

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act?

The Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (LRIFA) is a special law that allows Liberian nationals who have lived in the United States since November 20, 2014 to apply for lawful permanent resident status (green card).



Who is eligible?

- (a) Any Liberian national who has been continuously present in the United States during the period beginning **November 20, 2014** and the date on which the application under LRIFA is filed or
- (b) The spouse, child, or unmarried son or daughter of a person described in (a).



When can I file my application?

USCIS announced that it has begun accepting LRIFA applications as of December 26, 2019.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED WITHIN 1 YEAR OF THE DATE OF LRIFA'S ENACTMENT or by DECEMBER 19, 2020.

Ebola TPS

I was on Ebola TPS. Am I eligible?

Any Liberian who has been continuously present in the United States during the period beginning November 20, 2014 and the date you file your application is eligible.

DED/DACA/ Non- Immigrant Status

I have DED or DACA or am on a valid non-immigrant visa (F-1, H-1B, etc.) right now. Am I eligible?

Any Liberian who has been continuously present in the United States during the period beginning November 20, 2014 and the date you file your application is eligible.

No TPS or DED

I'm not on DED now. I never had TPS. Am I eligible?

Any Liberian who has been continuously present in the United States during the period beginning November 20, 2014 and the date you file your application is eligible.



I have traveled outside the United States. Will I still be eligible?

Possibly. You must have been "continuously present" in the United States between November 20, 2014 and the date you apply under LRIFA. You have been "continuously present" even if you have made a few short trips outside the United States. If your trips add up to more than 180 days outside the United States you will not be eligible.



Can I travel now?

The LRIFA does not give you permission to come into the country. If you leave, **you may not be able to return**. Check with an immigration lawyer before leaving the United States.



I have a criminal history. Will I still be eligible?

Possibly, but you should check with an immigration lawyer before filing any papers.

You will not be eligible if you have been convicted of **any aggravated felony** or **two or more crimes involving moral turpitude**.



I took part in the Liberian civil war. Will I be eligible?

Possibly, but you should check with an immigration lawyer before filing any papers.

The LRIFA says that anyone who has ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion is **not eligible** for a green card under the LRIFA.



I have a final order of deportation. What do I need to do?

The LRIFA is clear that DHS must establish a process to “stay” (stop) any LRIFA applicant’s removal order while the application is pending. That means that once you file your LRIFA application, you cannot be deported unless your LRIFA application is denied.

If you were ordered deported because your asylum application was denied, you overstayed your visa, you did not renew your DED or TPS, for other reasons *besides a criminal conviction*, you should be eligible under the LRIFA. You will not need to file a motion to reopen. If you were ordered deported *because of a criminal conviction*, you might not be eligible. Talk to an immigration lawyer before you file anything.



I am in detention with a final order of deportation. What should I do?

We do not expect ICE to attempt to deport people who are eligible for LRIFA. Liberians in detention who may be eligible for LRIFA should:

- Tell your detention officer that you intend to apply for LRIFA.
- Contact your immigration attorney to make a plan for filing the application as soon as possible. If you do not have an immigration attorney, contact the free legal service providers who work at your detention center or call 612-341-9845.
- Make sure a trusted family member or friend knows where you are. They can check the ICE Online Detainee Locator with your full name and date of birth or A-number.



I do not have a work permit right now. Can I work under LRIFA?

Once you file your LRIFA application you will be able to apply for employment authorization. DHS may issue you a work permit right away. If your LRIFA application for adjustment of status is pending for a period exceeding 180 days and has not been denied, DHS must authorize employment.

How can I get ready to file my LRIFA application?



Save money. You will need to pay the filing fee and a biometrics fee. At this time the fee is \$1,225 for an adult, and the fees are scheduled to increase. You will also need an immigration medical exam, which may not be covered by insurance.



Gather proof of continuous presence. You will need to show that you have been “continuously present” in the United States as of November 20, 2014. USCIS will provide more instructions about what you will need, but you will likely need copies of some documents like pay stubs, leases, or other records showing you were in the United States. If you traveled outside the United States, you will need to calculate the exact number of days you were outside the country.



Make a list of your addresses and your employers from the last 5 years. The application form asks for this information.

ASYLUM

If you ever filed for asylum, get a copy of that application and have an immigration lawyer review it before you file.

Do I need a lawyer?



You should talk with an experienced immigration lawyer or BIA accredited representative if you have any questions about how to file your application or whether you are eligible for LRIFA adjustment. Every case is different, so do not rely on advice given to someone else – get your own answers!



Criminal convictions may affect your eligibility for LRIFA adjustment. **Talk to a lawyer before you file.**

ASYLUM

What you said in your asylum application may affect your eligibility for LRIFA adjustment. **Talk to a lawyer before your file.**



You can **hire a lawyer** to prepare and file your application and help respond to any questions from USCIS. You can also **consult** with a lawyer to answer questions. Different lawyers charge different fees. Ask about fees before you agree to have the lawyer represent you. Ask whether they charge a flat fee or charge by the hour. Ask about payment plan options. Always get a fee agreement (sometimes called a retainer agreement) in writing. Take time to review it before signing. You can find immigration lawyers at www.ailalawyer.com

Free legal services may be available if you have a low income. You can find free and low-cost legal services at www.immigrationlawhelp.org. Watch for community legal advice clinics near you.

LRIFA Application Information

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-485>
Special Instructions

Adjustment of Status for Liberian Nationals and Certain Family Members

Sec. 7611. Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness, pages 1112-1115 of the [National Defense Authorization Act \(PDF\)](#), allows eligible Liberian nationals and certain family members to adjust status. For more information about LRIF eligibility and evidentiary requirements, see the LRIF program page.

On your Form I-485, in **Part 2**, you must choose “Other Eligibility” under **Item Number 1.g**. In the text box, write “LRIF” to indicate you are applying to adjust status based on Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness.

Note: You may file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with your Form I-485 or while it is pending. If you file Form I-765, write “(c)(9)” as your eligibility category for **Part 2, Item Number 27** on your Form I-765.

Form version

Applicants must complete Form I-485. Make sure to use the right version of the form. Go to <https://www.uscis.gov/i-485> for the current application form.

Form instructions

Download form instructions at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-485>. Read the instructions carefully to find the list of required documents you need to include with your application.

Filing fee

Fees vary depending on your age. Check <https://www.uscis.gov> for current fees.

Filing location

If you live in: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands, or West Virginia, file at:

USCIS Dallas Lockbox

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):

USCIS
PO Box 660867
Dallas, TX 75266

For FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:

USCIS
Attn: NFB AOS
2501 S. State Hwy, 121 Business

Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

If you live in: Alaska, Arizona,
California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho,
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,
Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri,
Montana, Nebraska, Nevada,
North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South
Dakota, Utah, Washington,
Wisconsin, Wyoming, Guam or the
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands, file at:

USCIS Phoenix Lockbox

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):

USCIS
PO Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

For FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:

USCIS
Attn: NFB AOS
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S
Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034