



## What Is the Keeping Families Together Program?

On June 18, 2024, President Biden announced a series of immigration actions using the authority granted to him by our existing immigration laws. These actions will help certain undocumented individuals in the United States, including:

- Spouses and children of U.S. citizens who have been living in the United States for at least 10 years.
  - You may be eligible to apply for your green card without leaving the United States, if, as of June 17, 2024:
    - You are in the United States after entering without permission;
    - You have lived in the United States for at least 10 years and have never left;
    - You are legally married to a U.S. citizen or have a qualifying stepchild relationship with a U.S. citizen; and
    - You do not have certain criminal history or pose a threat to national security or public safety.

- If you meet these criteria, the government MAY grant you parole-in-place.
  - Parole would be granted for a one-time period of three years.
  - You may also be eligible for employment authorization for up to three years.
- If you are granted parole, you may apply for your green card within three years of approval.
- Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis.

- College-educated DACA recipients and Dreamers who are qualified for nonimmigrant status, such as an H-1B specialty occupation visa.
  - You may be eligible to apply for a temporary visa more easily, if:
    - You have a degree from an accredited U.S. institution of higher education; and

- You have an offer of employment from a U.S. employer in a field related to your degree.

**The Department of State began accepting applications under this program on July 15, 2024. Please contact your attorney for more information.**

**UPDATE: On November 7, 2024 a Texas federal judge sided with Texas and other states that had challenged the Keeping Families Together program, and declared the program unlawful. As a result, USCIS has stopped accepting new applications for I-131F parole in place and will not adjudicate pending applications.**

**UPDATE: On August 19, 2024, Department of Homeland Security implemented the “Keeping Families Together” program. This program formalizes President Biden’s June 18, 2024 announcement by providing a process for certain noncitizen spouses and stepchildren of U.S. citizens to apply for parole in place, and eventually apply for an Employment Authorization Document and green card. USCIS began accepting applications for the Keeping Families Together program on August 19, 2024.**

Keeping Families Together is designed to simplify the process of applying for permanent resident status for certain undocumented individuals. The program facilitates the family immigration process for applicants who would otherwise be required to depart the United States to attend a visa interview at a U.S. consulate or embassy abroad. To qualify for parole in place under the Keeping Families Together program, an applicant must submit documentation proving that they meet specific criteria. If you are wondering whether you qualify for the Keeping Families Together program, then here are some important things to bear in mind:

- BE PATIENT and take the time to find the right help. The wrong advice could harm your chances of staying in the United States, getting lawful status, or becoming a U.S. citizen.
- DON'T BE FOOLED by notarios and other consultants who promise immediate results or special solutions in order to steal your money. Many unscrupulous individuals will cost more than licensed attorneys! If you are unsure if someone is qualified to help, ask for proof of their credentials and retain a copy of that evidence.

This program could also be legally challenged, which could impact its implementation. This makes it even more important to have a qualified, knowledgeable attorney.

We encourage you to contact our office at Law Offices of Timothy D. Widman at (408) 366-2801 if you have any questions.