

ARE YOU CONSIDERING SPONSORING A RELATIVE?

Fees for filing certain applications with USCIS will increase on Dec. 23, 2016. U.S. citizens intending to sponsor relatives should consider filing their petitions before the new fees go into effect.

Form Type	Current USCIS Fee	New USCIS Fee	Dollar amount change
I-130	\$420	\$535	+\$115
I-485	\$985	\$1140 (\$750 under 14yrs old)	+\$155
Biometrics	\$85	\$85	No change

In one-step green card applications (forms I-130 and I-485), applicants may also file the I-131 and I-765 with no additional fees. Separately filed I-131 and I-765 forms have also increased in price.

What does this mean for you?

If you are considering filing for multiple relatives you would need to file more than one application for each relative and pay fees for each form.

For example: If you, as a U.S. citizen, plan to file one-step green card applications for both your mother and father who live in the U.S. and are eligible for adjustment of status, you would need to file Form I-130, Form I-485, Form I-131, and Form I-765 for each parent. Each application would cost \$1,490 under the current fee schedule. If you file after Dec. 23, you would need to pay \$1,760 for each parent's application. That's \$270 more per parent's application packet!

USCIS also increased fees for a U.S. citizen parent sponsoring an immediate relative along with their minor child/your stepchild. The cost of filing for your spouse and your stepchild could vary depending on the child's age.

For example: If you, as a U.S. Citizen, plan to file one-step green card applications for your spouse and your stepchild (14 or older) who live in the U.S. and are eligible for adjustment of status, you would need to file Form I-130, Form I-485, Form I-131, and Form I-765 for your spouse and stepchild. Each application would cost \$1,490 under the current fee schedule. If you file after Dec. 23, you would need to pay \$1,760 for your spouse and step-child. If your step-child in this hypothetical is under 14 years old, Form I-485 would cost \$635 under the current fee schedule and \$750 on or after Dec. 23.

Remember, there are no fee waivers for family based applications. Ask your legal representative more about how the fees apply to you and your family. Find low cost legal services at cliniclegal.org/directory.