

# 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 protections 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 to their home countries 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 8/20/2025 were: Burma (Myanmar), 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 does it let a person sponsor family members.
- People present in the United States with TPS may also be eligible for other immigration statuses.

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### 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 protections are being met with litigation across the country. However, there is no legal requirement for USICS to extend any designation beyond their end dates.

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### What can care teams do?

- Confirm the status an individual has. Review immigration documents with them. 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 2 of [How Care Teams Can Support Immigrant Families](#).
- Encourage people with TPS to consider whether there is other immigration relief they may be eligible for. For example, **asylum** is a legal protection for those who cannot return to their home country because of persecution or fear of persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Asylum applications generally must be filed within 1 year of arrival in the United States.
- 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.
- Write supportive letters for immigration purposes.
- Connect people with information about ongoing TPS and other [immigration-related litigation](#).

### Resources

- [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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