

Fact Sheet: Parole Process for Venezuelans

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched a Parole Process for Venezuelans on October 19, 2022. The “Process for Venezuelans” allows Venezuelan nationals and their immediate family members to enter the United States on humanitarian parole, permitting individuals to stay in the country temporarily for two years and access work permits. These individuals must have a sponsor in the United States who pledges financial support to the beneficiary for the entire two-year period. The announcement was paired with a notice by DHS that it will begin expelling Venezuelans entering without authorization at the southern border to Mexico through the use of Title 42, an obscure provision of public health law that allows border officials to rapidly expel asylum seekers and migrants to Mexico or their home country without due process.

While the Process for Venezuelans is modeled after the [Uniting for Ukraine \(U4U\) Parole Program](#), there are some key differences. Only 24,000 eligible Venezuelans will enter the United States through this program. Eligibility requirements for Venezuelan nationals and their immediate family members are also stricter than under the U4U program.

Venezuelans given humanitarian parole through the program are not eligible for benefits to the same extent as refugees. They are therefore not eligible for resettlement benefits provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), reception and placement benefits administered through the U.S. State Department, entitlement programs, and other public benefits unless there is congressional authorization.

Why was the Parole Process for Venezuelans created?

Over [seven million Venezuelans](#) have fled the country since 2015 on account of political and humanitarian crises, a figure that amounts to roughly 25 percent of the country’s total population. 150,000 Venezuelans were encountered by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the U.S.-Mexico border during Fiscal Year 2022. The country is suffering from a severe humanitarian emergency; millions do not have access to food and health care.

The U.S. government is seeking to deter Venezuelan migrants and asylum seekers from presenting at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Parole Process for Venezuelans has beneficiaries fly directly to their final destinations so that individuals do not enter through ports of entry at the southern border. Additionally, eligibility requirements for beneficiaries require that individuals have not entered Mexico or Panama unlawfully after October 19 of this year, to deter Venezuelans from making the journey on foot across the Colombian-Panamanian border and up through Central America to Mexico. Finally, the DHS announcement advised that Venezuelans would be subjected to Title 42 and expelled from the United States to Mexico on and after October 12 of this year.

What are the steps to apply for the Venezuela Parole Program?

To view more information on the Venezuela Parole Program and on the I-134, please visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) webpage: <https://www.uscis.gov/venezuela>.

1. The supporter or sponsor must fill out a Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, through the online USCIS portal. There is no fee for the application. The sponsor must show that they can support the beneficiary for the two-year period. The supporter must submit a separate Form I-134 for each beneficiary they are seeking to support, including immediate family members and minor children.
2. USCIS will check the information and conduct a security screening of the supporter.
3. Once USCIS has made a decision, they will email the supporter and the beneficiary.
4. If the Venezuelan beneficiary is approved, they will receive an email from USCIS to set up an account. The beneficiary will answer biographical questions and attest to their vaccination status.
5. Once this is processed, the beneficiary will be emailed their authorization to travel to the United States.
6. The beneficiary is responsible for setting up their travel, flying directly to their final destination in the United States, which must be done within 90 days of receiving their authorization to travel.

Who can be a supporter/sponsor?

- U.S. citizens and nationals
- Lawful permanent residents
- Asylees
- Refugees
- Parolees
- TPS holders
- Beneficiaries of deferred action (including DACA) or Deferred Enforced Departure

What are the eligibility requirements for beneficiaries?

- Be a national of Venezuela or be an immediate family member (spouse, common-law partner, or unmarried child under the age of 21) of an eligible Venezuelan and traveling with them;
- Possess a valid passport
- Be outside of the United States

- Have a U.S.-based supporter who filed a Form I-134 on their behalf that USCIS has vetted and confirmed
- Undergo and clear required screening and vetting
- Not be a permanent resident or dual national of any country other than Venezuela, and not currently hold refugee status in any country
 - This requirement does not apply to immediate family members
- Not be an unaccompanied child
- Not have been ordered removed from the United States within the past 5 years or be subject to a bar based on a prior removal order
- Not have crossed irregularly into the United States, between ports of entry, after October 19, 2022
- Not have unlawfully crossed the Mexican or Panamanian borders after October 19, 2022; and
- Comply with all additional requirements, including vaccination and other public health guidelines.

What about Temporary Protected Status?

To view more information on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuela, please visit the USCIS webpage: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>.

TPS for Venezuela was [originally designated](#) for an 18-month period on March 9, 2021 on the basis of extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country as a result of the severe economic and political crises, extreme food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, and deterioration of the rule of law and protection of human rights. The TPS designation was extended for another 18 months on September 10, 2022, and is designated through March 10, 2024. Venezuelans who have been in the United States since March 8, 2021, are eligible to apply for TPS. TPS recipients are also able to apply for employment authorization.

Venezuelans who are already in the United States are unable to avail themselves of the Venezuelan Parole Program, as one of the eligibility requirements requires that the individual be outside of the United States.

What about Title 42?

Title 42 refers to an obscure provision of U.S. law that was originally enacted in 1944 to allow the government to quarantine people entering the country. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issue an order using Title 42 as justification to allow DHS to quickly expel asylum seekers who arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border, without giving them a chance to seek asylum. Over two million asylum seekers and migrants have been expelled from the United States through the use of Title 42.

Venezuelans were previously generally exempt from Title 42 as the United States was unable to send them back to Venezuela or Mexico due to a lack of agreement with those governments. Since October 12, 2022, Venezuelans can now be subjected to Title 42 expulsions to Mexico if they cross the border without inspection in between official ports of entry.

Venezuelans who cross irregularly into the United States after October 19, 2022 will not be eligible for the Parole Process for Venezuelans; and Venezuelans who cross into Mexico or Panama unlawfully after this date will also be ineligible.