



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Guidance on Requesting a Fee Waiver for your Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Some applicants who file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, are not required to pay a fee. For example, there is no fee to apply for initial employment authorization for noncitizens with a pending Form I-589, Application for Asylum. Please refer to the [USCIS Fee Schedule](#) to determine if a fee is required to be filed with your Form I-765.

If you are required to pay a filing fee for Form I-765, you may be eligible for a fee waiver. If you would like to request a fee waiver, you must complete and file Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver, with your Form I-765. If you are requesting a fee waiver, you cannot submit any petition or application online. Instead, you will need to file paper versions of the fee waiver request together with the Form I-765.

- [Form I-912](#) is available on the USCIS website
- [Form I-765](#) is available on the USCIS website
- Note: The address you send your Form I-765 to depends on your reason for applying and the eligibility category you entered in Question 27 of your Form I-765. Please check the USCIS website at [Form I-765](#) for the filing locations.

What do I need to support my fee waiver request?

- When you file your fee waiver request, USCIS will review all the evidence that you provide about your situation. USCIS will consider granting your fee waiver request if, at the time of submission, you meet at least one of these requirements, and are able to provide support for at least one of these requirements:
 - o You, your spouse, or the head of household living with you are receiving a means-tested public benefit;
 - o Your household income is at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines at the time you file the request for fee waiver; or
 - o You are currently experiencing financial hardship that prevents you from paying the filing fee.

What is a Means-tested Public Benefit?

A means-tested public benefit for purposes of a fee waiver is a public benefit where the agency granting the benefit considers your income and resources in determining eligibility. Means-tested public benefits may be federally, state, or locally funded. In general, if you receive a benefit that was granted based on your income, we consider it a means-tested public benefit. Examples of means-tested public benefits include:

- Medicaid;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps);
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF); and
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or other state or local programs. You need to provide USCIS with evidence that you are receiving these public benefits. Examples of evidence include a letter, notice, or other official document from the benefit-granting organization that contains the required information, including:

You need to provide USCIS with evidence that you are receiving these public benefits. Examples of evidence include a letter, notice, or other official document from the benefit-granting organization that contains the required information, including:

- the name of the person receiving the benefit;
- the name of the agency granting the means-tested benefit;
- the type of benefit; and
- that you are currently receiving the benefit (for example, the date granted, expiration date, and/or date of renewal, if available.).

A benefit card by itself is not considered acceptable evidence of a means-tested benefit unless it contains the relevant, individual information provided above.

Is My Household Income Below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines?

You can find detailed information on the Federal Poverty Guidelines at www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-fees/additional-information-on-filing-a-fee-waiver. USCIS will ask you to list your income and the income of everyone in your household. You must provide proof of your household income, such as tax returns or a month's worth of pay stubs for all household members earning an income.

What may demonstrate Financial Hardship?

If you are unable to pay the application fee due to financial hardship, such as unemployment, medical expenses of family members, natural disasters, eviction, homelessness, or other circumstances, you must provide USCIS a detailed description of your financial situation and any evidence you have that demonstrates you cannot afford to pay the fee. Examples of accepted evidence to support your detailed description of your financial hardship include:

- bank statements,
- pay stubs or proof of unemployment
- utility bills,
- rental agreements,
- medical bills,
- proof of unstable housing or homelessness

To support this request you can also include an affidavit from someone in your community who can describe your current financial situation, such as a representative from a religious institution, non-profit organization, a local or state agency, community-based organization, or homeless shelter provider. This affidavit should be signed and dated.

If you lost evidence due to a crime, fire, natural disaster, or other unexpected situation, you should provide police reports, insurance claims, or any other evidence that is available.

More Information

For more information on filing a fee waiver request, please see the [Form I-912](#) page and the form instructions and our page on [requesting a fee waiver](#).

For more information about who is required to apply for employment authorization and about the fee waiver, see the [Form I-765](#) instructions.