



# COMMUNITY ALERT

## NEW IMMIGRATION RELIEF FOR LIBERIANS

Enacted on December 20, 2019, the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF) act opened a one-year window that will allow many Liberians living in the United States to apply for permanent residence.

### HOW TO APPLY

Eligible Liberians should apply for the program by submitting an I-485, *Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status to USCIS* by **DECEMBER 20, 2020**.

Principal Applicants should include documents demonstrating that they are a national of Liberia, have been continuously present from November 20, 2014 to the date of filing the I-485, and that they are otherwise eligible for an immigrant visa. There are special rules for persons in removal proceedings or with prior orders of removal. For more information see ILRC's practice advisory at <https://www.ilrc.org/new-remedy-liberians-liberian-refugee-immigration-fairness-act-lrif>.

The spouse, unmarried child under 21, or unmarried son or daughter over 21 of a principal applicant does not need to include proof of their own nationality or continuous presence but must include proof of the qualifying family relationship.

Since LRIF applicants are also exempt from the public charge ground of inadmissibility, a fee waiver for the I-485 should be allowed, in addition to fee waivers for forms I-765.



**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS  
MUST APPLY BY  
DECEMBER 20, 2020**

## GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must file for relief by December 20, 2020.
- Applicants must be a national of Liberia who has been "continuously present" in the United States from November 20, 2014 up to the date of submitting an application *OR* who is the spouse, child, or unmarried son or daughter of such a person.
  - **NOTE:** Applicant will not be considered to have failed to maintain physical presence based on one or more absences from the United States for one or more periods amounting, in the aggregate, to not more than 180 days.
- Applicant must be admissible but public charge and unlawful entry do not apply.
- There are only three specific exclusions from eligibility, for those convicted of an aggravated felony, persecutors of others, and those who have been convicted of two or more crimes involving moral turpitude (other than a purely political offense).