



Pathway: How Do I Get a Green Card?

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Approach <i>There are too many step variations to capture in this pathway. Click on the appropriate link to the right.</i>	<p>Green Card is the common name given to a Permanent Resident Card that serves as proof that a person is a legal permanent resident of the United States. These cards are issued to immigrants who have properly registered with the U.S. by following United States immigration laws. Those with a Green Card can work and live permanently within the country, but it is not always necessary to have a Green Card to obtain work within the U.S.</p> <p>The steps to becoming a Green Card holder (permanent resident) vary by category and depend on whether you currently live inside or outside the United States. The main categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Card through Family. Many people get Green Cards (become permanent residents) through family members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, this includes spouses, unmarried children under the age of 21, and parents of U.S. citizen petitioners 21 or older ○ a family member of a U.S. citizen fitting into a preference category, this includes unmarried sons or daughters over the age of 21, married children of any age, and brothers and sisters of U.S. citizen petitioners 21 or older ○ a family member of a green card holder, this includes spouses and unmarried children of the sponsoring green card holder ○ a member of a special category, this can include battered spouse or child (VAWA), a K nonimmigrant, a person born to a foreign diplomat in the United States, a V nonimmigrant or a widow(er) of a U.S. Citizen • Green Card through a Job. The main ways to immigrate based on a job offer or employment are listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Green Card through a Job Offer: You may be eligible to become a permanent resident based on an offer of permanent employment in the United States. Most categories require an employer to get a labor certification and then file a Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker, for you. ○ Green Card through Investment: Green cards may be available to investors/entrepreneurs who are making an investment in an enterprise that creates new U.S. jobs. ○ Green Card through Self Petition: Some immigrant categories allow you to file for yourself ("self-petition"). This option is available for either "Aliens of Extraordinary Ability" or certain individuals granted a National Interest Waiver. ○ Green Card through Special Categories of Jobs: There are a number of specialized jobs that may allow you to get a green card based on a past or current job. • Green Card through Refugee or Asylee Status. • Other Ways to Get a Green Card.
Local Resources	•
Other Resources	• National Customer Service Center (NCSC): 1-800-375-5283. Click here for more info.
Other Information	• Click here for the main US Citizenship and Immigration Services site. Click here to download various application forms. The filing fee in 2013 is \$1070.