



# Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program

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The Cuban Family Reunification Parole (CFRP) program offers certain beneficiaries of approved family-based immigration petitions ([Forms I-130, Petition for Alien Relative](#)), the opportunity to be reunited with family in the United States before their immigrant visas become available. Approved beneficiaries will enter the United States as parolees and may apply for employment authorization. Parolees may apply for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status after being present in the United States for at least one year, or once their immigrant visas become available.

## Eligibility to Apply

Petitioners who are U.S. citizens or LPRs and receive a written invitation from the National Visa Center (NVC) are eligible to apply on behalf of a relative (“beneficiary”) in Cuba. The NVC will issue invitations at least once per year.

Petitioners should make sure that the NVC has their current mailing and email addresses. They can update their addresses with the NVC using the Public Inquiry Form found on the Department of State [website](#).

## Eligibility for Parole

We will authorize parole on a case-by-case basis. Only beneficiaries in Cuba are eligible for this program. U.S. Embassy Havana staff will interview all beneficiaries. Generally, beneficiaries will only qualify for parole consideration if they would qualify for an immigrant visa (if one was immediately available). Derivative children\* who are 21 years of age or older at the time we receive the petitioner’s application for the CFRP Program will not be eligible for parole. We will consider for parole any derivative children who are under 21 years of age and unmarried on the date that we receive the petitioner’s CFRP Program application on the children’s behalf.

\*A principal beneficiary is the relative for whom the petitioner filed the underlying approved Form I-130. Derivative beneficiaries are the principal beneficiary’s spouse and unmarried children under 21. The invitation letter will indicate who is considered to be the principal beneficiary and who is considered a derivative beneficiary.

## Applying to the CFRP Program

If you are petitioning on behalf of your family members and have received an invitation letter from the NVC, you must file a parole application ([Form I-131, Application for Travel Document](#)), along with the required fee ([or fee waiver request](#)), and a [Form I-134, Affidavit of Support](#), for *each* relative you wish to have considered for parole.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Form I-130 petitioners, who received an eligibility notice from the NVC before December 18, 2014, and who submitted to the NVC all necessary documents to apply for the CFRP Program before February 17, 2015 (“grandfathered” cases), were not required to submit a USCIS form or fee to have their relatives in Cuba considered for parole under this program.

You must file Forms I-131 and I-134 for each eligible relative associated with the same underlying Form I-130 at the same time, meaning that you will need to file any applications for derivative beneficiaries at the same time as the application for the principal beneficiary. If you do not apply for the principal beneficiary of the Form I-130, we will not consider the associated derivative beneficiaries under the CFRP Program.

### **Costs**

Please [verify the current fee for Form I-131](#) before filing. You may request a fee waiver by filing the [Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver](#). For instructions, please see [USCIS's Fee Waiver Guidance](#). You or your beneficiaries will also be required to cover all costs associated with completion of a medical examination and travel to the United States, among other costs.

If your relative's immigrant visa becomes available during processing for CFRP, he or she may choose to continue with the parole process. Alternatively, your relative may choose to be processed by the Department of State for an immigrant visa, in which case, he or she will be required to pay any fees associated with that process. We will not refund the CFRP Program application fee.

### **Beneficiary Interview Required**

Embassy staff must interview all beneficiaries before travel documents can be issued. If a USCIS service center conditionally approves your Form I-131 application, the NVC will schedule an interview for your beneficiary at the U.S. Embassy in Havana and will notify you of the date and time of your beneficiary's interview. Do not attempt to schedule an appointment directly with USCIS or the U.S. Embassy.

### **If Travel is Approved**

The U.S. Embassy in Havana will issue the necessary travel documents to your beneficiary. Once at a U.S. port of entry, a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer will review the documents and, assuming all is in order, will parole the beneficiary into the United States. Your beneficiary will receive a Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, documenting his or her parole into the United States.

### **Initial Period of Parole**

Beneficiaries approved under the CFRP Program will be paroled into to United States for an initial period of two years.

### **Eligibility for Work Authorization**

Parolees are lawfully present in the United States. Once in the United States, they will be eligible to apply for work authorization by filing the [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), and submitting the appropriate fee or fee waiver request.

### **What it Means to be Paroled**

Parole allows an individual to be lawfully present in the United States, to apply for work authorization, and to work upon receipt of work authorization. Parole itself does not give any legal immigration status in the United States.

### **Public Benefits Eligibility**

Once paroled into the United States, CFRP Program beneficiaries will meet the definition of Cuban/Haitian entrants under section 501(e)(1) of the Refugee Education and Assistance Act of 1980, as amended, and will be "qualified aliens" for the purposes of public benefits eligibility.

### **Adjustment of Status**

Beneficiaries will be expected to apply for adjustment of status under the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act after being physically present in the United States for at least one year. Alternatively, beneficiaries may apply for adjustment of status when their immigrant visas become available. If they have not applied for adjustment of

status under the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act or their immigrant visas have not become available before their initial parole authorization expires, CFRP Program beneficiaries will have to apply for re-parole if they are to remain lawfully present in the United States.

**The CFRP program is not right for everyone.** You should consider:

- **USCIS cannot guarantee that the parole program will provide faster reunification with family than the immigrant visa process in every case.** Whether the parole program or the immigrant visa process is a faster way for your relative to join you in the United States depends on a number of factors, such as:
  - How soon your relative's immigrant visa will be available,
  - How quickly you apply for parole on your relative's behalf,
  - Whether we must request additional information from you to establish your relative's eligibility for the program, and
  - How soon after approval your relative travels to the United States.
- **The fees associated with participating in the CFRP program versus waiting outside the United States for the immigrant visa differ.**
  - An individual paroled under the CFRP Program is expected to apply for LPR status (a Green Card) after being present in the United States for at least one year or when his or her visa becomes "current" (meaning available). The parolee must pay a fee or request a fee waiver if the parolee wants work authorization.
  - An individual who waits outside the United States for an immigrant visa to become available and undergoes immigrant visa processing enters the United States as an LPR and is authorized to work once admitted, so no additional costs are required to apply for work authorization.