



January 25, 2022

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Policy Alert

SUBJECT: USCIS Expedite Criteria and Circumstances

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) regarding criteria used to determine whether a case warrants expedited treatment.

Background

Benefit requestors may request USCIS to expedite the adjudication of their benefit request (such as applications or petitions). USCIS considers all expedite requests on a case-by-case basis. USCIS is updating its policy guidance to further clarify the criteria and circumstances that may warrant expediting the adjudication of a benefit request as well as explain how USCIS assesses expedite requests under certain scenarios.

This update, contained in Volume 1 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

Policy Highlights

- Clarifies the criteria and circumstances under which USCIS generally considers expedite requests from nonprofit organizations as determined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Provides additional examples of when expedite requests made by federal, state or local agencies, including U.S. labor and employment agencies, may be considered.
- Adds examples to further illustrate how the expedite criteria relates to emergencies and urgent humanitarian reasons.
- Explains that some circumstances may affect or delay USCIS' ability to expedite such as where an application or petition requires an on-site inspection or where the expedite request is for an ancillary benefit that depends on a decision on a primary benefit request.

Citation

Volume 1: General Policies and Procedures, Part A, Public Services, Chapter 5, Requests to Expedite Applications or Petitions [[1 USCIS-PM A.5](#)].