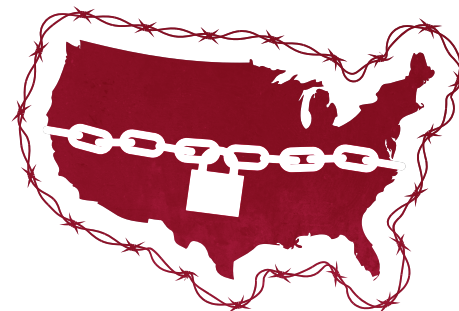


## SUMMARY: TRUMP'S APRIL 2020 RESTRICTIONS ON IMMIGRATION

On April 22, 2020, President Trump issued a presidential proclamation **cutting off some forms of immigration for 60 days**<sup>1</sup>, starting April 23, 2020. It may also be modified before or extended past the initial sixty days.

Typically, almost a million green cards (lawful permanent resident status) are issued annually in the United States. The majority of green card holders obtain this status through a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family member petitioning for them. Some people get their green card through an employer petitioning for them, because they qualify under a humanitarian option like asylum, or some other, less common options.



### What does this mean and who is affected?

This presidential proclamation blocks some people who would be coming to the United States to get a green card. **It only applies to certain people who are currently outside the United States trying to immigrate.**

See *Other recent changes to immigration services* below for other changes that may slow down immigration cases for people applying for a green card from within the United States.

### Those most likely to be affected are those who are outside the United States and who are:

- Lawful permanent residents' spouses coming to the United States to get a green card
- Lawful permanent residents' children coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' parents coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' siblings coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' adult children (age 21 or older) coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' married children coming to the United States to get a green card
- People who "won" the diversity visa lottery<sup>2</sup>
- U visa holders' family members coming to the United States to get a green card
- VAWA self-petitioners as the spouse or child of an abusive lawful permanent resident or the parent of an abusive U.S. citizen son or daughter who are coming to the United States to get a green card

### The proclamation does **not** block immigration for:

- Those who are applying for a green card from within the United States
- Lawful permanent residents returning from abroad
- People coming on a short-term visa, like a tourist visa or a student visa

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- People who already obtained an immigrant visa before the effective date of this presidential proclamation (April 23, 2020)
- U.S. citizens' spouses coming to the United States to get a green card
- U.S. citizens' unmarried, under age 21 children who are coming to get a green card
- Survivors of crimes or human trafficking who are applying for status under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the T visa program, or the U visa programs, especially if they're already in the United States
- Asylees
- Healthcare professionals and medical researchers working on COVID-19, and their spouses and unmarried children under age 21
- Certain (EB-5) immigrant investors
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses and children; and those who are considered important for law enforcement or national interest purposes

### Other recent changes to immigration services:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many regular immigration services have been paused<sup>3</sup> and therefore even those applying for a green card from within the United States have also been temporarily halted.

- On March 18, 2020, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) suspended all in-person services, including green card interviews. On April 24, 2020, they extended the closure until at least June 4, 2020<sup>4</sup>.
- As of March 20, 2020, all routine visa services at U.S. consulates and embassies have also been suspended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>5</sup>.

### The proclamation's broader effect:

Unlike suspensions at USCIS offices and U.S. consulates and embassies, which are meant to maintain social distancing, President Trump's proclamation focuses on limiting immigration only from certain categories of immigrants, even if U.S. consulates and embassies resume visa services in the near future. Estimates are that this proclamation alone could cut total immigration to the United States by 33%<sup>6</sup>, with the biggest impact on immigrants from Asia, Central America, Africa. At the same time, it protects the ability of wealthy immigrants to immigrate if they have at least \$900,000 to bring to the United States.

#### Links:

1. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspending-entry-immigrants-present-risk-u-s-labor-market-economic-recovery-following-covid-19-outbreak/>
2. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/diversity-visa-program-entry.html>
3. <https://www.ilrc.org/practice-alert-temporary-changes-us-citizenship-and-immigration-services-uscis-response-covid-19>
4. [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDHSCISINVITE/2020/04/24/file\\_attachments/1435728/USCIS%20June%204%20Extension%20of%20Closure.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USDHSCISINVITE/2020/04/24/file_attachments/1435728/USCIS%20June%204%20Extension%20of%20Closure.pdf)
5. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/suspension-of-routine-visa-services.html>
6. <https://www.boundless.com/blog/trump-immigration-ban-who-is-affected/>



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