

# What Is the Diversity Visa Lottery?



The Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) program, also called the U.S. green card lottery, is a government-run lottery to get a U.S. green card (permanent residence). Each year, the program offers up to 55,000 visas to people from countries with low immigration to the U.S. who meet basic education requirements.

### Who Can Apply?

To be eligible, you, your spouse, or your parent must have been born in a country that sent less than 50,000 immigrants to the United States in the previous five years. The U.S. Department of State (DOS), which administers the program, publishes a full list of eligible countries on its website each year.

Applicants must also prove that they have:

- at least a high school education or its equivalent; or
- two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation that requires at least two years of training or experience.
  - Instructions to determine if your job is eligible can be found on the **DOS website**.

You can apply for the DV program in the United States or overseas.

### How Do I Apply?

To apply, you must submit your application online at the DOS Electronic Diversity Visa (E-DV) website: <u>https://dvprogram.state.gov</u>. Paper applications are not allowed. There is no fee to enter the DV program, but if you are selected and scheduled for an interview, you will need to pay a visa application fee.

## When Can I Apply?

Every year, there's a specific time to apply, which is announced on the DOS website. The application period usually lasts a few weeks, from early October to early November. The entry form can only be submitted during this time. It's best to apply early to avoid technical issues.

## How Will I Know If I Have Been Selected for the DV Program?

DOS randomly chooses people for the DV program each year using a computer lottery. You can check if you've been selected by using the confirmation number you got when you applied. Go to the Entrant Status Check portal at <u>https://dvprogram.state.gov/</u> <u>ESC/</u>, usually starting in early May. If you're selected, you'll need to take more steps, like submitting documents, getting a medical exam, and attending an interview.

DOS releases detailed instructions each year about the diversity visa lottery process: <u>https://travel.</u> <u>state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/</u> <u>diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-</u> <u>instructions.html</u>

For more information about the DV program, please contact your immigration attorney or find an attorney via <u>https://www.ailalawyer.org</u>.

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