

Work Permit Coalition

Mission: This coalition is focused on getting work permits into the hands of asylum seekers and other migrants as quickly as possible. Paths to accessing work authorization for asylum seekers include parole, TPS, and through the asylum application path.

Goals: We have identified the following areas of agreement among coalition members and propose moving this coalition forward with the following three priorities:

- (1) addressing work permit backlogs for all categories of work permits;
- (2) shortening wait periods to get work permits for asylum seekers; and
- (3) extending work permit validity.

Asks: The following are specific asks provided by ASAP members and coalition partners that address our three priorities.

(1) Addressing work permit backlogs for all categories of work permits

Administrative solutions

- Request that **DHS reallocate resources to work permit backlogs**, so as to:
 - Comply with 30-day processing for initial asylum applicant work permits under (c)(8),
 - Achieve the government's promise of 30-day processing for parole-based work permit applications, and
 - Process TPS work permits more quickly.
- Make data about work permit backlogs available to the public.
- Expand **e-filing for work permits (I-765)** to include fee waiver (I-912) forms.
- Make the **Form I-765 available in multiple languages**, starting with Spanish.
- **Create a process for automatic work permit renewals.**
- Waive **parole EAD** fees to remove a major barrier to accessing work authorization for recent arrivals.
- Issue a regulation that **expands work authorization incident to status** for all people granted humanitarian parole.

Legislative asks

- Appropriate **funds specifically for work permit processing and work permit backlog** alleviation, as well as support for humanitarian applications to offset the cost of processing fee-free parole-based EADs.
- Create requirements for **USCIS to report** on work permit backlogs through the appropriations process.
- Expand incident to status work authorization for recent arrivals.

(2) Shortening wait periods to get work permits for asylum seekers

Administrative solutions

- **Issue a regulation removing the 150-day regulatory waiting period** and other barriers to filing and receiving a work permit application quickly.
- **Allow simultaneous filing of the asylum applications and work permit applications.**
- Grant **work authorization after 180 calendar days from the filing of an asylum application**, positive credible fear determination, or other qualifying event.
- **Issue a regulation expanding the definition of “asylum application” to include a positive Credible or Reasonable Fear decision** or the filing of the first three pages of an asylum application for a biometrics appointment for purposes of work permit eligibility.

Legislative asks

- Co-sponsor House Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act (ASWAA), which changes the statutory wait period to 30 days from 180 days.
- Uplift social media content from the LetAsylumSeekersWork Campaign if members are already signed on.

(3) Extending work permits to be valid for longer

Administrative solutions

- Request that DHS issue a **permanent 540-day extension for the automatic extension** of work permits, while the agency works to address the crisis-level backlog of work permit renewals.
- Request that DHS issue a longer Temporary Final Rule in the absence of a permanent extension, so that USCIS has enough time to work through the work permit renewal backlog.

Legislative asks

- Co-sponsor House Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act (ASWAA), which eliminates the need to renew a work permit based on an asylum application.