

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Re-Registration Period Now Open for Hondurans with Temporary Protected Status

Release Date: Dec. 15, 2017

WASHINGTON— Current beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under Honduras' designation who want to maintain that status through the current expiration date of July 5, 2018, must re-register between Dec. 15, 2017 and Feb. 13, 2018. Re-registration procedures, including how to renew employment authorization documentation, have been published in the <u>Federal Register</u> and on <u>the USCIS</u> website.

All applicants must submit <u>Form I-821</u>, Application for Temporary Protected Status. Applicants may also request an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) by submitting a completed <u>Form I-765</u>, Application for Employment Authorization, at the time of filing Form I-821, or separately at a later date. Both forms are free on USCIS' website.

USCIS will issue Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) with a July 5, 2018 expiration date to eligible Honduran TPS beneficiaries who timely re-register and apply for EADs under this extension in accordance with the TPS Honduras Federal Register Notice. Given the timeframes involved with processing TPS re-registration applications, however, DHS recognizes that not all re-registrants will receive new EADs before their current EADs expire on Jan. 5, 2018. Accordingly, DHS has automatically extended the validity of EADs issued under the TPS designation of Honduras for 180 days, through July 4, 2018.

In November, former Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke announced that she was not making a <u>determination</u> on Honduras' TPS designation at that time. By operation of the TPS statute, this postponement automatically extended the current TPS designation for Honduras for six months – through July 5, 2018. Duke concluded that additional time and information was necessary to make a determination on extension, redesignation, or termination of Honduras' TPS designation.

During this six-month extension, individuals with TPS are encouraged to prepare for their return to Honduras in the event Honduras' designation is not extended again, including requesting updated travel documents from the government of Honduras.

At least 60 days before July 5, 2018, the Secretary will assess the country conditions in Honduras to determine whether to extend, redesignate, or terminate TPS for Honduras. Hondurans with TPS may wish to consult with qualified immigration attorneys or practitioners about their eligibility for another immigration status or benefit, or whether there is any other action they may want to take regarding their individual immigration circumstances.

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