

Uniting for Ukraine

On April 21, 2022, President Biden announced *Uniting for Ukraine*, a new streamlined process to provide Ukrainian citizens who have fled Russia's unprovoked war of aggression opportunities to come to the United States.

What is the Uniting for Ukraine Program?

Uniting for Ukraine provides a pathway for displaced Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who are outside the United States to come to the United States and stay temporarily for up to two years. Ukrainians participating in *Uniting for Ukraine* must have a supporter in the United States who agrees to provide them with financial support for the duration of their stay in the United States.

Ukrainians who present at U.S. land ports of entry without a valid visa or without pre-authorization to travel to the United States through *Uniting for Ukraine* may be denied entry and referred to apply through this program. For more information on how to apply, eligibility requirements, and what to expect after the Form I-134 is filed, visit [USCIS](#) and the [State Department](#).

Who May be Considered for Parole under Uniting for Ukraine

To be considered for parole under Uniting for Ukraine, the beneficiary must have a supporter who files a Form I-134 on their behalf.

Beneficiaries are eligible for the process if they:

- Resided in Ukraine immediately prior to the Russian invasion (through Feb. 11, 2022) and were displaced as a result of the invasion;
- Are a Ukrainian citizen and possess a valid Ukrainian passport (or are a child included on a parent's passport);
 - If not a Ukrainian citizen, are an immediate family member of a Ukrainian citizen beneficiary of Uniting for Ukraine with a valid passport;
- Have a supporter who filed a Form I-134 on their behalf that has been vetted and confirmed as sufficient by USCIS; and
- Clear biographic and biometric security checks;
- Note: To be eligible for this process, children under the age of 18 must be traveling to the United States in the care and custody of their parent or legal guardian.

The supporter must complete and file Form I-134 with USCIS and be vetted by the U.S. government to protect against exploitation and abuse, and ensure that they are able to financially support the Ukrainians they are agreeing to support.

Who Is Not Eligible for Parole pursuant to Uniting for Ukraine

Ukrainian citizens who are present in the United States will not be considered for parole under Uniting for Ukraine. However, Ukrainian citizens present in the United States may be eligible for [Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\)](#). For more information, please see our [Temporary Protected Status for Ukraine page](#).

Children traveling without their parent or legal guardian are not eligible for parole pursuant to Uniting for Ukraine.

Upon arrival at a U.S. port of entry, a child who is not traveling with their parent or legal guardian may be placed in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as required by law under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA), in order to protect the child from human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. For more information, please visit the [HHS website](#).

Since they are ineligible to pursue Uniting for Ukraine, children who are not traveling with a parent or legal guardian but are coming to the United States to meet a parent or legal guardian may instead seek parole through the standard Form I-131 parole process. In the Form I-131 parole process, children who wish to travel without a parent or legal guardian will need written permission from all adults with legal custody of the child (i.e., parents or legal guardian(s))

to travel to the United States. Evidence to accompany the Form I-131 will need to include the duration of the stay in the United States and evidence of relationship between the child and the parent or legal guardian in the United States. If the legal guardian is providing the written permission, the requestor must include proof of legal guardianship issued by a government authority. In addition, the application should include a statement about the relationship of the child to the person filing the Form I-131, and if they intend to provide care and custody of the child in the United States. or reunite the child with a parent or legal guardian in the United States. For more information, please see our [Humanitarian or Significant Public Benefit Parole](#) page, which has information about the requirements for requesting parole for children.

A fee waiver may be requested when submitting a Form I-131 for a Ukrainian child as described in this paragraph. For more information on how to request a fee waiver, please see the [fee waiver page](#).

Who Can be a Supporter for an Individual Under Uniting for Ukraine

Individuals who file Form I-134 on behalf of a beneficiary under Uniting for Ukraine must be in lawful status in the United States or a parolee or beneficiary of deferred action or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) and willing and able to receive, maintain, and support the beneficiary listed in Form I-134. Examples of the types of support for beneficiaries that supporters should keep in mind when considering their ability to meet this commitment include:

- Receiving the beneficiary upon arrival in the United States and transporting them to initial housing;
- Ensuring that the beneficiary has safe and appropriate housing for the duration of the parole and initial basic necessities;
- As appropriate, assisting the beneficiary in completing necessary paperwork such as that related to employment authorization, social security card, and for services for which they may be eligible;
- Ensuring that the beneficiary's health care and medical needs are met for the duration of the parole; and
- As appropriate, assisting the beneficiary with accessing education, learning English, securing employment and enrolling children in school.

Multiple supporters may join together to have the financial ability to support one or more Ukrainian beneficiaries. In this case, a primary supporter should file a Form I-134 and include in the filing supplementary evidence demonstrating the identity of, and resources to be provided by, the additional supporters and attach a statement explaining the intention for shared responsibility. These supporters' ability to support Ukrainian beneficiaries will be assessed collectively.

The Form I-134 requires an individual to sign the form; organizations may not serve as the named supporter on a Form I-134. However, if an organization or other entity is providing financial or other services to the named individual for the purpose of facilitating support, this information should be provided as part of the evidence submitted with the Form I-134 and will be taken into account in determining the supporter's ability to support the named beneficiary.

There is no fee to file a Form I-134.

Steps for Completing the Program/Submitting an Application

- The first step in the *Uniting for Ukraine* process is for the U.S.-based supporter to file a [Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support](#), with USCIS. The supporter will then be vetted by the U.S. government to protect against exploitation and abuse, and ensure that they are able to financially support the individual(s) whom they agree to support.
- If USCIS confirms that the Form I-134 is sufficient, the Ukrainian beneficiary will receive an email from USCIS with instructions on how to set up an account with myUSCIS and other next steps.
- The Ukrainian beneficiary will be required to confirm their biographic information on myUSCIS and attest to completion of all requirements including:
 - a. An attestation to certify understanding of the family relationship requirements for children under 18 for Uniting for Ukraine.

- b. An attestation that you have completed vaccine requirements or are eligible for an exception to vaccine requirements for Measles, Polio, and the first dose of an [FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine](#) or a [WHO-Emergency use listed \(EUL\) COVID-19 vaccine](#).
- c. Upon arrival to the United States, the beneficiary will need to attest to receiving a medical screening for tuberculosis, including an Interferon-Gamma Release Assays (IGRA) test, within 14 days.
- d. More information on vaccine requirements can be found on the [preview of the vaccine attestation page](#).

After the Beneficiary is Paroled into the United States

- **Applying for Employment Authorization:** After you (the beneficiary) are paroled into the United States, you are eligible to apply for discretionary employment authorization from USCIS. To apply for discretionary employment authorization, you must submit [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), using the (c)(11) category code with the required fee or apply for a fee waiver.
- **Obtaining a Social Security Number and Card:** We encourage you to apply for a Social Security number (SSN) using [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#), and following the form instructions. If you request an SSN in Part 2 (Items 13a-17.b) of your Form I-765, and your application is approved, USCIS will electronically transmit that data to the Social Security Administration (SSA), and SSA will assign you an SSN and issue you a Social Security card. SSA will mail your Social Security card directly to the address you provide on Form I-765. Social Security numbers generally are assigned to people who are authorized to work in the United States. Social Security numbers are used to report your wages to the government and to determine eligibility for Social Security benefits. If you do not request an SSN on your Form I-765, you can apply for an SSN after you receive your EAD from USCIS using the instructions on SSA's [Social Security Number and Card](#) webpage.
- **Address Updates:** If you are residing in the United States longer than 30 days, you must report your physical address in the United States. You can change your address online and update your address on any pending applications and petitions at the same time using the [USCIS Online Change of Address](#) system. You must report a change of address within 10 days of moving within the United States or its territories. The above method of changing your address will update the address on file with USCIS for all pending applications, petitions, or requests that you include receipt numbers for on the form. (It is important to include the receipt number for any pending cases with USCIS with your address change request, so we can update the address associated with those cases. We will mail secure documents to the address on file. You can find the receipt number on the receipt notice (Form I-797C, Notice of Action) that we issued after you filed your application or petition. We send receipt notices to the address listed on the application or petition).
- **Terminating Your Parole:** If you have already been paroled into the United States, your parole will automatically be terminated if:
 - You depart the United States without obtaining advance authorization to travel; or
 - Your parole period expires.

Warning

The United States strongly encourages Ukrainians in Europe who seek to travel to the United States to complete the request from Europe. Ukrainians who present at U.S. land ports of entry without a valid visa or without pre-authorization to travel to the United States through Uniting for Ukraine may be denied entry and referred to apply through this process.

What About Ukrainians who Already Have a Pending Request for Humanitarian Parole?

Ukrainians who have a pending request for parole filed with USCIS on Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, but wish to be considered for parole under Uniting for Ukraine instead must have their supporter submit a Form I-134 following these instructions to be considered for parole under Uniting for Ukraine. USCIS will provide

petitioners who currently have a pending Form I-131 for a Ukrainian beneficiary with a notice explaining the process to be considered for parole under Uniting for Ukraine and the actions they must take if they would like to withdraw their Form I-131 in light of the new Uniting for Ukraine process.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is *Uniting for Ukraine*?**

Uniting for Ukraine is an innovative approach to provide a safe and orderly process for displaced Ukrainians who have been impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainians who have a supporter in the United States may be considered for parole, on a case-by-case basis, for a period of up to two years. Once granted parole, Ukrainians are eligible to apply for employment authorization in the United States.

2. **Why is the United States creating a process for Ukrainians to come to the United States?**

As a result of the Russian military's unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine and ongoing aggression, millions of Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes. The Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to welcoming 100,000 Ukrainians and others fleeing Russia's aggression. To meet this commitment, the Administration intends to utilize the full range of legal pathways to the United States, including new processes such as *Uniting for Ukraine* and existing opportunities such as immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, and refugee resettlement processing.

3. **What is parole?**

The Immigration and Nationality Act provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with discretionary authority to parole noncitizens into the United States temporarily, on a case-by-case basis, for "urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit."

Individuals who are granted parole pursuant to the *Uniting for Ukraine* process will generally be paroled into the United States for a period of up to two years and are eligible to apply for employment authorization.

4. **Am I eligible to participate in *Uniting for Ukraine*?**

To be eligible, Ukrainians must have been resident in Ukraine as of February 11, 2022, have a supporter in the United States, complete vaccinations and other public health requirements, and pass biometric and biographic screening and vetting security checks. Ukrainians approved via this process will be authorized to travel to the United States to be considered for parole, on a case-by-case basis, for a period of up to two years. Once paroled through this process, Ukrainians will be eligible to apply for work authorization.

5. **How long can I stay in the United States under *Uniting for Ukraine*?**

Individuals granted parole under this process will generally be paroled for a period not exceeding two years.

6. **How do I travel to the United States?**

Individuals who clear initial screening, vetting, and security checks will receive authorization to travel to the United States valid for a period of 90 days. Once authorized, they will be responsible for arranging and funding their travel to the United States. With this authorization, individuals will be able to book their own commercial air travel directly from Europe to the United States. Individuals traveling to the United States must have a valid passport, or, if a child without their own passport, be included in a parent's passport, and adhere to travel requirements as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including pre-departure testing for COVID-19.

7. **What is the role of a financial supporter?**

Ukrainians must have a financial supporter in the United States. Supporters initiate the *Uniting for Ukraine* process by filing the Form I-134 Declaration of Financial Support and providing information about themselves and the Ukrainian beneficiary. Supporters will be vetted by the U.S. government to ensure that they are able to support Ukrainians and to mitigate against potential exploitation.

Every Ukrainian seeking authorization to travel to the United States to seek parole must be supported by a U.S.-based individual, including representatives of non-governmental organizations. Each supporter must pass security and background vetting and demonstrate sufficient financial resources to “receive, maintain, and support” the Ukrainians they commit to support.

8. Will I be able to work once I arrive in the United States?

Yes, individuals paroled into the United States pursuant to this process may request authorization to work by filing a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

For more information on employment authorization in the United States, visit: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>.

9. How do I apply to *Uniting for Ukraine*?

A supporter – a U.S.-based individual, including representatives of non-government organizations – must first file a Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) through the myUSCIS online portal. Supporters need to also include specific information on the Ukrainian beneficiary they intend to support. Once a supporter has been confirmed by USCIS, Ukrainian beneficiaries will receive notification from USCIS about next steps in the process to obtain authorization to travel to the United States and seek parole.

10. Will Ukrainians be vetted prior to arriving to the United States?

As part of the process, individuals will submit biographic and biometric information to the U.S. government for the purposes of security vetting. Individuals will be checked against a range of interagency intelligence, law enforcement, and counterterrorism holdings. Anyone who does not pass security checks conducted overseas will not be authorized to travel the United States.

Upon their arrival at a port of entry, each individual will be inspected by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and undergo additional screening and vetting, to include biometric vetting. Anyone determined to pose a national security or public safety threat will be referred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

11. Are vaccines required?

Individuals who seek authorization to travel to the United States via the *Uniting for Ukraine* process will need to confirm prior vaccination against measles, polio, and COVID-19. If not previously vaccinated, individuals will need to receive a first dose of required vaccines prior to obtaining authorization to travel to the United States. In addition, all individuals two years of age or older will need to complete a medical screening for tuberculosis, including an Interferon-Gamma Release Assays (IGRA) test, within two weeks of arrival to the United States. Ukrainian citizens will need to meet other travel requirements as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including pre-departure testing for COVID-19.

12. Do Ukrainians have to be in a certain location to apply for *Uniting for Ukraine*?

This process is aimed to support Ukrainians who have been recently displaced by Russia’s invasion and who fled Ukraine after February 11, 2022. We anticipate that most eligible Ukrainians will be in neighboring countries or other EU states. However, Ukrainian citizens in other locations are also eligible for *Uniting for Ukraine*.

13. How many Ukrainians will be eligible for *Uniting for Ukraine*?

The number of Ukrainians potentially eligible for *Uniting for Ukraine* will be driven by the breadth of welcome U.S.-based supporters are willing and able to provide. Therefore, we cannot estimate a specific number of potential Ukrainian beneficiaries.

In support of President Biden’s commitment to providing legal pathways to displaced Ukrainians as a result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. government will welcome 100,000 Ukrainians and others fleeing Russia’s aggression. We will deliver on this commitment through the full range of legal pathways, including humanitarian parole, immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, and new processes such as *Uniting for Ukraine*.

14. How long will the process take?

We anticipate that the process will be fairly quick, but DHS cannot say definitively how long the process will take.

15. Are Ukrainian children seeking to come to the United States without their parent or legal guardian eligible for *Uniting for Ukraine*?

Not at this time. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA), any child under the age of 18 who is not accompanied by their parent or legal guardian generally must be turned over to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and vetted to protect against exploitation and abuse. Sponsors must be vetted before that child can be released and reunified. As a result, children traveling on their own, or with a non-parent or non-legal guardian adult, are not currently eligible for this process. We are working towards establishing other mechanisms to permit travel of vulnerable children and caregivers with appropriate safeguards.

16. What will happen to Ukrainians who arrive at the Southwest border?

From April 25, 2022, Ukrainian nationals who present at U.S. Southwest border land ports of entry without a valid visa or without pre-authorization to travel to the United States through *Uniting for Ukraine* may be denied entry and referred to apply through this process.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- [USCIS Announcement](#)
- [DHS Announcement](#)
- [Form I-134](#)
- [Form I-131](#)
- [Form I-765](#)