



## Fact Sheet: Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador

*This fact sheet is current as of January 21, 2025.*

On Friday, January 17, 2025, Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro N. Mayorkas, announced the [extension of designation of Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\)](#) for El Salvador which begins on March 10, 2025, and will remain in effect for 18 months, ending on September 9, 2026.

### What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

TPS is granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to eligible foreign-born individuals who are unable to return home safely due to conditions or circumstances preventing their return to their home country.

During the designated TPS period, TPS holders are not removable from the United States and not detainable by DHS based on their immigration status. TPS holders are eligible for an employment authorization document (EAD) and for travel authorization.

### What does the extension of TPS for El Salvador mean?

The 18-month extension of El Salvador's TPS designation begins on March 10, 2025, and will remain in effect for 18 months, ending on September 9, 2026. The extension allows existing TPS beneficiaries to retain TPS through September 9, 2026, if they otherwise continue to meet the eligibility requirements for TPS. Existing TPS beneficiaries who wish to extend their status through September 9, 2026, must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period described in this notice.

Note: It is important for re-registrants to timely re-register during the re-registration period and not to wait until their Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) expire, as delaying re-registration could result in gaps in their employment authorization documentation. The 60-day re-registration period for existing beneficiaries runs from January 17, 2025, through March 18, 2025.

### How do I apply for TPS?

People interested in TPS must file an application with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and pay the filing fee. They may also apply for an EAD and for travel authorization. All individuals applying for TPS undergo security and background checks as part of determining eligibility.

If you have TPS and are applying for an extension of your TPS under the Salvadorian designation your re-registration period runs from January 17, 2025, through March 18, 2025.

More details about the eligibility criteria to submit a TPS application and apply for an EAD can be found in the [Federal Register notice \(FRN\)](#).

### How long will eligible individuals have protection under TPS?

TPS is a temporary status. The Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas is extending TPS designation for El Salvador for an 18-month period, beginning on March 10, 2025, and ending on September 9, 2026.

**Is TPS status given automatically?**

No, TPS is not automatic. People must apply, pay a filing fee, and pass immigration screening. The application process can be complicated, and we recommend contacting a licensed immigration attorney. You must fill out an [I-821 Form](#) to apply. Please note, at this time DHS is only accepting re-registration for Salvadorian TPS.

**I have Salvadorian TPS, can I apply to extend it?**

Yes. Under Salvadorian TPS, individuals who already have TPS must apply by March 18, 2025 to extend their TPS.

**I do not currently have TPS, can I apply?**

No, only re-registration for extension of TPS is available for people from El Salvador.

**I am from El Salvador, and I came to the United States as a refugee. Do I need to apply for TPS?**

No. People who are in the United States with refugee status can live and work here and apply for permanent resident status after one year. They do not require TPS.

**I am from El Salvador, and I now have a green card. Do I need to apply for TPS?**

No. As a permanent resident, you have legal status in the United States and are on a path to citizenship. You do not need and would not qualify for TPS.

**Does TPS Status provide a path to permanent residency?**

No, TPS does not provide a path to lawful permanent resident status. However, some TPS holders may be independently eligible to adjust status through a family-based, employment-based, or other legal avenue. Please consult with an immigration lawyer regarding this issue.

**Get Help**

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) provides free immigration legal services to low-income immigrants in a variety of immigration matters. For more information about how we can assist you, please visit our website at [www.ilcm.org](http://www.ilcm.org) or call us at 1-800-223-1368.