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# EB-5 Questions and Answers (updated Oct. 2023)

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## Regional Centers ^

### **1. Is there a specific order for filing applications for regional center designation, applications for investment projects, and immigrant petitions for investors in regional center projects?**

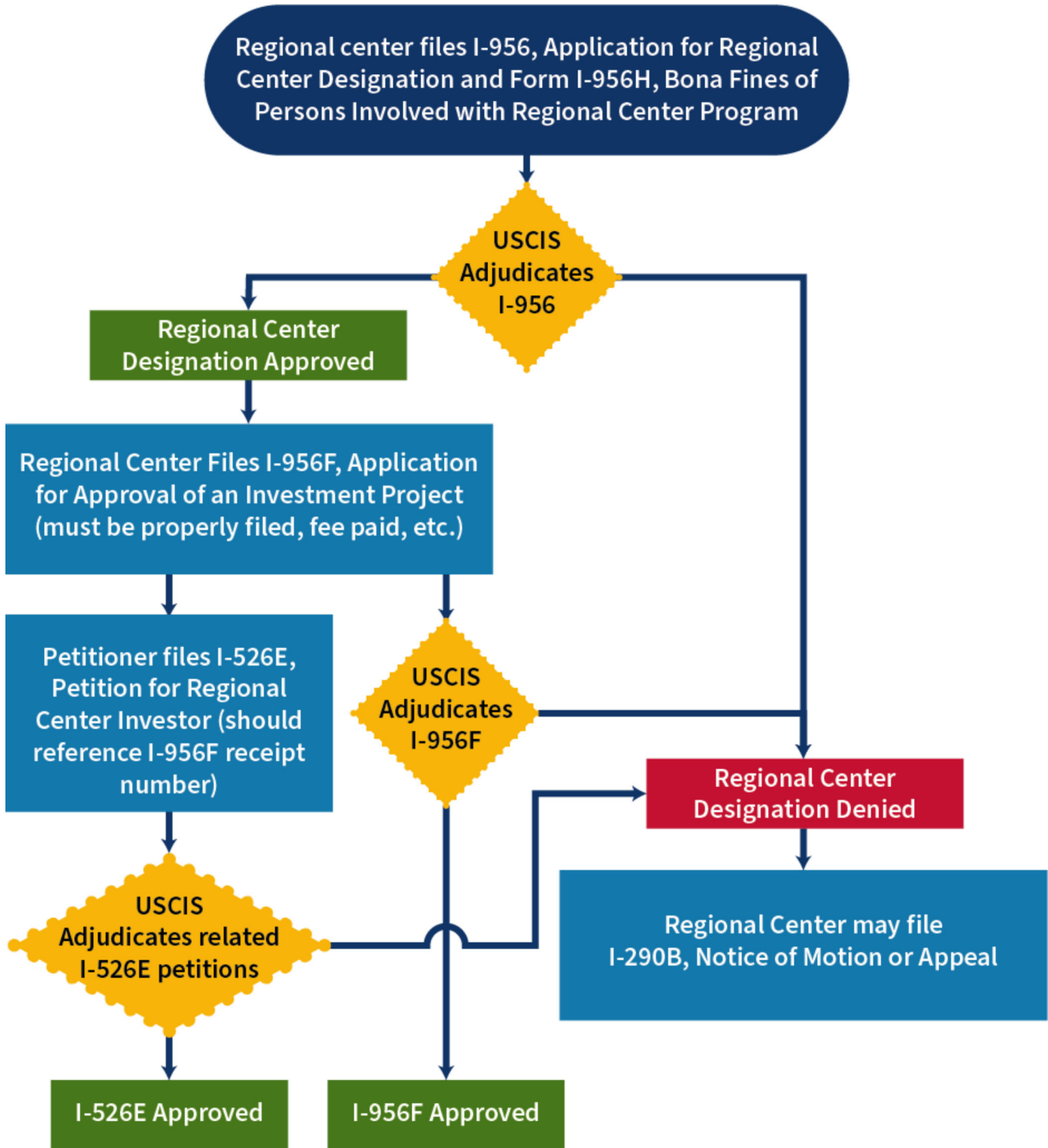
Yes. Before a regional center can file for approval of an investment project, the regional center must first have an approved application for designation, which includes approved designations before enactment of the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022.

An entity seeking regional center designation must apply for such designation under the EB-5 Regional Center Program on [Form I-956, Application for Regional Center Designation](#), with the appropriate fee. The Form I-956 application must include a [Form I-956H, Bona Fides of Persons Involved with Regional Center Program](#), and biometric services fee, for each person involved with the regional center. On the form, each person attests, and provides information to confirm, that they are in compliance with

Once we approve the regional center's designation application, the regional center will need to file a [Form I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise](#), for each particular investment offering through a new commercial enterprise that the regional center intends to sponsor. A regional center that was previously designated and that is filing an amendment application to demonstrate the regional center's eligibility for continued designation under the new statute may file an investment project application before we approve the amendment application. The Form I-956F application must include a Form I-956H and biometric services fee for each person involved with the new commercial enterprise or affiliated job-creating entity. On the form, each person attests, and provides information to confirm, that they are in compliance with program requirements.

After the regional center has properly filed a Form I-956F (but without it needing to be approved), an investor in that specific investment offering may file an individual [Form I-526E, Immigrant Petition by Regional Center Investor](#).

# Filing Order for Applications for Regional Center Designation and Regional Center-Related Immigrant Petitions



## 2. Can pre-RIA investors retain their eligibility if their regional center is terminated?

Given the large volume of investors that could be affected by terminations of previously designated regional centers based solely on noncompliance with certain new administrative requirements added by the RIA, such as paying the annual Integrity Fund fee, we interpret the RIA in a manner we hope permits good faith investors of terminated regional centers to retain their eligibility.

To accommodate these good faith investors as envisioned by RIA, we interpret INA 203(b)(5)(M) to apply to pre-RIA investors associated with a terminated regional center (or debarred new commercial enterprise or job-creating entity). INA 203(b)(5)(m)(v)(II) authorizes the secretary of homeland security to “extend any applicable deadlines under this paragraph.” Therefore, rather than strictly applying the notification timeframes under [8 USC 1153: Allocation of immigrant visas](#), we will generally extend the deadline for pre-RIA investors to respond to a regional center termination notification until we adjudicate their petition. At the time of adjudication, if we need more information from the investor about eligibility, the officer may issue a request for evidence or a notice of intent to deny, giving the investor an opportunity to establish their eligibility.

To satisfy the eligibility requirements applicable to pre-RIA investors, such investors may rely on the RIA’s grandfathering provisions under Section 105(c) (which requires continued adjudication of pre-RIA petitions even before the effective date of the codification of the reformed program into the INA) for purposes of continued eligibility.

Therefore, pre-RIA investors may, in certain situations, remain eligible based on indirect jobs, as applicable to their petition before the RIA was enacted notwithstanding termination of their associated regional center. Accordingly, where regional center termination is based on purely administrative noncompliance that does not otherwise directly affect or implicate the underlying investment or job creation, officers may generally determine, in their discretion and on a case-by-case basis, that a pre-RIA investor associated with the terminated regional center continues to be eligible for classification as an immigrant investor, notwithstanding the regional center termination.

However, we do not interpret the grandfathering provision of Section 105(c) of the RIA to apply to post-RIA investors, who are subject to the new requirements added by the RIA, such as the requirement under INA 204(a)(1)(H)(ii) to remain associated with an approved project application under INA 203(b)(5)(F). This interpretation of the grandfathering provision of Sec. 105(c) accords with the statement from Sen. Chuck Grassley, one of the primary authors of the RIA, in explaining the intent of the RIA that “the bill allows petitions filed by immigrant investors under the old pilot program to continue to be adjudicated under the law as it existed when they were filed.” 168 Cong. Rec. S1105 (daily ed. March 10, 2022).

### **3. Do regional centers that properly filed the Forms I-956 and/or I-956G versions in effect on the filing date need to refile any new form published after the date they filed?**

Regional centers will not have to file an updated Form I-956 or Form I-956G due to revisions to the form or the form instructions that were published after the date the regional center filed their Form I-956 or I-956G.

Regional centers should ensure that they are using the most up-to-date version of each form at the time of submission. More information and filing instructions and form editions can be found on our website landing pages for Form I-956 and Form [I-956G](#).

### **4. Will USCIS allow regional centers to supplement any filed Form I-956G with additional information requested?**

Regional centers use Form I-956G to provide required information, certifications, and evidence to support their continued eligibility for regional center designation. The form allows regional centers to amend or supplement a previously filed Form I-956G when we determine or the regional center determines that the previously filed Form I-956G submission is insufficient.

If we determine that the information provided on the Form I-956G is insufficient, we may issue a Request for Information, Request for Evidence, or a Notice of Intent to Terminate.

Regional centers should respond to the Request for Information, the Request for Evidence, or the Notice of Intent to Terminate with the information requested.

### **5. What is the status of USCIS's review of initial Form I-956 and amendments?**

We began reviewing and adjudicating Forms I-956 after the form was published in May 2022. We continue to review and adjudicate Form I-956 initial applications and amendments.

### **6. USCIS suggested in response to comments to the Form I-956F that regional centers can interfile any non-material updates to the application while the application is pending adjudication. Before the RIA, any such updates could be incorporated directly into the investors' Form I-526 petitions. Can USCIS clarify if non-material updates to pending I-956Fs can be interfiled and will not require a new filing?**

Nonmaterial updates to pending I-956Fs can be interfiled and do not require a new filing.

### **7. When must a regional center file a Form I-956 amendment?**

According to INA 203(b)(5)(E)(vi), a designated regional center must file a Form I-956 amendment not later than 120 days before the implementation of significant proposed changes to its organizational structure, ownership, or administration, including the sale of such center, or other arrangements which would result in individuals not previously subject to the requirements under INA 203(b)(5) (H) becoming involved with the regional center.

Regional centers must also file a Form I-956 amendment if they are requesting any changes to their approved geographic area or the regional center's name.

### **8. Are all regional centers—newly designated as well as previously designated—subject to the new provisions of the INA added by the RIA?**

All regional centers—newly designated as well as previously designated—are subject to the new provisions of the INA added by the RIA because the only existing statutory authority under which a regional center may be designated for participation in the regional center program is INA 203(b)(5)(E) following repeal of the former authorizing statute. This is true regardless of whether the designated regional center intends to promote new projects for new investors under the reformed regional center program.

We continue to apply the new provisions of the INA added by the RIA to all regional centers, including those designated before the RIA as contemplated by the Behring preliminary injunction and settlement.

### **9. When is the annual Integrity Fund Fee due and what amounts should regional centers pay?**

Per INA 203(b)(5)(J)(II)(i), on Oct. 1, 2022, and each Oct. 1 thereafter, each regional center must pay into the Integrity Fund. We announced via Federal Register Notice that the first fee payments were due beginning on March 2, 2023. 88 Fed. Reg. 13141. The payment amount required depends on the number of investors under the sponsorship of all the regional center's new commercial enterprises in the preceding fiscal year.

Regional centers must pay \$20,000 if they have 21 or more total investors in the preceding fiscal year in their new commercial enterprises. Regional centers must pay \$10,000 if they have 20 or fewer total investors in the preceding fiscal year in their new commercial enterprises.

We will terminate the designation of any regional center that does not pay the fee required within 90 days after the date on which such fee is due.

For more information, visit the following web pages:

[USCIS to Start Collecting Fee for EB-5 Integrity Fund | USCIS](#)

[Federal Register Notice of EB-5 Regional Center Integrity Fund Fee](#)

[EB-5 Integrity Fund | USCIS](#)

## **10. How do I properly file my Form I-956H, Bona Fides of Person Involved with Regional Center Program?**

All Forms I-956H must be properly filed by mailing the forms, and the accompanying biometrics services fee for each Form I-956H, to the appropriate mailing address that is provided on the USCIS website at [uscis.gov/i-956h](https://uscis.gov/i-956h).

This includes the submission of any Form I-956H accompanying the regional center's Form I-956 and Form I-956F filing as well as any Form I-956H filed in response to a USCIS notice, such as a Request for Evidence (RFE) or a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID).

If we request additional Forms I-956H, regional centers still should file the additional Forms I-956H according to the proper mailing instructions provided on the form instructions. If you send your Form I-956H and biometrics services fee to the Investor Program Office in Washington, D.C., as exhibits to your response, we may reject the form and the fee. Such rejections may result in the delay of reviewing the response and adjudicating the associated Form I-956 or I-956F application.

With the response, regional centers should indicate in their cover letter the names of all persons for whom a Form I-956H was submitted and that all requested Forms I-956H have been properly submitted according to the form instructions.

## **11. Why was I scheduled for my biometrics appointment at an application support center far from where I live?**

We schedule biometrics appointments at the closest application support center to the address provided in Part 3, Question 15, of Form I-956H.

Therefore, individuals should provide their personal mailing address and not the attorney's or regional center entity's address. Providing the correct mailing address will help prevent unnecessary cancellations or rescheduling of the biometrics appointments, which delays the adjudication of the associated Form I-956 or Form I-956F application.

## **12. What entity name and identification number should I put in the chart in Part 2 of the Form I-956H if I am involved with multiple EB-5 entities?**

The name and identification number of the specific entity (regional center, new commercial enterprise (NCE), and job creating entity (JCE)) that the person is involved with for that particular

Form I-956H filing that will be filed with an associated Form I-956 (for involvement in a regional center) or Form I-956F (for involvement in a NCE or affiliated JCE). Individuals must submit more than one Form I-956H if they are involved with more than one entity, as explained below.

Specifically, each person involved with a regional center must complete Form I-956H, Bona Fides of Persons Involved with Regional Center Program, to be submitted with the regional center's Form I-956, Application for Regional Center Designation.

If you are filing a Form I-956H due to your role in the regional center entity, you must provide the regional center name, any other names the regional center is authorized to use, and regional center identification number. Do NOT provide the names of any new commercial enterprise(s) (NCE) or the job-creating entity(ies) (JCE) on this chart even if you are involved with an associated NCE or JCE in some capacity.

Each person involved with an NCE and/or an affiliated JCE must complete Form I-956H to be submitted with Form I-956F, Application for Approval of Investment in a Commercial Enterprise, for those specific entities. A person involved with the regional center who previously filed Form I-956H with the Form I-956 must also file Form I-956H with the Form I-956F if that person is involved with the NCE or affiliated JCE.

Therefore, persons involved with an NCE or affiliated JCE will provide the NCE and JCE names, any other names used (for example, d/b/a), and any associated identification numbers on the Form I-956H submitted with the Form I-956F. Likewise, persons should not include the name or identification number of the regional center entity on the chart if they are submitting the Form I-956H due to their role in the NCE or JCE.

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## Required Investment Timeframe

### **1. What is the legal basis that invested capital needs to remain invested for at least 2 years only for investors who filed an I-526 or I-526E petitions after enactment of the RIA?**

On March 15, 2022, President Biden signed the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 (RIA) as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. This statute reauthorized the Regional Center Program, enacted significant integrity reforms to the EB-5 Program, and, among other things, modified the requirements regarding the timeframe an investor must maintain their investment to establish eligibility for classification under INA 203(b)(5) and to subsequently remove the conditions on their lawful permanent resident (LPR) status under INA 216A. Specifically, INA 203(b)(5)(A)(i) states that, to be eligible for classification, the investment must be “expected to remain invested for not less than 2 years” while INA 216A, as amended by the RIA, no longer requires that the investor sustain their investment throughout their period of conditional residence. Pursuant to Sec. 104(b)(2)(B) of the RIA, however, the removal of the sustainment requirement from INA 216A by the RIA does not apply to investors seeking to remove conditions under INA 216A based on a Form I-526 petition filed prior to enactment of the RIA. Consequently, investors who filed Form I-526 petitions prior to enactment of the RIA must sustain their investment throughout the two-year period of their conditional residence to be eligible for removal of conditions on their permanent resident status.

## **2. How long must an investment “remain invested” for Form I-526 and I-526E petitions filed on or after March 15, 2022?**

An investor filing an EB-5 immigrant visa petition must have invested, or be in the process of investing, the required amount of capital in a new commercial enterprise in the United States and expect to maintain that investment for not less than two years, provided job creation requirements have been met. Though the statute does not explicitly specify when the two-year period under INA 203(b)(5)(A)(i) begins, we interpret the start date to be the date that the full amount of qualifying investment is made to the new commercial enterprise and placed at risk under applicable requirements, including being made available to the job creating entity, as appropriate. If the investor invested more than 2 years before filing the Form I-526 or Form I-526E petition, the investment should generally still be maintained at the time the Form I-526 or Form I-526E is properly filed, for us to appropriately evaluate eligibility.

## **3. How long is the required investment timeframe for Form I-829 approval?**

Because of the changes made by the RIA, the required investment timeframes for removal of conditions will differ depending on whether the investor filed their underlying petition for classification before or after enactment of the RIA.

**Pre-RIA Investors.** Sec. 104(b)(2)(B) of the RIA explicitly provides that the amendments made by the RIA to INA 216A, including removal of the sustainment requirement, do not apply to investors seeking to remove conditions under INA 216A based on a Form I-526 petition filed prior to enactment of the RIA. RIA Section 105(c) similarly mandated that the Secretary “continue to adjudicate petitions and benefits under sections 203(b)(5) and 216A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(5) and 1186b) during the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act”. Accordingly we will adjudicate Form I-829 petitions associated with Form I-526 petitions filed before March 15, 2022, under the applicable eligibility requirements in place before the enactment of the RIA. Sustainment requirements for this population will remain tied to the 2-year conditional permanent resident period. Pre-RIA investors must sustain their investment “at risk” throughout the 2-year period of conditional permanent resident to be eligible for removal of conditions on their permanent resident status. The conditional permanent resident status begins at the time of adjustment to conditional permanent resident status if the investor is in the United States or at the time of admission to the United States if the investor was abroad. We will review all documentation to establish eligibility.

**Post-RIA Investors.** Form I-829 petitions based on I-526 and I-526E petitions filed on or after March 15, 2022 will be considered under the new INA 203(b)(5) and 216A requirements, as amended by the RIA. For purposes of determining the date when the two-year period required by INA 203(b)(5)(A)(i) begins, we will generally use the date that the requisite amount of qualifying investment is made to the new commercial enterprise and placed at risk under applicable requirements, including being made available to the job creating entity, as appropriate. If the investor invested more than 2 years before filing the Form I-526 petition, the investment should generally still be maintained at the time the Form I-526 is properly filed, for us to appropriately evaluate eligibility.

## **4. Can an NCE retain an investor’s capital beyond the required investment timeframe? Does the INA place a limit on how long the capital can be retained before it must be returned to the investor?**

The INA establishes only minimum required investment timeframes for purposes of applicable eligibility requirements and does not place any upward limit on how long an investor's capital may be retained before being returned. Regional centers or their associated new commercial enterprises can negotiate longer periods of investment directly with their investors independently of EB-5 eligibility requirements.

**5. For post-RIA investors, if the required 2-year investment period ends after their Form I-526 or I-526E is filed but before it is approved, can their investment capital be returned without affecting their immigrant petition (assuming job creation and all other eligibility requirements have been met)?**

Likely yes, as we generally will use the date that the requisite amount of qualifying investment is made to the new commercial enterprise and placed at risk under applicable requirements, including being made available to the job creating entity, as appropriate.

**6. For post-RIA investors, how long must their investment remain invested if they are actively in the process of creating the requisite employment under INA 216A?**

Under INA 216A, as amended by the RIA, investors who have not yet created the requisite employment when filing for removal of conditions on their permanent resident status but who are actively in the process of doing so may be granted a discretionary one-year extension of their conditional permanent resident status. The investor's capital must remain invested during such time, even if it is beyond the two-year minimum period contemplated by INA 203(b)(5)(A)(i).

**7. How do pre-RIA direct/standalone investors sustain their investment if they are in a position to get their funds back but have not yet finished their conditional permanent resident period? On that topic, at what point does USCIS consider job creation requirements to be fulfilled for direct investors?**

Pre-RIA investors will continue to be subject to pre-RIA requirements for removal of conditions; their sustainment period under INA 216A is tied to the two-year period of their conditional permanent residence. The investor's investment capital must remain at risk in the new commercial enterprise throughout the 2-year sustainment period. If the investor's capital was deployed in a manner such that it will not remain at risk before completing the 2-year sustainment period, the investment capital must be further deployed to remain at risk. The job creation requirement is separate from the sustainment requirement and may be fulfilled by the standalone investor when their new commercial enterprise creates the required 10 full-time qualifying direct jobs in the United States. Those jobs must be permanent and held by qualified employees. The creation or preservation of jobs must occur within 2 years of the investor's conditional permanent residency and entrance into the United States.

***Targeted Employment Areas (TEA) and Infrastructure Projects***

**8. Where in the adjudications process will designations of high unemployment areas and infrastructure projects take place?**

For regional center cases, we will make these designations in adjudicating [Form I-956F, Application for Approval of an Investment in a Commercial Enterprise](#).

For standalone cases, we will make these designations in adjudicating [Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Standalone Investor](#). By statute, the lower investment amount and visa set aside resulting

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from investment in an infrastructure project are limited to regional center-sponsored commercial enterprises. See Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 203(b)(5)(D)(iv).

### ***Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485)***

## **9. Can I file a [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#), and [Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Standalone Investor](#), or [Form I-526E, Immigrant Petition by Regional Center Investor](#), at the same time (“concurrent filing”)?**

Yes, you can file Form I-485 and Form I-526 or Form I-526E concurrently if approval of your petition would make a visa immediately available to you. See INA section 245(n). If you have a pending Form I-526, including those filed before March 15, 2022, you may file a Form I-485 if you meet relevant requirements. Please refer to the [Form I-485](#) page for additional information on [Form I-485 filing requirements](#) or consult an attorney before filing. Be sure to mail the forms to the address listed on this page: [Direct Filing Addresses for Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur](#).

## General Implementation

### **1. Is failing to comply with biometrics appointments a ground for denying a Form I-829 and removing conditional permanent resident status?**

As part of administering immigration benefits, we may require any applicant, petitioner, sponsor, beneficiary, or individual filing a benefit request, or any group or class of such persons submitting requests, to appear for an interview or biometrics services, or for both. See [8 CFR 103.2\(b\)\(9\)](#). Biometrics services may include fingerprints, photographs, or digital signatures. Biometrics permit us to verify a person’s identity, produce secure documents, and facilitate required background checks to protect national security and public safety and to ensure that the person is eligible for the benefit sought. If we require an individual to submit biometrics or appear for an interview or other in-person process but the person does not appear, we may consider the benefit request abandoned and deny the request unless, by the appointment time, we have received a notice of change of address or a request to reschedule that we believe warrants excusing the failure to appear. See [8 CFR 103.2\(b\)\(13\)\(ii\)](#).

### **2. How should industry stakeholders, petitioners, applicants, and seekers of benefits under the immigrant visa program communicate with DHS about specific EB-5 cases or seek information that is not case-specific about the EB-5 program?**

Section 107 of the RIA incorporates many of the same restrictions from the 2015 DHS EB-5 Ethics and Integrity Protocols. RIA mandates that DHS employees act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any entity, organization, or individual in connection with any aspect of the EB-5 program. It also mandates specific channels as the only channels or offices by which industry stakeholders, petitioners, applicants, and seekers of benefits under the EB-5 program may communicate with DHS about specific EB-5 cases (except for communication made by applicants and petitioners under regular adjudicatory procedures), or information that is not case-specific about the EB-5 program. In accordance with these requirements, we offer the following modes of communication:

- Email to [USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:USCIS.ImmigrantInvestorProgram@uscis.dhs.gov); AILA Doc. No. 23112247. (Posted 11/22/23)

- Our [Contact Center](#); and
- Our [Office of Public Engagement](#).

## Administrative Procedure Act (APA) Considerations with Interpretation

### **1. Why are these interpretations being announced via the USCIS website and not through notice and comment rulemaking procedures?**

These updates interpret the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 (RIA), and an agency is not required to use the Administrative Procedure Act's (APA) notice-and-comment procedures to issue an interpretive rule or one that amends or repeals an existing interpretive rule, or when modifying rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice. See, e.g., *Perez v. Mortgage Bankers Assoc.*, 135 S. Ct. 1199 (2015). These updates and interpretations do not add to the substantive regulations, create legally binding rights, obligations, or change the substantive standards by which IPO will evaluate EB-5 petitions and applications. Rather, we have interpreted the investor eligibility investment sustainment as closely as practicable to the plain language of the RIA.

### **2. Are USCIS officers bound by this guidance?**

This website guidance helps our officers in rendering decisions, and should generally be followed by officers in the performance of their duties but it does not remove their discretion in making adjudicatory decisions. This guidance and the interpretations do not create any substantive or procedural right or benefit that is legally enforceable by any party against the United States or its agencies or officers or any other person.

### **3. How will USCIS apply these provisions and has it considered the reliance interests of, and potential retroactive impacts to, EB-5 entities and petitioners who filed or were approved prior to the RIA?**

**Required Investment Timeframe.** As intended by the RIA, we will apply the provisions of the INA applicable to required investment timeframes and amended by the RIA to EB-5 investors that file their Form I-526 or Form I-526E petitions on or after March 15, 2022. Forms I-829 based on Forms I-526 that were filed prior to March 15, 2022, will generally continue to be adjudicated under the prior statutory framework, as required by Sections 104(b)(2)(B) and 105(c) of the RIA. After a consideration of reliance interests and potential retroactive impacts, we believe the interpretations and guidance explained above provide flexibility and lessen the burdens on EB-5 entities.

Interpreting the start date for the 2-year investment period required under INA 203(b)(5)(A)(i) to be the date that the full amount of qualifying investment is made to the new commercial enterprise and placed at risk under applicable requirements, aligns most closely with the plain language of the statute. Additionally, for us to appropriately evaluate eligibility, the investment should generally still be maintained if the investor invested more than 2 years before filing the Form I-526 or Form I-526E petition.

We do not believe that there are reliance or retroactivity impacts with this interpretation, as it aligns closely with the plain language of the statute and applies to petitions filed on or after the effective

date of the RIA. To the extent there may be interests at stake, we believe this interpretation lessens the burden on the investor to keep their investment in place for an extended period, due to circumstances beyond the investor's or the NCE's control, such as visa backlogs or other such circumstances. Further we believe it provides the greatest level of flexibility for stakeholders to create investment strategies, limits the need for NCEs to redeploy investor capital after sufficient jobs have been created, and provides the investor a significant degree of control.

INA 203(b)(5)(M). Interpreting INA 203(b)(5)(M) to apply to pre-RIA investors associated with a terminated regional center (or debarred new commercial enterprise or job-creating entity) is also in accordance with the plain language of the INA and its intent. Neither the RIA nor the INA differentiates between pre- or post-RIA investors for purposes of the protections afforded to good faith investors under INA 203(b)(5)(M). We recognize that applying a new provision of the INA added by the RIA to those who filed prior to its effective date could appear to be retroactive; however, we believe that this protects petitioner and applicant interests. Further, the relevant conduct covered by this provision, termination or debarment of an EB-5 entity, from which applicable legal consequences will flow will be applied only to terminations or debarment occurring after enactment of the RIA (in other words, we will apply this provision prospectively based on the conduct— termination or debarment—relevant to its application). More specifically, prior to the RIA, regional center investors had to show that their investment was within an approved regional center in order to demonstrate eligibility for their Forms I-526 petitions and, in line with these requirements, longstanding USCIS policy has considered the termination of a regional center associated with a regional center investor's Form I-526 petition to constitute a material change that would generally result in ineligibility. Applying this provision for post-RIA terminations or debarments of associated EB-5 entities avoids significant adverse impact to pre-RIA petitioners whose eligibility could be impacted by post-RIA terminations or debarments and provides flexibilities for them to maintain eligibility.

With respect to the notification deadlines, we have authority to extend certain deadlines under INA 203(b)(5)(M)(v)(II). We generally plan to extend the deadline for pre-RIA investors to respond to a regional center termination notification until we adjudicate their petition. We recognize that this interpretation would not generally apply to post-RIA investors, however, we believe this is justifiable because there is a large volume of investors that could be affected by terminations of previously designated regional centers based solely on noncompliance with certain new administrative requirements added by the RIA and that this is unlikely to recur to the same degree and with the same considerations for post-RIA investors in the future. Specifically, before March 15, 2022, there were 632 regional centers and as of June 30, 2023, we have received only 357 Form I-956, Application for Regional Center Designation, applications or amendments for previously designated regional centers, and only 250 of previously designated regional centers have paid the Integrity Fund Fee. We interpret the RIA in a manner we hope permits good faith investors of terminated regional centers to retain their eligibility, and do not believe post-RIA investors will be under the same immediate constraints such that they would be prejudiced by interpreting and applying this flexibility to pre-RIA investors in this limited circumstance.

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