

Frequently Asked Questions on Temporary Protected Status for Afghans

What Is Temporary Protected Status?

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is for people who can't return to their home country because it is unsafe. It is a temporary solution that allows Afghan nationals to legally stay in the United States.

Who is eligible for TPS?

People born in Afghanistan or those without a nationality who last lived in Afghanistan before coming to the United States.

You must also meet these requirements:

- Lived in the United States since September 20, 2023, or earlier
- Not left the United States since November 21, 2023
- Not committed serious or multiple crimes

What are the benefits of TPS?

- TPS allows you to stay in the United States legally while the TPS is valid
- The current validity period ends on May 20, 2025
- You can apply for a work permit
- For questions about travel outside the United States with TPS, speak with a legal service provider

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 your TPS expiration date
- If the U.S. government renews TPS for Afghans, you may have to re-register before your TPS status expires

If your TPS expires, you will return to your previous immigration status or a status you obtained while you had TPS.

When to apply?

If you are interested in pursuing TPS, you can apply until May 20, 2025.

How to apply?

You can apply by mail or online with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by completing [Form I-821](#), Application for Temporary Protected Status.

If you want to work in the United States, include [Form-I-765](#), Application for Employment Authorization. If you are an Afghan parolee, you do not need to pay the fee for this form.

Applications should include:

- Proof of identity

- Proof of nationality
- The date you entered the United States
- Proof of your current U.S. address prior to September 20, 2023

Helpful documents may include your passport, Tazkira, birth certificate, [Form I-94](#), Arrival/Departure Record, and rent or utility bills. Check with your lawyer for more information.

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](#).

Can I receive Office of Refugee Resettlement benefits if I have TPS?

Yes. TPS does not affect your Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) eligibility. You can apply for or continue to receive ORR benefits.

Can I apply for other immigration relief while pursuing TPS?

Yes.

If I had TPS and it expired, can I apply again?

The deadline for re-registration was November 24, 2023. To apply for late

re-registration, get help from your legal service provider.

Additional resources

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