

PAROLE PROCESS FOR CUBANS, HAITIANS, NICARAGUANS, AND VENEZUELAN

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On January 5, 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a new humanitarian parole process for Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans. This is an expansion of the program launched for Venezuelan nationals in October 2022. Beneficiaries approved on a case-by-case basis receive up to two years of parole and advanced authorization to travel to the United States, along with the ability to apply for work authorization once they arrive in the country. Under this new process, DHS will approve up to 30,000 beneficiaries per month across all four nationalities.

In order to qualify, beneficiaries must have a supporter in the United States who agrees to provide financial support while they are in the country with parole; they must also pass national security and public safety vetting. Individuals are ineligible for the program if they have received a final order of removal from the United States within the past five years or entered the United States, Mexico, or Panama without authorization since the process was announced for their nationality—for Venezuelans, after October 19, 2022, and for Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans, after January 9, 2023. **There is no fee required to complete this process.**

Humanitarian Parole

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides DHS with the discretionary authority to temporarily admit an individual located outside of the United States who would otherwise be ineligible for admission through a mechanism known as “parole.” DHS determines the length of the parole period at its discretion. Parole is not a form of immigration status and does not provide a direct pathway to permanent legal status in the United States. Individuals present in the United States through parole who wish to obtain a permanent immigration status must apply for family- or employment-based adjustment, asylum, or some other immigration benefit for which they are eligible.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this parole process, individuals must:

- Be a national of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, or Venezuela or the immediate family member of such a national (e.g., a spouse, common-law partner, and/or unmarried child under the age of 21) who is outside of the United States. For those qualifying as an immediate family member, he or she must be traveling with the national;
- Have a U.S.-based financial supporter;
- Be in possession of an unexpired passport; and
- Obtain a commercial plane ticket for travel to the United States.

Individuals are rendered *ineligible* if they:

- Fail to pass national security and public safety vetting or is otherwise deemed not to merit a favorable exercise of discretion;
- Are dual nationals, refugees, or hold permanent status in another country (not applicable to immediate family members of the primary national beneficiary);
- Have been ordered removed within the prior five years or are subject to a bar to inadmissibility due to a prior removal order; or

- Have crossed irregularly into the United States between ports of entries or the Mexican or Panamanian borders after the date the process was announced (after October 19, 2022, for Venezuelans and after January 9, 2023, for Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans).

Unaccompanied individuals under the age of 18 are ineligible for this parole process.

Financial Supporters

To be a supporter for this program, an individual must:

1. Have lawful status in the United States (to include nonimmigrants in lawful status, parolees, asylees, refugees, and those granted Temporary Protected Status);
2. Pass security and background vetting; and
3. Demonstrate sufficient financial resources to receive, maintain, and support the individual(s) whom they commit to supporting for the duration of his/her/their stay in the United States.

Applying

The process includes six major steps:

1. The U.S.-based financial supporter must initiate the process by successfully completing a [Form I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support](#), on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website. **Potential beneficiaries cannot apply for this program directly.**
2. Once the supporter is confirmed, potential beneficiaries will receive an email prompting them to submit biographic information and other details on the USCIS website. Potential beneficiaries must confirm that they meet public health requirements, including certain vaccination requirements.
3. The potential beneficiary will then receive instructions about accessing the CBP One mobile application and using it to provide additional information.
4. If approved, a notice of advance travel authorization (valid for 90 days) will be provided to seek parole at a U.S. port of entry. Travel authorization does not guarantee entry or parole and beneficiaries must secure their own travel to a U.S. airport.
5. Upon inspection by Customs and Border Protection at a port of entry, discretionary parole will be granted or denied to the potential beneficiary.
6. If granted, beneficiaries receive parole for two years and the opportunity to apply for work authorization.

Additional Resources

- [Statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)
- [USCIS Website](#)
- [USCIS FAQ](#)
- [DHS Announcement](#)
- [Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. \(CLINIC\) FAQ](#)