Factsheet on TPS & SSR for Afghanistan
October 2023

Background
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Special Student Relief (SSR) for Afghanistan for a period of 18 months, from November 21, 2023, through May 20, 2025.

Eligibility
Temporary Protected Status (TPS) allows existing TPS beneficiaries to retain their TPS status under the extension so long as they continue to meet the eligibility requirements for TPS. The redesignation for Afghanistan allows more Afghan nationals and those without nationality who last lived in Afghanistan, and who have continuously resided in the United States since September 20, 2023, to apply for TPS for the first time. DHS estimates that approximately 3,100 existing beneficiaries and 14,600 new individuals are eligible to file applications for TPS under the extension and redesignation of Afghanistan.

Special Student Relief (SSR) provides relief to F-1 students from Afghanistan who are experiencing severe economic hardship due to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. It allows them to apply for employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F-1 nonimmigrant student status. Relief for eligible Afghan students under the SSR will be in effect from November 21, 2023, through May 20, 2025.

Instructions
Extension of Designation of Afghanistan for TPS: The 18-month designation of Afghanistan for TPS begins on November 21, 2023, and will remain in effect for 18 months, ending on May 20, 2025. Existing TPS beneficiaries who wish to extend their status through May 20, 2025, must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period that runs from September 25, 2023, through November 24, 2023. Re-registrants should promptly re-register to avoid the expiration of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) and to prevent any gaps in employment authorization.

Redesignation: The 18-month registration period for new applicants under the Afghanistan TPS redesignation begins on September 25, 2023, and will remain in effect through May 20, 2025.

Registration Process: To register initially under the redesignation or to re-register to extend existing TPS status, you must submit Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, and Form I-765, Request for Employment Authorization, and pay the required filing fee. The filing fee for Form I-821 is $50, and the filing fee for Form I-765 is $410. Biometric fees may apply and is an additional fee of $85. Individuals with a pending Afghanistan TPS application (Form I–821) as of September 25, 2023, are not required to submit the application again.

Fee waiver: Beneficiaries can request a fee waiver (Form I-912) for the filing fee by demonstrating the inability to pay.

The TPS-DED AAC is a national coalition of more than 100 organizations with deep expertise in law and policy surrounding TPS. Member organizations range from community-based organizations directly serving impacted communities in the United States to international NGOs, working in and providing insight from affected countries.

Contact: admin@masadc.com
Can I apply for other forms of immigration relief?
An application for TPS does not affect an application for asylum, humanitarian parole, or any other immigration benefit.

Can I apply for TPS if I have a criminal charge?
Yes, but it depends on the charge. It is important that you consult an immigration lawyer immediately.

Does TPS provide a path to citizenship?
No, TPS is a temporary legal protection and does not lead to permanent residency (green card) or citizenship.
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