



Fact Sheet: Temporary Protected Status for Ukraine

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On Thursday, March 3, 2022, Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro N. Mayorkas, announced a new Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Ukraine for 18 months effective April 19, 2022, through October 19, 2023. Secretary Mayorkas made the decision in response to “Russia’s premeditated and unprovoked attack on Ukraine,” which prevents Ukrainian nationals, and those of no nationality who last habitually resided in Ukraine, from returning to the country safely.

What is temporary protected status (TPS)?

TPS is granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to eligible foreign-born individuals who are unable to return home safely due to conditions or circumstances preventing their return to their home country.

During the designated TPS period, TPS holders are not removable from the United States and not detainable by DHS based on their immigration status. TPS holders are eligible for an employment authorization document (EAD), and eligible for travel authorization.

What does the designation of TPS for Ukraine mean?

This new designation enables Ukrainian nationals and individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Ukraine, who have continuously resided in the United States since April 11, 2022, to file initial applications for TPS.

Who is eligible for TPS under the Ukraine designation?

Ukrainian nationals and individuals without nationality who last regularly lived in Ukraine, who currently live in the United States, may file initial applications for TPS. Individuals must prove that they resided continuously in the United States since April 11, 2022.

[Other eligibility criteria are detailed in the Federal Register notice.](#) All individuals applying for TPS undergo security and background checks as part of determining eligibility. The *Federal Register* notice will explain the eligibility criteria applicants must meet and describe procedures necessary to submit an initial TPS application and apply for work authorization documentation.

Is TPS status given automatically?

No, TPS is not automatic. People must apply, pay a filing fee, and pass immigration screening. The application process can be complicated, and we recommend contacting a licensed immigration attorney. The registration period for eligible individuals to submit TPS applications begins April 19, 2022 and will remain in effect through October 19, 2023.

How long will eligible individuals have protection under TPS?

TPS is a temporary status. The Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas is designating Ukraine for TPS for an 18-month period. The 18-month designation of Ukraine for TPS is effective on

April 19, 2022 and will remain in effect for 18 months, through October 19, 2023. That said, TPS status can be extended.

Get Help

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) provides free immigration legal services to low-income immigrants in a variety of immigration matters. For more information about how we can assist you, please visit our website at www.ilcm.org or call us at (651) 641-1011.