



Immigration Update Pertaining to Afghanistan and the Designation for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

On March 16, 2022, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that Afghanistan will be designated for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months.

What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may designate a foreign country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may grant TPS to eligible nationals of certain countries (or parts of countries), who are already in the United States. Eligible individuals without nationality who last resided in the designated country may also be granted TPS.

What does this announcement mean?

The designation of TPS for Afghanistan allows Afghani nationals (and individuals without nationality who last resided in the Afghanistan) who have continuously resided in the United States since March 15, 2022 to file an initial application for TPS, as long as they meet eligibility requirements. Please note that those who travel to the United States after March 15, 2022, are not be eligible for TPS. Individuals granted TPS are not removable from the United States, can obtain an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) or work permit, Social Security Number, and may be granted travel authorization.

When can I apply for TPS?

Please note that because the TPS designation has not been officially published in the Federal Register yet, the application process has NOT started. To confirm the start of the application process, please call the New York State New Americans Hotline - a hotline that provides free information and referrals on immigration matters - at 800-566-7636, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

How do I apply?

We recommend consulting a lawyer to determine if you are eligible to apply for TPS and to learn more about what documents you need to include in your application.

If you have questions, please call Catholic Migration Services at (718) 236-3000, extension 2015, extension 2018, or you can e-mail us at immigrationassistance@catholicmigration.org with your name, phone number and the languages you speak.

For additional information, you can also contact Action NYC at (800) 354-0365 – Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. – to connect with City-funded, free and safe immigration legal help.

As of March 21, 2022