



Temporary Protected Status (TPS): Venezuela

March 2021

Update: On Monday, March 8, 2021 the Biden Administration announced it will provide Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans.

What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)? TPS is a temporary, renewable, program for people in the United States who are temporarily unable to return safely to their country.

Who can apply for TPS and what are the benefits? TPS applicants can only apply for the first time during a designated registration period for their country. Currently, TPS may be held by people from El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, if they registered during the registration period, and **now** by people from *Venezuela*. TPS beneficiaries are issued a work permit and protection against deportation. They can also travel with an approved advance parole document.

What does this mean for Venezuelans? Venezuela has been designated for TPS for **18 months**, until **September 09, 2022**. This will allow for Venezuelan nationals (and individuals without nationality who last resided in Venezuela) currently residing in the United States to be protected from removal through that date if they are granted TPS. As of now, we do not know if TPS will be extended.

How can Venezuelans apply for TPS? During the initial registration period, **March 9, 2021** through **September 05, 2021**, Venezuelans are eligible to submit their initial TPS (Form I-821) application and apply for any TPS related benefits such as a work permit and permission to travel (advance parole).

What are the eligibility requirements? Venezuela nationals or individuals without nationality who last resided in Venezuela must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States as of **March 08, 2021** and **file** for TPS within the *180 day* registration period. Venezuelans who qualify should contact a trusted legal service provider to apply. **Do not wait!** Only individuals who register during the periods when TPS is open will qualify to keep renewing their status if extended.

What are the fees associated with filing for TPS? The filing fee for initial (first-time) applicants: • TPS Application (Form I-821): **\$135 application and biometrics fee** (or **\$50** if younger than 14 years old);

- If filing for a work permit in addition to the TPS application the total is **\$545** (or **\$50** if younger than 14 years old or **\$135** if older than 65 years old);
- ***If an applicant is eligible for a fee waiver, these fees could be waived.***

What about Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Venezuelans and other forms of relief? Venezuelans are still covered by the protections of DED through July 20, 2022 and may apply for a DED-related work permit, valid through July 20, 2022, **but** USCIS **encourages** individuals who believe are eligible for TPS to apply during the *initial registration period* in the event they cannot qualify for TPS after DED has expired.

- Likewise, if you already have another immigration case pending, like asylum, you can *still* apply for TPS, and in fact, *should* apply for TPS if eligible.