



## Frequently Asked Questions: TPS Re-Registration and Maintaining Employment Authorization

Jan. 21, 2025

On Jan. 21, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published Federal Register Notices (FRNs) formally announcing the extension of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations for El Salvador, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela. The notices extend the TPS designation of all four countries for a further 18 months. TPS beneficiaries from these countries are encouraged to re-register for TPS and apply to renew their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) during their specific country's re-registration period. Please see below for each country's specific dates:

COUNTRY	EXTENSION	60 DAY RE-REGISTRATION PERIOD
El Salvador	March 10, 2025 – Sept. 9, 2026	Jan. 17, 2025 – March 18, 2025
Sudan	April 20, 2025 – Oct. 19, 2026	Jan. 17, 2025 – March 18, 2025
Ukraine	April 20, 2025 – Oct. 19, 2026	Jan. 17, 2025 – March 18, 2025
Venezuela	April 3, 2025 – Oct. 2, 2026	Jan. 17, 2025 – Sept. 10, 2025

DHS previously announced extensions for the following TPS designations, and the re-registration periods remain open for beneficiaries who continue to meet the TPS eligibility requirements:

- **Honduras:** Re-register by July 5, 2025, to extend TPS through that date.
- **Nepal:** Re-register by June 24, 2025, to extend their TPS through that date.
- **Nicaragua:** Re-register by July 5, 2025, to extend their TPS through that date.

**Do existing TPS beneficiaries from the above countries receive an [automatic extension](#) of their status and employment authorization?**

Yes. On Jan. 21, 2025, DHS issued Federal Register Notices automatically extending the validity of TPS and employment authorization for beneficiaries under the TPS designations for [El Salvador](#), [Sudan](#), [Venezuela](#), and [Ukraine](#). Previously published FRNs have automatically extended TPS and employment authorization for Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Nepal. To benefit from the automatic extension, individuals must remain eligible for TPS and re-register.

There are two ways that TPS-related EADs may be automatically extended. First, the FRN announcing the extension of TPS for each country explains which EADs are qualified for an automatic extension through a specific date. Check the USCIS website or the FRN for the relevant country for specific details on how to determine whether an individual benefits from the automatic extension based on their current EAD category and expiration date.

COUNTRY	AUTOMATIC EXTENSION PER FRN
El Salvador	March 9, 2026
Sudan	April 19, 2026
Ukraine	April 19, 2026
Venezuela	April 2, 2026
Honduras	March 9, 2025, for current beneficiaries under the Jan. 5, 1999, TPS designation for Honduras.
Nepal	March 9, 2025, for current beneficiaries under the June 24, 2015, TPS designation for Nepal.
Nicaragua	March 9, 2025, for current beneficiaries under the Jan. 5, 1999, TPS designation for Nicaragua.

Second, TPS beneficiaries may also qualify for an automatic extension of up to 540 days from the “Card Expires” date on their EAD if they file a Form I-765 EAD renewal application during the re-registration period. More information on calculating automatic extensions under this provision can be found on the USCIS [website](#).

TPS beneficiaries may be eligible for both types of extensions. However, the automatic extension periods run concurrently. Automatic extension will not go beyond the date that the TPS designation is set to expire.

**Example:** Ana is a TPS beneficiary from Venezuela. The expiration date on her current EAD is Sept. 10, 2025. The FRN extending the TPS designation for Venezuela until Oct. 2, 2026, indicates that she will receive an automatic EAD extension through April 2, 2026. Ana submits her Forms I-821 and I-765 on March 2, 2025, which is during the re-registration period. Since she can also qualify for the 540-day automatic extension, she checks to see which automatic extension is more beneficial. According to the USCIS [EAD Automatic Extension Eligibility Calculator](#), 540 days from the expiration date on her current EAD is March 4, 2027. Ana compares that date to the “TPS Designated Through” date listed on the Venezuela page of the USCIS TPS website, which is Oct. 2, 2026. Her employment authorization is extended through whichever date is earlier. In this case, it is extended through Oct. 2, 2026, since her EAD cannot be automatically extended beyond the expiration of the newly extended designation. The “540-day” extension is more beneficial and automatically extends her status and EAD to the date that the TPS designation expires. If her I-765 is approved, she will receive an EAD that is facially valid through Oct. 2, 2026.

**Example:** Abraham is a TPS beneficiary from El Salvador. The expiration date on his most recent EAD is June 30, 2024. The FRN extending the TPS designation for El Salvador indicates that he will receive an automatic EAD extension through March 9, 2026. Abraham submits his re-

registration and I-765 applications on Feb. 28, 2025, which is within the re-registration period. According to the USCIS [EAD Automatic Extension Eligibility Calculator](#), 540 days from the expiration date on his current EAD is Dec. 22, 2025. Abraham compares that date to the "TPS Designated Through" date listed on the El Salvador page of the USCIS TPS website, which is Sept. 9, 2026. His employment authorization is extended through whichever date is earlier. In this case, it is extended through Dec. 22, 2025, since that is earlier than Sept. 9, 2026. The FRN automatic extension is more beneficial since it extends his status and EAD to March 9, 2026. If his I-765 is approved, he will receive a new EAD that is facially valid through Sept. 9, 2026, when the most recent extension expires.

**Should TPS beneficiaries from the above countries still re-register for TPS during their country's re-registration period? Should TPS beneficiaries apply for a new EAD during the re-registration period?**

TPS beneficiaries must re-register for TPS during the 18-month re-registration period in order to maintain their TPS beyond the automatic extension period. While TPS beneficiaries are not required to apply for a new EAD, CLINIC strongly advises those who would like a new EAD with the updated expiration date to apply for one as soon as possible. Timely re-registering and applying for a new EAD will ensure that their TPS continues beyond the automatic extension and through the recently announced extension periods for each country without any gaps in status and employment authorization. See the USCIS website and the individual FRN notices for each country for the specific re-registration period.

**How can TPS beneficiaries who are covered by the automatic extension prove to employers that they are eligible to work?**

A beneficiary who is already employed may choose to use the automatic EAD extension based on the Federal Register notice for their country. He or she may show the notice to an employer to demonstrate that USCIS has automatically extended the EAD. TPS beneficiaries are not required to do this, but it may be helpful to the employer.

If a beneficiary has filed an I-765 renewal application during the re-registration period and chooses to have their EAD extended up to 540 days from the "Card Expires" date on their EAD, they can present the following to show they are authorized for employment:

1. Their facially expired or expiring EAD with a category code of A12 or C19, and
2. The Form I-797C, Notice of Action receipt notice, showing that the individual has filed an I-765 during the re-registration period in category code A12 or C19,

Beneficiaries should determine which type of automatic extension is more beneficial. See the appropriate FRN for additional helpful information on how employers should complete the I-9 process and what is acceptable documentation to prove employment authorization.

**Who meets the eligibility requirements to re-register for TPS?**

Generally, to maintain status, a TPS holder must file a re-registration application during a specific period announced by DHS and published in the Federal Register. To be eligible for TPS re-registration, the applicant must:

- Be a national of the designated country or a person without nationality who last habitually resided in the designated country;
- File during the designated re-registration period (or meet the requirements for late re-registration during any extension of the country's TPS designation);
- Have been continuously physically present in the United States since the effective date of the country's most recent TPS designation; and
- Have been continuously residing in the United States since the date specified for the TPS country.

In addition, the applicant must be admissible. Certain grounds of inadmissibility do not apply to TPS applicants and most other grounds can be waived for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or in the public interest. A Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility, is needed only for inadmissibility grounds that were not previously waived. Finally, an applicant cannot have a conviction for one felony or two or more misdemeanors.

Remember to screen all TPS clients for more permanent relief, including whether authorized travel could create adjustment of status eligibility in the future. See CLINIC's [Practice Advisory: Adjustment Options for TPS Beneficiaries](#).

### **What is the application process for re-registration?**

Those who are eligible for TPS re-registration should file a re-registration application within the re-registration period that is specified for a particular country's designation. Re-registration applications must be submitted using Form I-821. Check to make sure you are using the edition required by USCIS. As of this writing, the latest edition is dated 04/01/24. There is no filing fee for a re-registration application, but a \$30 biometrics fee is required from all applicants. This fee may be waived by filing a Form I-912 fee waiver request.

Read the instructions to Form I-821 carefully to avoid completing sections that are not required for re-registration applications. When applying for TPS re-registration, an applicant does not have to resubmit any documentation to prove their nationality, date of entry into the United States, continuous physical presence, or continuous residence. However, USCIS may ask for additional information and/or documentation in certain circumstances.

Prior to filing for re-registration, applicants should be screened to ensure continued eligibility for TPS, including continued physical presence and residence, new criminal issues, and other developments that could trigger inadmissibility and the need for a waiver. Ideally, advocates should also review clients' prior TPS applications for consistency and red flag issues before filing re-registration applications. If applicable, applicants who have triggered new grounds of inadmissibility that were not previously waived with a prior TPS application should also submit a Form I-601 and supporting documentation. Lastly, applicants should submit certified court dispositions related to any criminal arrest, charge, or conviction.

Applicants who are requesting a new EAD valid through the dates announced in the recent FRNs must file Form I-765 for renewed employment authorization. Form I-765 may be filed together with the I-821 or it may be filed later based on a pending or approved I-821. The I-765 filing fee is \$520 if filed on paper or \$470 if filed online. Two passport-style photos should be included. TPS re-registration applicants should use EAD category code (a)(12). An applicant need not file Form I-765 if they do not want an EAD.

Currently, the option to file Form I-821 online through a [myUSCIS](#) account is available to TPS re-registration applicants from all designated countries. Those seeking an EAD may also concurrently file Form I-765 online. See the [USCIS TPS country-specific webpage](#) for information about where to file a TPS re-registration application if filing a paper application.

The Form I-765 filing fee may be waived by filing a Form I-912 fee waiver request. Generally, fee waiver requests cannot be filed online. However, TPS beneficiaries may upload a completed Form I-765 with a fee or a fee waiver request as a PDF through their USCIS online account. For more information on filing by PDF upload, see the [USCIS website](#).

Noncitizens who fail to apply during the initial re-registration period may be able to file a late re-registration application if they meet certain conditions, described below.

### **What happens if a TPS beneficiary fails to re-register for TPS?**

TPS beneficiaries who fail to re-register during the specified period for their country's designation may fall out of status when the automatic extension ends.

### **When can a TPS holder who failed to re-register during the designated re-registration period apply late?**

Timely re-registration during each re-registration period is required for a recipient to maintain TPS benefits. However, under INA § 244(c)(3)(C) and 8 CFR § 244.17, USCIS has the discretion to accept and approve a late re-registration application when the applicant has "good cause" for filing after the 60-day re-registration period for a particular country has ended. Applicants must submit a statement explaining the reason(s) for filing late with the re-registration application.

USCIS has not published guidance about the types of reasons that constitute "good cause." Anecdotally, applicants have had late re-registration applications granted in situations where the applicant failed to re-register on time because of serious physical or mental illness or sudden hospitalization (of the applicant or close relative the applicant had to care for). Good cause might be established by an applicant who sought timely assistance or advice about maintaining TPS but was misinformed through no fault of their own. Other factors that could potentially contribute to a finding of good cause might include unemployment, homelessness, a death in the family, or other personal emergencies. They could also include an inability to understand the re-registration requirements due to mental capacity, language barriers, or lack of access to legal resources.

### **Can the next administration end TPS for these countries despite these extensions?**

It's unclear whether the Trump administration has any basis to challenge these extensions in court. The extensions should remain in place until the expiration dates specified in the Federal Register Notices. Sixty days before a designation is set to expire, DHS will review country conditions and decide whether to extend or terminate a designation. If DHS does not make a decision during that time, then the designation is automatically extended for six months. Even if a TPS designation is terminated, individuals do not lose their protection immediately. TPS beneficiaries would lose their status 60 days after the notice of termination is published in the Federal Register.

For more information on TPS eligibility in general, see CLINIC's [FAQ: TPS Eligibility and the Application Process](#).

For additional tips and TPS practitioner resources, please see these helpful resources:

- [USCIS TPS Page](#)
- [How to create a myUSCIS account](#)
- [CLINIC's TPS Page](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions: TPS Eligibility and the Application Process | Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. \(CLINIC\) \(cliniclegal.org\)](#)