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# USCIS Update

## **USCIS Modifies Participation Requirement in District Office Rapid Adjudication (DORA) Pilot Program**

*Participation requirements now optional for certain alien applicants in Texas and Oklahoma*

**WASHINGTON**—Immigrant applicants in the Dallas, El Paso and Oklahoma City areas will no longer be required to participate in a pilot program that uses alternate filing procedures to process permanent residence or adjustment of status applications, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today. A public notice announcing the change is published in today's [Federal Register](#).

The [District Office Rapid Adjudication](#) (DORA) project is a pilot program launched by USCIS last September that required certain aliens in the Dallas, El Paso and Oklahoma City areas to file their Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status form (I-485) in person. The program was designed to test whether alternate filing procedures would reduce I-485 processing times.

The program required applicants to schedule an appointment at a local USCIS office using the agency's Web-based [InfoPass](#). USCIS is now making participation in the pilot program optional due to a continuing increase in demand for available InfoPass appointments.

InfoPass users are currently waiting an average of three weeks before an appointment becomes available. Optional filing provides eligible applicants the flexibility to file their application package immediately by mail under the current fee schedule, rather than wait for an InfoPass appointment and potentially be subject to the higher application [fees](#) that become effective on July 30, 2007.

Applicants now have the option to voluntarily file their form I-485 package under the DORA program or use normal filing procedures by mailing their application package to a Chicago Lockbox Facility using [direct mail instructions](#) for the Form I-485.

Eligibility and filing requirements for both the DORA program and for direct mail to the Chicago Lockbox are available on the USCIS Web site at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).