

Update on Cuban/Haitian/Nicaraguan/ Venezuelan (CHNV) Parole

This guidance is effective April 15, 2025

What is CHNV Parole?

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) started the CHNV Parole Program in 2023 to allow nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to enter the US for up to two years. It required a US sponsor and security screenings and aimed to provide lawful pathways for humanitarian protection or family reunification. In October 2024, the program ended, after over 500,000 people had come to the US through it. Parolees were encouraged to seek other legal options to stay.

I heard that the government terminated CHNV parole. Is this true?

On 3/25/2025, DHS announced in a <u>notice in the Federal Register</u> that the CHNV parole program would be terminated and all individuals in the US with CHNV parole would lose their parole effective April 24, 2025. However, a group of parolees filed a <u>lawsuit</u> against the government (Doe v. Noem), and on April 15, 2025 a federal district court judge stopped the termination of parole while the case continues.

What does the April 15, 2025, court order mean?

On April 15, 2025, a US District Court Judge ruled that the government could not terminate parole through the notice it published in the Federal Register but had to do so on a case-by-case basis instead. The Judge suspended the termination of parole while the lawsuit continues. This means that anyone who was granted parole through the CHNV parole program can remain in the US legally until their period of parole expires or until the court rules otherwise. CHNV parolees can work legally as long as they have a valid EAD.

I came to the US with CHNV parole, and I have permission to work. Can I still work legally in the US?

Based on the Judge's April 15 order, **CHNV parole and parole-based work authorization remains valid**. If you have work authorization based on parole or another status, such as TPS or a pending application for Lawful Permanent Residence (green card) or asylum, you may still work legally.

What will happen after my parole expires or is terminated?

You can remain legally in the US until your period of parole expires, or until your parole is terminated in accordance with court rulings. Upon expiration or termination of parole, you will be considered "unlawfully present" and could be detained and removed from the US, unless you have another immigration status.

What if I have a pending application for asylum or another status?

While anyone who is unlawfully present may be removed, DHS has said they will prioritize removal of those who have not applied for another status, such as a green card, asylum, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), or T status for victims of human trafficking. This means, if you have an application pending, you should be able to remain in the US while you wait for a decision, but it is not a guarantee. You should carry proof of the pending application, such as the receipt notice, with you at all times. The expiration or termination of parole does not affect you if you have already received another immigration status.

Where can I find help?

If you have not already done so, you should consult with an immigration legal service provider to see if you qualify for any other legal pathways to remain in the US. You can ask find assistance here: <u>https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory/</u>

Note for Cubans and Haitians: Cubans and Haitians remain eligible for benefits as "Cuban Haitian Entrants" even if parole is expired or terminated, as long as they have not received a final order of removal.