Asylum Quarterly Engagement

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

September 19, 2023
USCIS Speakers

- John Lafferty, Chief of the Asylum Division
- Ashley Caudill-Mirillo, Deputy Chief of the Asylum Division
- Sasha Ridley, Branch Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy
Asylum Division Receipts (FY 2023)

Receipts per Program, FY 2023
- Affirmative Asylum: 430,862
- Credible Fear: 142,609
- Reasonable Fear: 9,877

Top Affirmative Asylum Nationalities, FY 2023
- Cuba: 18%
- Haiti: 6%
- Venezuela: 22%
- Nicaragua: 8%
- Colombia: 8%
- All other countries: 38%

Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)

- As of Sep. 15, 2023:
  - **Over 19,000** Asylum Applications from OAW Parolees
  - **16,000** Interviews completed for these cases
  - **6,300** Completed adjudications
  - Of cases completed, an approval rate greater than 99%
Asylum Division Receipts (FY 2023)


Top Credible Fear Nationalities, FY 2023
- Venezuela: 14%
- Colombia: 21%
- Ecuador: 10%
- Dominican Republic: 6%
- Peru: 9%
- All other countries: 40%

Top Reasonable Fear Nationalities, FY 2023
- Mexico: 22%
- All other countries: 29%
- Honduras: 21%
- Guatemala: 11%
- Nicaragua: 8%
- El Salvador: 9%
- All other countries: 29%
Asylum Merits Interviews
DHS OIS data valid as of end June 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asylum Processing Rule Cohort Report: Outcome Summary</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMI-Eligible Credible Fear Claim Outcomes</strong></td>
<td>5,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Fear Findings(^1)</td>
<td>3,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Fear Findings(^2)</td>
<td>2,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin Closed(^3)</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending Completion(^4)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other(^5)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMI USCIS Case Outcomes</strong></td>
<td>1,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum Granted</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IJ Referral</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin Closed(^6)</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending Completion</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMI Cases Referred to EOIR - Comprehensive EOIR Case Outcomes</strong></td>
<td>639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief(^7)</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal Orders/Voluntary Departure(^8)</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminated/Dismissed by IJ/Other(^9)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending(^10)</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hiring and Recruitment

We continue to aggressively recruit, hire and train individuals to fill all existing vacancies

- Total authorized staff is currently 2,524 with 1,663 positions filled
- 760 of 1,028 asylum officer positions are filled: 74%
- Approximately 861 vacancies remaining, with 352 candidates in the recruitment process
Affirmative Asylum Updates

Interpreter Temporary Final Rule

• The Interpreter Temporary Final Rule ended on September 12, 2023
• Applicants are required to bring their own interpreter

Asylum Backlog Reduction

• USCIS remains committed to completing the oldest pending asylum cases
• Over 8,200 completions in FY 2023, through August 20, were of the oldest pending cases (23% of all completions)
Filing Form I-589 - Lockbox

• General Filing Tips

Use the USCIS Filing Instruction Tool on the Form I-589 landing page to determine whether you may file your Form I-589 with USCIS.

• Be sure to:
  • Review the Instructions for Form I-589 for eligibility requirements for yourself, your spouse, and children.
  • Use the newest edition of Form I-589 (03/01/23)
  • Include all pages of the form and do not forget to include your signature on page 9.

• Please Note:
  • The application must be completed in English; this includes explanation fields on the form.
  • We no longer need passport-style photos, multiple copies of the form, or multiple copies of supporting documentation.
Facilities Update

• Seattle Asylum Office
  • GSA expects to finish buildout work in approximately March 2025
  • Occupancy projected to occur in April 2025

• San Francisco Asylum Temporary Facility
  • GSA expects to finish buildout work by the end of October 2023
  • Occupancy projected to occur on November 24, 2023
Applicants with a Pending Asylum Application

• If your asylum application is pending at least 150 days, you can apply for an EAD under the (c)(8) category.

• If you reach 180 days, you may receive an EAD to begin working in the United States.
  - This does not include any delays you request or cause.

• There is **no filing fee for an initial (c)(8) EAD** if you have a pending asylum application for at least 150 days and USCIS never issued you an EAD under the (c)(8) category.

Note: if you are requesting a renewal or replacement EAD under the (c)(8) category, you must pay the filing fee.
Required Evidence from Applicants with a Pending Asylum Application

To apply for an EAD as an applicant with a pending asylum application under category (c)(8), you must provide the following documents:

• Evidence that you applied for asylum with USCIS or EOIR;
• A copy of your government-issued identity document, such as a passport;
• A copy of your last EAD, if you had one;
• Two identical passport-style photographs;
• Evidence of any arrests and convictions (if applicable); and
• Form G-28 (if a legal representative is working for you).
How Do I Apply for Employment Authorization?

You must submit Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

You can submit the form two ways:

- **Online at** [my.uscis.gov](http://my.uscis.gov).
  - You will need to create a free USCIS online account.

- **On paper by mailing us a paper Form I-765 found at** [uscis.gov/i-765](http://uscis.gov/i-765).

If you submit your form online, it will get to us faster. Plus, you will be able to access all notices online in your account.
Why Apply for Employment Authorization Online?

• When you apply online, you avoid common mistakes like:
  o Missing signature
  o Incomplete forms
  o Incorrect fee
• These mistakes are often why paper forms are rejected.
• Create a free USCIS online account at my.uscis.gov.

• The fee is the same whether you apply online or on paper.
• We have videos in English, Spanish, Dari and Pashto at uscis.gov/file-online.
Welcome To Your USCIS Account

Select What You Want To Do

- Add a case to your account
  - Enter your online access code (OAC) to add and manage a case to your account

- File a form online
  - Start a new form, upload evidence, and pay and submit online

- Enter a representative passcode
  - Review and sign forms prepared for you by your attorney or representative

- Verify your identity
  - Answer questions about your immigration history to verify your personal identity
Account Features

- Link a paper form
- Check case status
- Send a secure message
- Upload Evidence
- Respond to Requests for Evidence
- Change your address

myUSCIS makes immigration simpler

myUSCIS provides a personalized account to help you navigate the immigration process. On myUSCIS, you will find:

- Up-to-date information about the application process for immigration benefits;
- Tools to help you prepare for filing and help finding citizenship preparation.

USCIS is licensed to use this image.
Helpful Resources

Form I-765
- uscis.gov/i-765

Employment Resources for Parolees
- uscis.gov/humanitarian/employment-resources-for-parolees-in-the-united-states

Department of Justice Immigrant and Employee Rights Section
- justice.gov/crt/immigrant-and-employee-rights-section

USCIS Online Account
- my.uscis.gov

How Do I Get a New Online Access Code
- uscis.gov/about-us/contact-us/how-do-i-get-a-new-online-access-code

Video: How to Create a USCIS Online Account
- uscis.gov/file-online/how-to-create-a-uscis-online-account (videos available in English, Spanish, Dari, and Pashto)

Technical Support for Your Account
- my.uscis.gov/account/needhelp

Change Your Address
- uscis.gov/addresschange
- uscis.gov/ar-11
Q&A

We want to hear from you!

• Please ask your question in the Q&A box.
• Please provide your full name and organization.
• Please do not ask about individual cases. We cannot address case-specific questions.
• We cannot address anything under litigation.
Concluding Remarks

Thank you for joining today’s session.

To provide additional feedback, please email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.
Disclaimer

This presentation is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create or confer any right(s) or benefit(s), substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any individual or other party in benefit requests before USCIS, in removal proceedings, in litigation with the United States, or in any other form or manner. This presentation does not have the force of law, or of a DHS directive.
Dissemination

• This presentation may not be reproduced or further disseminated without the express written consent of USCIS.
About This Presentation

• Author: USCIS
• Date of last revision: 09/19/2023
• This presentation contains no sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
• Any references in documents or text, with the exception of case law, relate to fictitious individuals.