

Immigration Status

Spotlight on Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

About 966,000 people, or nearly 20% of the Boston metropolitan area, are immigrants. This includes 53,000 Haitians, 7,000 Ukrainians, and 4,000 Venezuelans. Humanitarian statuses, including Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are frequently in the news. All TPS statuses have expiration dates and renewal is uncertain. What does this mean for immigrants with TPS in Massachusetts?



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What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

- TPS is a temporary immigration status for people in the US who can't return home safely due to war, natural disasters or other humanitarian crises.
- Nearly 28,000 immigrants in Massachusetts have Temporary Protected Status.** (CRS March 2024)
- Countries that receive TPS designations are posted on the [USICS website](#). Countries covered by TPS as of 1/1/2025 were: *Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen.*
- TPS offers **protection from deportation and access to work authorization**. TPS does *not* lead to permanent resident status, nor do they let a person sponsor family members.
- People present in the United States with TPS status may also be eligible for other immigration statuses.



What can care teams do?

- Confirm what status that an individual has. Review immigration documents with the immigrant. Look up immigration case information. See page 1 of [How Care Teams Can Support Immigrant Families](#).
- If an immigrant has a humanitarian status like TPS, look up information about when that status is scheduled to expire on the [USICS website](#).
- Connect people with legal information like preparedness planning information. [See page two of How Care Teams Can Support Immigrant Families](#).
- Encourage people with TPS to consider whether there is a more permanent immigration status available to them. For example, asylum is a common option but must be filed within 1 year of arrival.
- Connect people with legal clinics like Boston's [free legal consultations](#), or share the [City of Boston's](#) or [MIRA's](#) lists of legal services organizations.
- Consider writing supportive letters for immigration purposes.
- Connect people with recent information about ongoing TPS and other [immigration-related litigation](#).



What happens if TPS expires but the person is still in the United States?

- If an immigrant's TPS expires, they will lose their work authorization and become undocumented if they have no other legal status.
- Attempts to end immigration statuses are being met with litigation. However, there is no legal requirement for the USICS to extend any designation beyond their end dates.

Resources for Changing Immigration Laws

- [Legal Key Digital Digest](#)
- [Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition \(MIRA\)](#)
- [Immigration Policy Tracking webpage \(tracks recent federal actions, responses, and status\)](#)
- [National Immigration Law Center](#)



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