



## Frequently Asked Questions on Temporary Protected Status for Afghans

### What Is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

- TPS is for people who cannot return to their home country because it is unsafe to return.
- TPS is a temporary solution that allows Afghan nationals who have entered the United States to stay legally.

### Who Is Eligible for TPS?

- People born in Afghanistan, or
- People who do not have a nationality and last resided in Afghanistan before coming to the United States.

Who have:

- Lived in the United States since March 15, 2022, or earlier.
- Not left the United States since May 20, 2022, and
- Have not committed serious or multiple crimes.

### What Are the Benefits of TPS?

- TPS allows you to stay in the United States legally for the period of time while the TPS is valid. The current validity period is 18 months (5/20/2022 through 11/20/2023). The U.S. government may extend TPS.
- TPS provides you the option to apply for a permit to work in the United States.
- TPS gives you the option to apply for an authorization to travel outside of the United States and return to the United States.

### What Are the Limitations of TPS?

- TPS by itself does not give lawful permanent residency or citizenship in the United States.
- Each family member, including children, must have a separate TPS application.
- It is important to pay attention to the expiration date of your TPS status. If the U.S. government renews TPS for Afghans, you may have to re-register before your TPS status expires.
- If your TPS expires:
  1. You will return to your previous immigration status; or
  2. You will stay in another status if you obtained one while you had TPS.

### When to Apply?

- As soon as possible. You must apply before November 20, 2023.

### Where to Apply?

- You can apply by mail or online with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by completing:
  - [Form I-821](#) also known as “Application for Temporary Protected Status.”
  - If you want to apply for a permit to work in the United States, include [Form I-765](#) for an Employment Authorization Document. If you are an Afghan national recently paroled into the United States due to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, you do not need to pay the fee for this form.



Applications should include:

- Proof of identity ([Examples](#) include passport, identification card)
- Proof of nationality ([Examples](#) include passport, birth certificate)
- The date you entered the U.S. (Examples include your [I-94 entry record](#))
- Proof of your current U.S. address prior to March 15, 2022 (Examples include a rent bill or utility bill, or similar documentation)

There is a \$50 fee to apply for TPS for the first time. For individuals over the age of 14, there is an additional \$85 fingerprinting fee. There is financial assistance called a [fee waiver](#) if you can't afford the fee. If you need help determining the fees, use [the USCIS Fee Calculator](#) for help.

## Can I Receive ORR Benefits with TPS

- Yes. TPS does not affect your ORR eligibility.
- You can apply for or continue to receive ORR benefits.

## Can I Apply for Other Immigration Relief While Pursuing TPS?

- Yes.

## Additional Resources on TPS for Afghans

- [USCIS | Information for Afghan Nationals](#)
- [USCIS | Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Afghanistan](#)
- Immigration Legal Services for Afghan Arrivals (ILSAA) provides immigration legal services at no cost for eligible Afghan Arrivals. Reach out to [ILSAAinfo@icf.com](mailto:ILSAAinfo@icf.com) to request services and further help.