

U.S. and Canadian Immigration and Nationality Law (Bimonthly) Newsletter and Updates.

Dear Reader:

The FY 2027 H-1B cap season is approaching, with the initial electronic registration period expected to open in early March 2026. Employers should plan ahead now by confirming job details, wage level, and beneficiary information, setting up the required myUSCIS.gov accounts, and budgeting for the \$215 registration fee per beneficiary. Our flyer below provides a quick overview of key steps, required information, and important updates to watch this season, including the expected beneficiary-centric process and the proposed weighted selection changes.

In addition, ICE home enforcement has recently drawn increased attention, particularly when officers present administrative warrants issued by ICE or DHS. These are not the same as judicial warrants signed by a judge, and they generally do not authorize non-consensual entry into a private residence. Families should remain calm, request to review any documents through a window or have them slid under the door, and remember they have the right to remain silent and not sign anything without legal advice. NPZ Law Group is available to help individuals and families understand their rights, assess risk, and plan proactively based on their specific immigration history.

The Department of State has announced a temporary pause, effective January 21, 2026, on the issuance of immigrant visas for nationals of certain countries identified as higher risk for public benefits usage, as part of a broader policy review focused on financial self-sufficiency and public charge concerns. While affected applicants may still submit applications and attend scheduled immigrant visa interviews, no immigrant visas will be issued during this review period, though dual nationals

using a passport from a non-listed country are exempt and no currently valid visas have been revoked. Because these developments can significantly impact immigrant visa planning and timing, individuals and families from affected countries should closely monitor updates and seek legal guidance to understand how this pause may affect their specific case and available options.

We encourage you to stay informed as immigration and travel-related policies evolve. If you have any questions about how these changes may affect your status, workforce, or travel plans, please contact NPZ Law Group at info@visaserve.com or call 201-670-0006 (ext. 104). Our experienced U.S. and Canadian immigration attorneys are ready to assist you.

Upcoming Webinar: 2027 H-1B Cap Season Webinar: Key Updates and Employer Strategies

As employers prepare for the 2027 H-1B cap season, this webinar will cover important updates, timelines, and employer planning strategies. NPZ Law Group attorneys will discuss registration preparation, filing approaches, compliance risks, and practical HR steps to support workforce planning.

Date & Time: February 18, 2026 and 12:00 PM

[Register – Click Here . . .](#)

Know Your Rights: What to Do If ICE Comes to Your Home, Workplace, or Stops You in Public (English & Spanish Versions). [Please click here](#) to download and feel free to share it with your friends and family.

Here are this month's top stories to keep you informed:

ABC'S OF H-1BS (THIS IS PART 2 OF A 7-PART SERIES): HOW MUCH MUST EMPLOYERS PAY H-1B EMPLOYEES—AND WHY PREVAILING WAGE MATTERS MORE THAN EVER UNDER THE NEW SELECTION SYSTEM.

Employers who seek to hire an H-1B nonimmigrant in a specialty occupation must first make a filing with the Department of Labor (DOL) and obtain a Labor Condition Application (LCA). The LCA, among other things, must specify the number of workers sought, the occupational classification in which the H-1B will be employed, and the wage rate and conditions under which the proposed H-1B nonimmigrant will be employed.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

ABC'S OF H-1BS (THIS IS PART III OF AN VIII PART SERIES): WHAT H-1B EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LCA TO AVOID DOL

COMPLIANCE PITFALLS.

The H-1B visa program permits a United States employer (“employer”) to temporarily employ nonimmigrants to fill specialized jobs in the United States. The Immigration and Nationality Act (the “INA” or the “Act”) requires that an employer pay an H-1B worker the higher of the actual wage or the local prevailing wage, in order to protect U.S. workers and their wages.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

FY 2027 H-1B LOTTERY: WHAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD KNOW AND HOW TO PREPARE NOW.

The fiscal year 2027 H-1B cap season is approaching. The initial registration period is expected to open in early March 2026 and remain open for at least 14 calendar days.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

H-1B PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2026: WHAT EMPLOYERS AND FOREIGN NATIONALS SHOULD WATCH.

As employers and foreign nationals prepare for upcoming immigration cycles, 2026 is shaping up to be a year that requires more planning, caution, and coordination—particularly for those relying on the H-1B visa program and international travel.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

DOL LAUNCHES “PROJECT FIREWALL”: WHAT H-1B EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW.

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has launched Project Firewall, a new enforcement initiative focused on strengthening compliance with the H-1B visa program and protecting U.S. workers from improper displacement.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

E-VERIFY EMPLOYERS: CRITICAL ACTION REQUIRED BEFORE JANUARY 23, 2026.

Employers that use E-Verify must take an important compliance step before January 23, 2026. On that date, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will permanently delete certain older E-Verify records, which could affect an employer’s ability to demonstrate compliance during a Form I-9 audit.

[To read more, please click here ...](#)

ICE HOME ENTRIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANTS: WHAT IMMIGRANTS AND FAMILIES SHOULD UNDERSTAND.

Recent reports have raised serious questions about the authority Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers may be asserting when conducting home enforcement actions. In particular, concerns have emerged about ICE relying on administrative warrants, rather than warrants signed by a judge, when attempting to enter private residences.

[To read more, please click here ...](#)

EB-5 IN 2026: A PERMANENT RESIDENCE OPTION FOR ENTREPRENEURS, EXECUTIVES, AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

As employment-based immigration pathways become increasingly complex, many foreign nationals are reassessing how to secure long-term status in the United States. One option that continues to draw interest is the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, which provides a path to permanent residence through investment and job creation.

[To read more, please click here ...](#)

DOS VISA BULLETIN UPDATE: VISA BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2026 - IF YOUR "PRIORITY DATE" IS CURRENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW?

The February 2026 Visa Bulletin reflects a more cautious pace following January's movement. Most Employment-Based and Family-Based categories remain unchanged, while the EB-4 Certain Religious Worker (SR) category is now officially unavailable due to statutory expiration. Here's what applicants need to know this month. [Read more ...](#)

[To view the current cutoff dates for each visa preference category and country of chargeability, please click here to access two charts provided by the U.S. Department of State's monthly visa bulletin.](#)

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION LAW NEWS.

TEMPORARY RESIDENT PERMITS (TRPS): A SHORT-TERM SOLUTION FOR CANADA INADMISSIBILITY.

For individuals who are inadmissible to Canada due to criminal history or other issues, a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) may allow entry for a specific purpose and limited period of time.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT: UNDERSTANDING THE RULES AND RECENT CHANGES.

Canadian citizenship by descent allows certain individuals born or adopted outside Canada to claim citizenship through a Canadian parent. While this pathway has existed for decades, the rules are complex and have changed over time.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

NPZ's Immigration Insights: New YouTube Series on U.S. & Canadian Law

USCIS CHANGES THE H-1B LOTTERY: WEIGHTED SELECTION BASED ON WAGE LEVELS STARTING FY 2027.

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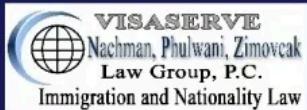
USCIS Changes the H-1B Lottery: Weighted Selection Based on Wage Levels Starting FY 2027

because their positions

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RELIGIOUS WORKER VISAS UPDATE: R-1 EXTENSIONS, EB-4 BACKLOG, AND WHAT CHANGES NOW.



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RELIGIOUS WORKER VISA UPDATE: R-1 EXTENSIONS, EB-4 BACKLOG AND WHAT CHANGES NOW



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UPCOMING EVENT

NJICLE Webinar: H-1B Visa Update: Navigating the Effect on Employers

February 5, 2026

Time: 9:00am-11:00am

Venue: Online via Zoom

[Register now — click here](#)

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