

## Important Information for Agencies Helping Recent Migrant Arrivals

### What is an Employment Authorization Document (EAD)?

- An Employment Authorization Document (EAD), also referred to as a work permit, allows an individual to prove that they are eligible to work lawfully in the U.S.
- An EAD does not grant immigration status in the U.S. but can serve as a form of identification.
- Certain recent migrant arrivals admitted to the U.S. are ***immediately*** eligible to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

### Who is eligible for an EAD?

- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders who are nationals of a ***designate country***, have filed for status during a specified registration period, and have been continuously physically present in the U.S. since a designated date.
- Humanitarian Parolees admitted to the U.S. under certain programs such as the ***Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans | USCIS***.
- Individuals admitted through the CBP One App™ are eligible once they schedule an appointment, present themselves at the border and have a credible fear interview to apply for asylum.
- Asylum seekers are eligible after their application (***form I-589***) has been pending for 150 days.



### How Can Social Services Agencies Help Individuals Applying for an EAD?

#### Help with obtaining a fee waiver

There is a \$410 filing fee and some applicants may be subject to an additional \$85 fee for biometric services. Applicants who may struggle to find the funds to pay for the fee could be eligible for a fee waiver if they meet one of these conditions:

1. The household can demonstrate financial hardship or if a member in the household is a recipient of a means-tested benefit such as Medicaid, SNAP, TANF or SSI. The benefit may be federal, state or locally funded.

#### How to show applicant receives a means-tested benefit:

- A person must provide evidence that they are currently receiving a means-tested benefit. Computer printouts are acceptable as long as they include the required information. This evidence should be in the form of a letter, notice, or other official document that contains the required information, including:
  - The person's name,
  - The name of the agency granting the public benefit,
  - The type of benefit, and
  - An indication that they are currently receiving the benefit.



- A benefit card by itself is not acceptable evidence of a means-tested benefit, unless it contains all four of the requirements above.
- If you are filing on behalf of a child, provide the information and documentation of the means-tested benefit that the child receives.

**How to show applicant has a financial hardship:**

- Include a detailed description of why individual has a financial hardship on the form and provide evidence.
  - If evidence cannot be provided of financial hardship, include in the description an explanation of why evidence cannot be provided. It is always advisable to include an affidavit from a member of good standing in your community who knows the applicant and can provide more insight into the situation.
  - If individual lost all forms of evidence in a natural disaster, fire, robbery, or through other means, include an explanation in the description. Please provide a copy of a police report, insurance claim or other report, if available, to support the claim.
2. The household is receiving or has received services from a homeless shelter.
    - The shelter must provide a currently dated letter on the shelter’s letterhead, including a statement that they receive services from the shelter, and be signed by a shelter employee attesting to the individual’s situation.
    - If someone is homeless and does not reside in a shelter, they can get an affidavit from a member of good standing in the community who knows the individual and can support their homelessness and inability to pay the fee(s).
  3. Their household income is at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines at the time of filing.
    - Check the current poverty levels at [Form I-912P, HHS Poverty Guidelines for Fee Waiver Requests](#).



More information on fee waivers, please visit:

<https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-fees/additional-information-on-filing-a-fee-waiver>

**Help connect individuals to work resources**

Assistance is available through the NJ Department of Labor. Individuals who are authorized to work can receive career assistance. For more information visit: [nj.gov/labor/ayuda](https://nj.gov/labor/ayuda)

**Help individuals avoid scams**

Unscrupulous individuals pretending to be “immigration consultants,” “notarios” or “attorneys,” are falsely claiming they can provide immigration services to targeted immigrants with limited English skills. Only attorneys and certain other accredited representatives authorized by the USCIS are allowed to prepare legal documents such as immigration forms, give advice on legal matters, or represent clients in a legal proceeding. Please see the [Department of Justice’s Pro Bono Legal Services Providers](#).



To report immigration scams, call the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs at **1-800-242-5846** (toll-free within New Jersey).