this time, it is unclear whether USCIS will

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[Case Assistance](#)

[Ombudsman's Annual
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[Immigration Resources](#)

be able to timely respond to urgent Ombudsman inquiries. The furlough will also have an impact on the Ombudsman's ability to work with USCIS on reviewing and recommending solutions to systemic problems in the administration of immigration benefits.

The Ombudsman's Office will continue to engage with the public and seek to resolve problems where possible.



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