

Major Changes Affecting Refugees, Asylum Seekers, TPS Holders & Other Migrants:

NEW & HIGHER IMMIGRATION FEES



On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed the **One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)** into law. This major funding law gives a big boost to immigration enforcement but also **increases many immigration-related fees**, which could make it harder for many people access or continue with their immigration process.

Here are some of the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on how these changes will impact IRC clients:

I am applying to become a legal permanent resident (LPR) with USCIS, what do these fee changes mean for me?

Fees for **adjusting your status to LPR with USCIS** generally start at **\$1,440** for adults, but **some people are not required to pay a fee**, including refugees, SIVs, special immigrant juveniles, and others. OBBBA does not add any new fee to those applications that are already exempt from filing fees.

If you are **filing in immigration court (or EOIR)**, OBBBA imposes an **additional fee** of \$1,500 on top of EOIR's \$1,050 fee, totaling **\$2,940** for some applications. Please speak with your legal representative to understand the exact fee for your LPR application.

I want to apply for asylum, will I now have to pay a fee?

Whether you file with **USCIS or EOIR**, you will now have to pay **\$100 initial asylum application fee and an annual "wait" fee of \$100 per year** for every year your asylum application remains pending. This fee is due on the anniversary of your filing date. i.e. if you filed your asylum application July 29, **2025** you must include the \$100 initial non-refundable filing fee with the form I-589. On July 29, **2026** USCIS or EOIR must receive your \$100 annual asylum "wait" fee.

I am an asylum seeker with a pending application in court. What does this mean for me?

There is now an **annual wait fee of \$100** that you may need to pay **while your asylum case is pending**. EOIR has not yet issued its guidance on how to pay the fee if you filed your asylum application in immigration court. For those applying affirmatively (i.e. not in immigration court), USCIS will provide guidance and issue initial personal notices to individuals with information about when and how the fee must be paid, and consequences of failing to pay **fees due this fiscal year**. Guidance from USCIS for fees due after this year are forthcoming. But it is expected asylum seekers will be required to pay the annual fee on or before the anniversary date of filing their application.

What about work authorization fees?

For those applying for **asylum, TPS and parole**, there are also **higher fees** for work authorization. See the chart for details.

Will the fees change again?

The fees **can change every fiscal year** and will be announced through the EOIR or USCIS website.

Changes to USCIS application fees, immigration court (EOIR) and Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA):

CATEGORY	CHANGES TO USCIS APPLICATION FEES: *	CHANGES TO EOIR FEES AND THE BIA:
Asylum Application (Form I-589)	\$100 (non-refundable & can't be waived). Annual wait fee: \$100/year while your asylum case is pending.	\$100 (non-refundable & can't be waived). Annual wait fee: \$100/year while your asylum case is pending.
Work Permits (EAD) (Form I-765)	TPS and Parole Applicants: Initial work permit: \$550 plus existing USCIS fee, totaling \$1,020 online or \$1,070 by mail. Renewals: \$275 each time, with permits now possibly lasting only 1 year. Plus existing USCIS fee, totaling \$745 for online or \$795 for paper filings. Asylum Applicants: Initial work permit: \$550 Renewals: \$275 each time, with permits now possibly lasting only 1 year. Plus existing USCIS fee, totaling \$745 for online or \$795 for paper filings. Asylum Holders: - No change in fees (no fee for initial or renewal EAD for those granted asylum).	
Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) Applications (Form I-485)	No change in fees, if filing with USCIS.	EOIR is layering its prior fee of \$1,050 on top of new \$1,500 fee, totaling \$2,940 for some applications. Please speak with your legal representative to understand the exact fee for your LPR application.
TPS Application (Form I-821)	Now \$500 (up from ~\$50), no fee waivers allowed. USCIS will also apply the biometric fee, totaling \$530 .	Now \$500 (up from ~\$50), no fee waivers allowed. USCIS will separately collect the biometric fee, totaling \$530 .
Appeals		There is an additional \$900 to the original \$110 fee, raising the new total cost to \$1,010 , except for bond appeals, which have no fee.
Motions to reopen or reconsider before EOIR (with certain exceptions)		\$1,045 (used to be ~\$110 or free).
Motions to reopen or reconsider before BIA		There is an additional \$900 to the original \$110 fee, making the new total cost to \$1,010 .
If you're arrested after missing court fee		\$5,000 if you were ordered removed for not showing up to court and are later arrested. There is an exception if the court order is canceled.

Note: Where USCIS has increased the fee, it is scheduled to go into effect by **August 21, 2025**. EOIR updates are **effective immediately**. Both agencies could increase fees further.

*For more specific information, visit the [USCIS fee calculator](#).

Other new fees:

If you're arrested at the border fee	\$5,000 if you're caught crossing between official border crossings. It is unclear what happens if you can't pay immediately.
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