

## **FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROCESSES (FRP)** FOR COLOMBIA, CUBA, EL SALVADOR, **GUATEMALA, HAITI, AND HONDURAS**



An Overview of the Requirements and Application Steps

09/08/2023

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### **Speakers and Agenda**



### **Introduction and Overview**

Dawn Hart, Community Relations Specialist, Office of Citizenship, Partnership and Engagement

### **Process Overview**

Josh Rigney, Policy Analyst, USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

### **How to File Form I-134A Online**

Quinn Andrus, Outreach Specialist, Digital Services Division



# **OVERVIEW**

Josh Rigney, Policy Analyst USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

### **Overview**



- July 10, 2023—Federal Register published notices for family reunification parole (FRP) processes for Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala & Honduras.
- Aug. 11, 2023—Federal Register published notices that updated existing FRP processes for Cuba & Haiti.
- Allows eligible nationals from these countries and their immediate family members to be considered for parole into the United States for up to 3 years.
- By Invitation Only—Only available to petitioners with an approved Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative.





# **PROCESS OVERVIEW**

Josh Rigney, Policy Analyst USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

### **Definition of Terms**



Term	Definition
Petitioner	A U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident in the United States whose <u>Form I-130, Petition for Alien</u> <u>Relative</u> , was approved. *Only petitioners who receive an invitation can submit Form I-134A.
Beneficiaries	Family members for whom Form I-130 was filed and approved. Beneficiaries may receive parole under family reunification processes to enter the United States for up to 3 years.
Principal beneficiary	<ul> <li>A family member for whom a petitioner filed Form I-130. This includes:</li> <li>Unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens.</li> <li>Spouses, children (under 21), and unmarried sons/daughters (21 or older) of permanent residents.</li> <li>Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens.</li> <li>Siblings of U.S. citizens.</li> </ul>
Derivative beneficiaries	A principal beneficiary's spouse and unmarried children under age 21. They may also be listed on the approved Form I-130.
Add-on derivative beneficiary	If principal beneficiary marries or has a child after USCIS approves Form I-130, their spouse or unmarried child under 21 may become an add-on derivative beneficiary and may be eligible for parole.

### **FRP Requires an Invitation**

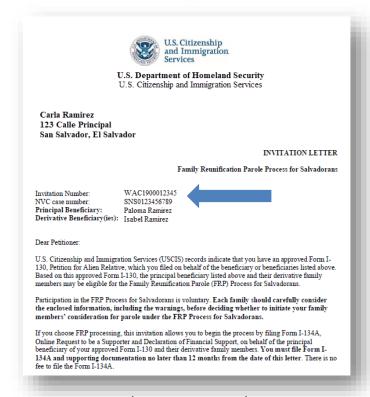


- Family reunification parole is available *by invitation only* to:
  - Nationals of Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Honduras who are principal beneficiaries of an approved Form I-130, and their immediate family members.
  - Petitioners may submit Form I-134A on behalf of family members only if they receive a written invitation from the Department of State.
- Petitioners must submit Form I-134A within one year.
- USCIS has an invitation search tool at: <u>uscis.gov/frpinvitations</u>.

### **Step 1: Petitioner Receives Invitation**



- **Invitation:** An invitation will be emailed or mailed to petitioner who filed the approved Form I-130.
- **Instructions:** Invitation will explain how to be considered under FRP.
- Identifying Number: Each invitation will have an identifying number the petitioner must include in Form I-134A.
  - Petitioner must include identifying number for each beneficiary and derivative beneficiary listed on Form I-134A.



Sample invitation letter showing identifying number.

### **Step 2: Petitioner Submits Form I-134A**



Petitioner submits Form I-134A online for each beneficiary through the USCIS online account.

\* If someone other than the invited Form I-130 petitioner submits Form I-134A, we will not confirm it.

#### Eligibility requirements:

- Petitioner must show they can financially support the beneficiary.
- Petitioner may include co-supporters.
- Family must provide evidence of family relationships between principal beneficiary and derivative and add-on derivative beneficiaries in Form I-134A for each beneficiary.
- All evidence submitted must have a full certified English translation.
- Petitioner must clear background checks.



Licensed image from the Microsoft PowerPoint image gallery.

# **Step 3: Beneficiary Submits Biographic Info**



### **Principal Beneficiary:**

- If USCIS confirms Form I-134A, beneficiary receives email from USCIS on how to create a USCIS online account and the next steps in the process.
- Beneficiary confirms biographic information and attests to meeting eligibility requirements.
- Beneficiary gets a panel physician exam and then attests to completing medical requirements after the medical exam is complete.
- If a beneficiary attests to medical requirements before a panel physician completes their medical exam, the beneficiary will be denied travel authorization.



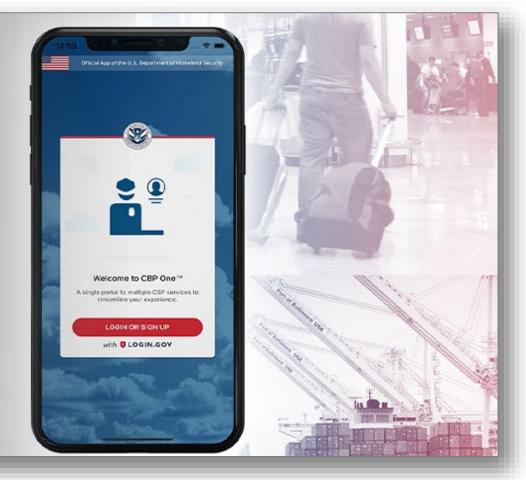
### **Step 4: CBP One Mobile Application**



Beneficiary must use CBP One mobile app to:

- Enter biographic information.
- Provide passport scan.
- Submit live photo.





 $\label{lem:courtesy} \textbf{Courtesy of U.S. Customs and Border Protection}$ 

### **Step 5: Advance Travel Authorization**



- CBP will post travel authorization determination to beneficiary's USCIS online account. (The petitioner will not have access to the travel document.)
- Advance travel authorization is valid for 90 days.
- Beneficiaries must arrange and pay for their travel to U.S. Derivative beneficiaries must travel with or after the principal beneficiary.
- CBP makes final parole determination when beneficiary is processed at U.S. port of entry.
- A beneficiary must have a valid passport, or other acceptable documentation as described in invitation letter sent to petitioner.



### Step 6: Seeking Parole at U.S. Port of Entry



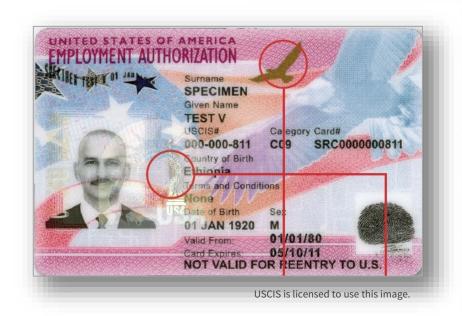


- CBP makes a final discretionary decision on whether to grant parole.
- Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis when beneficiary arrives and is processed at a U.S. port of entry.

### Step 7: Beneficiary is Paroled Into U.S.



- People granted parole are generally paroled into U.S. for up to 3 years.
- Parolees may apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) by submitting Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization.
- We encourage parolees to submit Form I-765 online at <u>my.uscis.gov.</u>
- If approved, EAD is valid for authorized period of parole.





# **Eligibility Requirements**

Josh Rigney, Policy Analyst USCIS Office of Policy & Strategy

# Who Is Eligible to Submit Form I-134A (Petitioners)



### Who can submit Form I-134A under FRP?

- U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents who:
  - Submitted Form I-130 for a family member (the principal beneficiary) and USCIS approved it.
  - Received an invitation by mail or email to initiate the process as a supporter of the principal or derivative beneficiaries.



### Who Can Be a Beneficiary Under FRP?



To qualify for parole under FRP, a beneficiary must:

- Be outside the United States.
- Be the principal beneficiary (or derivative beneficiary spouse or child) of an approved Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative.
- Be a national of one of the six countries in the FRP process, or a derivative beneficiary spouse or child of a principal beneficiary from one of those countries.
- Have a petitioning relative in the U.S. who received an invitation to be a supporter who then filed Form I-134A that USCIS confirmed.
- Not have already received an immigrant visa.
- Have an unexpired passport valid for international travel.

### **Derivative Beneficiaries**



- The principal beneficiary's spouse and unmarried children (under 21) are called derivative beneficiaries. They may also eligible for parole under FRP.
- Petitioner must file Form I-134A for derivative beneficiaries at the same time they file Form I-134A for the principal beneficiary.
- Derivative beneficiaries are only eligible for travel authorization if CBP approves travel authorization to the principal beneficiary.
- If petitioner does not submit Form I-134A for principal beneficiary, or if USCIS or CBP determine the principal beneficiary is not eligible, their derivative beneficiaries will not be eligible.

### Who Is Not Eligible to be a Beneficiary?



Nationals from Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are ineligible for FRP if they:

- Entered the United States without inspection after July 10, 2023;
- Were interdicted at sea after July 10, 2023;
- Were ordered removed from U.S. within the past five years; or
- Are inadmissible based on a prior removal order.

# Updates to the Cuban and Haitian Family Reunification Parole Processes



- Aug. 11, 2023--DHS announced updates to the Cuban and Haitian FRP processes.
- These processes remain available on an invitation-only basis.
- They will follow the same steps as FRP processes for Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.
- The previous Haitian FRP process required that the underlying Form I-130 was approved by USCIS on or before Dec. 18, 2014. This requirement no longer applies.

# Filings Under Previous Cuban Family Reunification Parole (CFRP)

- USCIS will mail notices to petitioners who submitted Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, under the previous CFRP, where the Cuban beneficiary is waiting for an interview.
- Notice explains how they can participate in the updated FRP process for Cubans.
- If petitioner wants consideration under new FRP, they must submit Form I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support.
- Petitioner can also choose to continue with previous CFRP process. In this case, the petitioner does not need to do anything.





Petitioners can stay with previous CFRP process or switch to new FRP.

# **Employment Authorization Document**



- Certain noncitizens need to apply for Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to work legally in U.S.
- An EAD can be used as proof of your identity and authorization to work.
- When you apply for an EAD, you can also request a Social Security number to get a Social Security card.



USCIS is licensed to use this image.

# How Do I Apply for an Employment Authorization Document?



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

- You can submit the form two ways:
  - 1. Online at <u>my.uscis.gov</u>
    - You will need to create a free USCIS online account.

2. On paper by mailing us a paper Form I-765 found at <u>uscis.gov/i-765</u>.



# Filing Form I-134A Online

**Quinn Andrus, Outreach Specialist** 

# Filing Form I-134A Online

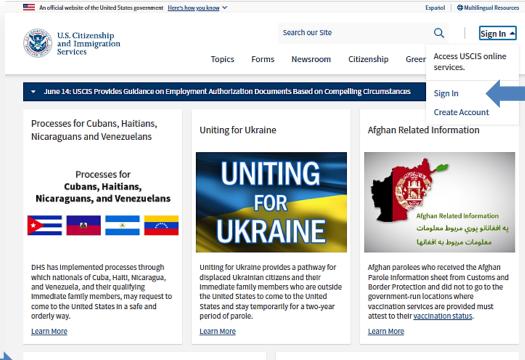


- Creating a USCIS Online Account
- Submitting your form online
  - Uploading evidence
  - Checking for errors



# **Creating a USCIS Online Account**





### Access myUSCIS here:

- uscis.gov
- my.uscis.gov
- myaccount.uscis.gov

 Video on how to create an account: <u>uscis.gov/file-online/how-to-create-a-uscis-online-account</u>

#### File Online



Filing a <u>form online</u> is easier and faster than paper filing, it gives you a simple and personalized way to track your case online. You can also access other USCIS services. Check out our <u>online filing video</u>.

The first step is to create an account.

#### Manage Your Case

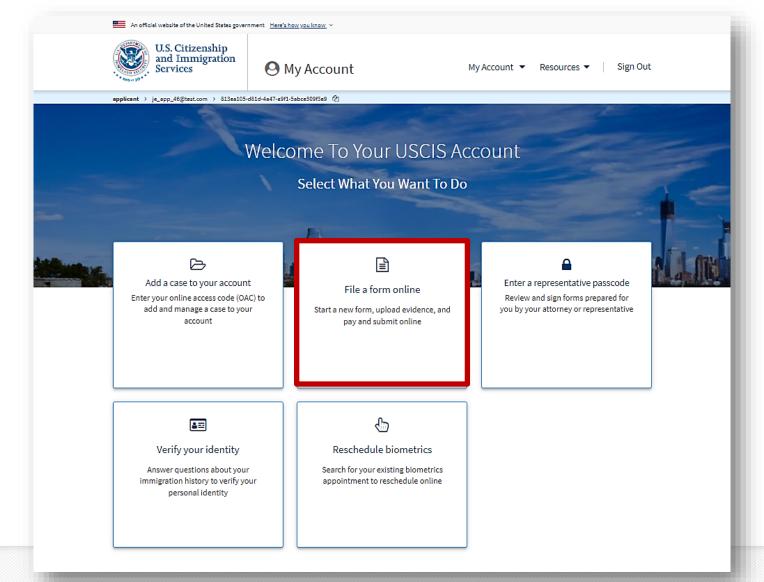


Use our online tools and resources to manage your case:

- Check your case status
- · Check processing times
- Change your address online

# **Onboarding Page**





### Filing Form I-134A

- Form I-134A is among other forms in the drop-down menu.
- Yellow highlighted notes are there to help guide you.
- Only the Petitioner of the approved I-130 may file Form I-134A.
- Form I-134A must be submitted online at my.uscis.gov.

Select the form you want to file online.

I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support

Some immigration benefits that involve a temporary stay in the United States require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to determine whether the applicant or beneficiary of the request has sufficient financial resources or financial support to pay for expenses during the temporary stay. The individual who submits Form I-134A must establish that they have both sufficient financial resources and access to those funds to support the beneficiary listed on Form I-134A for the duration of the beneficiary's stay in the United States.

⚠ We are only accepting online filing of Form I-134A from individuals agreeing to financially support eligible beneficiaries from the following countries:

- Colombia
- Cuba
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Ukraine
- Venezuela

You must be located in the United States to file Form I-134A online, Individuals seeking parole through these processes may not file Form I-134A on their own behalf. Supporters must include the name of the beneficiary on Form I-134A.

Supporters must file a separate Form I-134A for each beneficiary they are planning to support, including minor children.

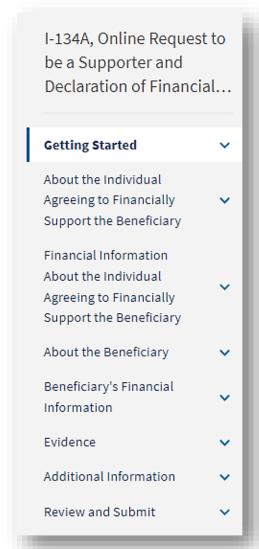
To be eligible for this process, children under the age of 18 must be traveling to the United States in the care and custody of their parent or legal guardian and be able to provide documentation to confirm the relationship.

If you are agreeing to support a beneficiary who is not seeking consideration for parole under one of these programs or processes, you must file a paper Form I-134 through the appropriate Lockbox location.

Start form

### Form I-134A Navigation



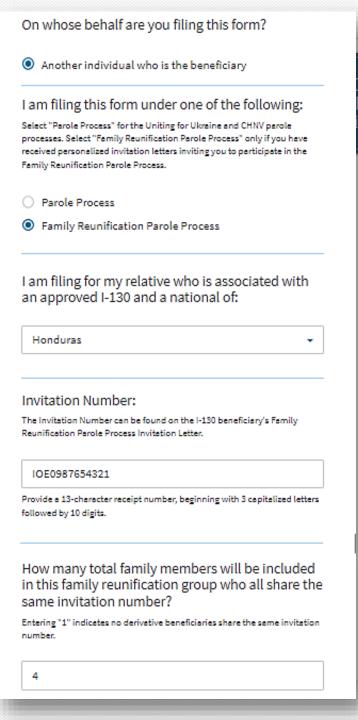


### Form I-134A has eight sections

- 1. Getting Started.
- 2. About the supporter.
- 3. Financial information about the supporter.
- 4. About the beneficiary.
- 5. Beneficiary's financial information.
- 6. Evidence.
- 7. Additional information.
- 8. Review and Submit.

## Who Are You Filing The Form For?

- Select Family Reunification Parole.
- Choose country of nationality.
- Enter invitation number from Department of State letter.
- Indicate number of family members in family reunification group.



### **Your Name**



#### What is your current legal name?

Your current legal name is the name on your birth certificate, unless it changed after birth by a legal action such as marriage or court order. Do not provide any nicknames here.

Middle name

#### Given name (first name)

Mohammed

Family name (last name)

Said

• Enter your name.

 You must be the petitioner on an approved Form I-130.

## Relationship to the Beneficiary

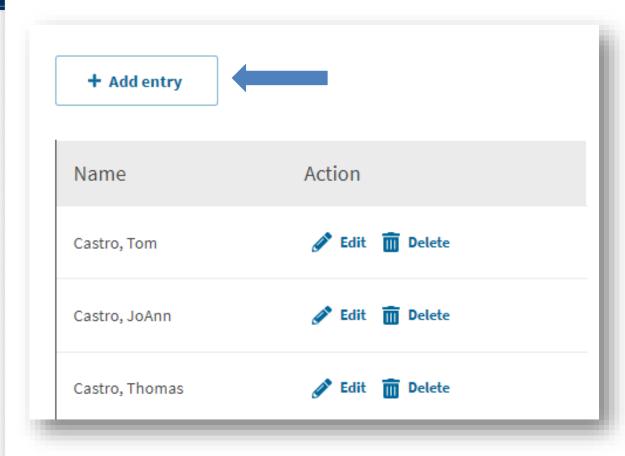




- Choose the relationship established by your approved Form I-130.
  - Example: If you submitted Form I-130 for your spouse, you would choose "Spouse" from the list.

## **Adding Your Dependents**





- Add the names of people you support now.
  - Do not include beneficiary or their dependents here.
- If your dependents have income, include it.
- If their income will help support your beneficiary, list the amount.

## **How Will You Support Your Beneficiary**



### The form asks:

- What resources will you use to cover beneficiary's basic needs?
- How will you provide housing for your beneficiary?
- How will you help beneficiary learn English, find work, enroll children in school, etc.

You are responsible for receiving, maintaining, and supporting the beneficiary for the duration of their temporary stay in the United States. Describe the resources you plan to use or provide to ensure the beneficiary has adequate financial support to cover their basic living needs.

I will provide a monthly stipend to assist with daily needs.

### **Listing Your Assets**

Provide information about any assets you will use to support the beneficiary for the anticipated period of his or her stay. List only assets that can be converted into cash within 12 months and that will be used to support the beneficiary while the beneficiary is in the United States. Provide the value of all assets listed in U.S. dollars, regardless of whether they are held in the United States or outside of the United States. Do not include assets from any individuals in the "Beneficiary's Financial Information" section.

You may also include your household members' assets below. Attach evidence in the "Evidence" section under "Proof of assets" and "Bonds" showing that you, or your dependents, have these assets.



What is the total amount (U.S. dollars)?

\$ 5,000.00

### What is the asset holder's full name? Given name (first name) Middle name Mohammad Family name (last name) Said What is the type of asset? Savings - Bank Account Checking - Bank Account Savings - Bank Account Annuities Stocks, Bonds, Certificates of Deposit Retirement or Educational Account Real Estate Holdings Personal Property (net value) Save entry Cancel



U.S. Citizenship

Services

and Immigration

### **Did You Submit Form I-134A Before?**



- Did you ever submit Form I-134 or Form I-134A for someone else?
- If yes, you must provide information about them.

Provide the information about the persubmitted a Form I-134 or Form I-134/ this Form I-134A.	
What is the person's nam	e?
Given name (first name)	Middle name
Family name (last name)	
What is the person's A-nu	mber?
I do not have or know the person	's A-Number.
A-	
Provide a 7, 8, or 9-digit number. If you system will automatically add zero(s) so there is a total of 9 digits, for examp	_

# **About the Beneficiary**



#### What is the beneficiary's current legal name?

The beneficiary's current legal name is the name on their birth certificate, unless it changed after birth by a legal action such as marriage or court order. Do not provide any nicknames here.

Given name (first name)	Middle name
Family name (last name)	

# Enter beneficiary details

- Legal name.
- Date of birth.
- Country of birth.
- Country of nationality.
- Gender.
- Mailing address.
- Email address & passport number—
   Very important to be accurate!

# Justification for Beneficiary's Parole



- Write at least 750
   characters explaining why
   the beneficiary deserves
   favorable discretion.
- If you don't enter 750 characters, you will not be able to proceed.

A grant of parole is a discretionary determination granted on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Please explain why a favorable exercise of discretion is merited for this individual.

In this space, you must enter at least 750 characters and write a detailed explanation of the beneficiary's personal situation that justifies a favorable exercise of discretion. If you don't you will get this red alert indicating you need to provide more information.

minimum required length of at least 750 characters

267/1500

# **Confirm Beneficiary's Nationality**



What is the beneficiary's country of citizenship or nationality?

⚠ We are only accepting online filing of Form I-134A from individuals agreeing to financially support Colombian, Cuban, Guatemalan, Haitian, Honduran, and Salvadorian citizens and their immediate family

Immediate family members are:

- · Their spouse or common-law partner; and
- · Unmarried children under the age of 21.

**Note:** Individuals only eligible as immediate family members and children under age 18 must travel with their beneficiary spouse, common law partner, parent, or legal guardian to be eligible for parole.

Colombia

What country issued the beneficiary's most recently issued passport?

⚠ We are only accepting online filing of Form I-134A from individuals agreeing to financially support Colombian, Cuban, Guatemalan, Haitian, Honduran, and Salvadorian citizens and their immediate family

Immediate family members are:

- · Their spouse or common-law partner; and
- · Unmarried children under the age of 21.

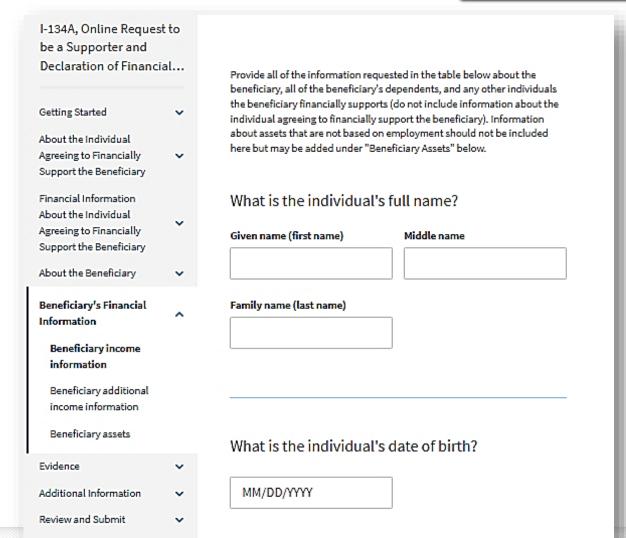
**Note:** Individuals only eligible as immediate family members and children under age 18 must travel with their beneficiary spouse, common law partner, parent, or legal guardian to be eligible for parole.

Colombia

# **Information About Beneficiary**



- Provide information about the:
  - Beneficiary.
  - Derivative beneficiaries, and
  - People the beneficiary financially supports.
- Enter information about income and how that money is earned.



### **Evidence**

- Form will ask for evidence.
- Read each prompt and upload documents.
  - For example:
  - If you said you are a U.S. citizen, upload proof of U.S. citizenship.
  - If you listed assets in a savings account, upload your bank statement.
  - If you said you are married, upload proof of your marriage.
- All evidence submitted in a language other than English must have a certified English translation.
- Pay attention to file rules.

#### Bank Officer Statement

Provide a statement from an officer of the bank or other financial institutions with deposits, identifying the following details:

- Date account opened
- · Total amount deposited for the past year; and
- Present balance.

As the person who agrees to financially support the beneficiary, you must show you have sufficient income or financial resources to support the beneficiary. Failure to provide evidence of sufficient income or financial resources may result in the denial of the foreign national's application for a visa or his or her removal from the United States.

#### ile requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 12MB per file

Choose or drop files here to upload

Proof of beneficiary's marital status

Evidence

Bonds

Bank officer statement

Proof of immigration status

Proof of assets of individual agreeing to financially

Proof of beneficiary's assets

support the beneficiary

Employer statement

Income tax return

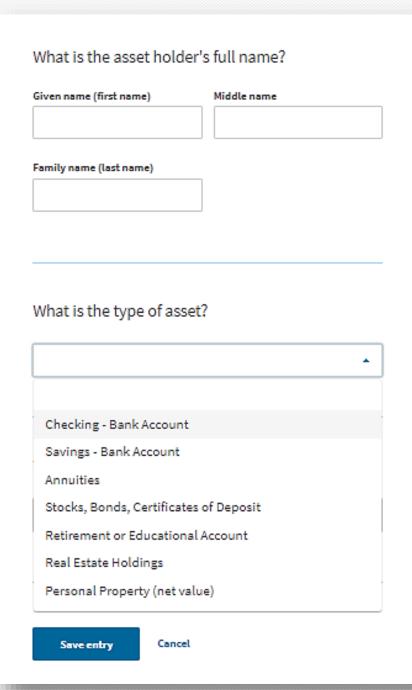
Proof of beneficiary's family relationship

Back

Nex

# **Listing Beneficiary Assets**

- Enter beneficiary's assets (if any) and their value.
- Same steps you did earlier for supporter assets.



# **Beneficiary's Family Relationships**



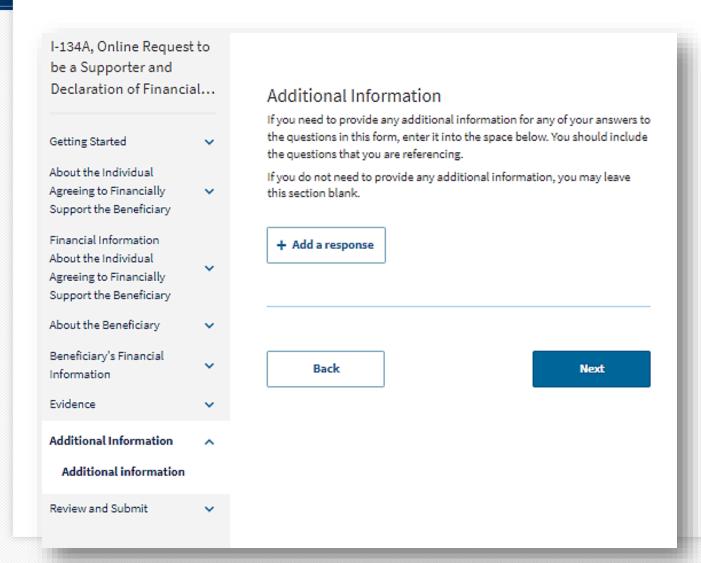
- Upload evidence of primary beneficiary's age (the primary beneficiary on Form I-130)
- Upload evidence showing the age of any derivative beneficiaries.
- Upload evidence of the relationship between principal derivative and any derivative beneficiaries.

#### Proof Of Beneficiary's Family Relationship Provide evidence of the beneficiary's age and family relationship with the principal beneficiary of an approved Form I-130. If the beneficiary is the principal beneficiary of an approved Form I-130, only evidence of the beneficiary's age is required. File requirements Clear and readable. Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF No encrypted or password-protected files If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original Upload no more than five documents at a time · Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses Maximum size: 12MB per file Choose or drop files here to upload

Back

### **Additional Information**





 Upload any other evidence you want to provide.

### **Review and Submit**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

- Check your work.
- Print your form or download a PDF.



#### Check your declaration before you submit

Please review your declaration and check it for accuracy and completeness before you submit it.

We encourage you to provide as many responses as you can throughout the declaration. Missing or incomplete information may slow down the review process after you submit your declaration.

You can return to this page to review your declaration as many times as you want before you submit it.

#### Your fee



**Refund policy:** USCIS does not refund fees, regardless of any action we take on your application, petition or request, or how long USCIS takes to reach a decision. By continuing this transaction, you acknowledge that you must submit fees in the exact amount and that you are paying the fees for a government service.

#### hip ation

# **Alerts About Errors**

System produces different alerts.

- Red alert is hard stop.
- Yellow alert is soft stop.
- Blue alert is an FYI.
- Green alert is GOOD TO GO.

#### Alerts and warnings

You have one or more alerts and warnings based on the information you provided in your declaration.

A red alert means you have incomplete responses or inconsistent data. You cannot submit your declaration with any alerts.

There are errors in About the Individual Agreeing to Financially Support the Beneficiary: Contact information for the individual agreeing to financially support the beneficiary

**Edit my responses** 

There are errors in About the Individual Agreeing to Financially Support the Beneficiary: When and where the individual agreeing to financially support the beneficiary was born

Edit my responses

### **Submit Your Form I-134A**





Once you submit this declaration, you will receive a confirmation with details on any next steps. We will record the date of your submission with the declaration. Your case status will be updated on your home page.

Submit the I-134A

You have successfully submitted your Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support (I-134A)

We will contact you if we have any questions or need additional information. You can track the status of your declaration through your USCIS online account.

Go to my cases

#### Resources



Frequently Asked Questions About Family Reunification Parole uscis.gov/FRP

FRP Invitation Lookup Tool <u>uscis.gov/frpinvitations</u>

USCIS Online Account <u>my.uscis.gov</u>

**Technical Support** <u>my.uscis.gov/account/needhelp</u>

**Avoid Immigration Scams** <u>uscis.gov/avoid-scams</u>

CBP One Mobile Application <a href="mailto:cbp.gov/about/mobile-apps-directory/cbpone">cbp.gov/about/mobile-apps-directory/cbpone</a>

**Eligibility for Federal Benefits** <u>acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees/factsheets</u>

**Update Your Address** <u>my.uscis.gov</u> or <u>uscis.gov/addresschange</u>

# **Concluding Remarks**



Thank you for joining today's session.

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**Author: USCIS** 

Date of last revision: September 8, 2023

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