



LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS
UNDER LAW



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LIBERIAN DED WORK PERMITS NEWS

As of Feb 24, 2020

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Even though Liberians covered by DED may be eligible for permanent resident status (a Green Card) under recently enacted legislation known as Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF)--employment authorization (EAD) for Liberians under Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) will still expire on **March 30, 2020**.

MY EAD EXPIRES ON MARCH 30, 2020. CAN I STILL WORK AFTER THAT?



No. You must have an unexpired EAD in order to continue working lawfully. In order to get a new EAD based on being eligible for LRIF, you must submit 1) an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765 AND 2) an Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, Form I-485. You may also submit the I-765 after filing only the I-485 and receiving a receipt number. If you do not do this early, you may have a gap in employment.

CAN I EXPEDITE MY EAD?



Yes. If you are a current DED holder with an EAD that expires on March 30, 2020, USCIS will allow you to request expedited processing of your new EAD based on LRIF. To request expedited processing:

Step 1: File your Form I-765 and I-485 on or before March 30, 2020.

Step 2: Wait to receive your receipt number in the mail.

Step 3: Once you have filed your forms and receive your receipt number, call the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283 to make the request for expedited processing.

See the "How to Make an Expedite Request " webpage on the USCIS website (<https://www.uscis.gov>).

If you are not a current DED holder, you cannot request expedited processing of your EAD.

I DO NOT HAVE AN EAD. CAN I GET ONE? HOW SOON?



Yes, being eligible for LRIF makes you eligible for an EAD. In order to get an EAD based on being eligible for LRIF, you must submit a Form I-765 at the same time as your Form I-485, or after filing Form I-485 and receiving a receipt number.

On December 20, 2019, the President signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It included the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF) Act, a provision that allows Liberian nationals who have been living in the United States since November 20, 2014 to apply to become lawful permanent residents (receive Green Cards).



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LIBERIAN LRIF ACT

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: PT 1

WHAT IS THE LIBERIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS (LRIF) ACT?

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WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A GREEN CARD UNDER LRIF?

In order to be eligible, you must be: 1) A Liberian national; and 2) Continuously present in the United States since November 20, 2014. **You are not eligible if you arrived in the U.S. after November 20, 2014.**

IS LRIF ONLY FOR DED HOLDERS?

No. Any Liberian national who has been living in the U.S. since November 20, 2014 can apply as long as they are eligible. This includes former TPS holders who lost status in 2017 and other Liberian nationals without status.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR LRIF?

If you qualify - you have to file a Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status by December 20, 2020. **If you miss the deadline, you will not qualify! Please note that a work permit requires an additional form.**

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LIBERIAN LRIF ACT

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: PT 2

HOW DO I GET A WORK PERMIT UNDER LRIF?

Submitting a I-485 alone does not give you a work permit. You must also submit a form I-765. You should file for a renewal EAD by submitting a new Form I-765 and filing fee (if required), unless a fee waiver is requested and approved. If you are a DED holder with an expiring or expired EAD, you should also submit the Form I-765 on or before March 30, 2020, accompanied by a copy (front and back) of your DED-based EAD.

DO I NEED AN UNEXPIRED LIBERIAN PASSPORT TO APPLY?

No. You should submit a photocopy of a government-issued identity document that has your photograph. Typically, this will be your passport, even if the passport is now expired.

CAN A FAMILY MEMBER OF THE ELIGIBLE LIBERIAN NATIONAL APPLY UNDER LRIF?

Yes. You must currently be the spouse, unmarried child under 21, or unmarried son or daughter 21 years old or older of a Liberian national who meets the requirements of the LRIF.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR LRIF?

1. Anyone who arrived **AFTER November 20, 2014** is **NOT** eligible.
2. Anyone who has been convicted of any (1) aggravated felony
3. Anyone who has been convicted of two or more crimes involving moral turpitude

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DEADLINES AND THE FILING

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All applications for Form I-485 under LRIF must be filed by **December 20, 2020**. This means that for mailed applications, they must be postmarked December 20, 2020. Applications submitted later will not be accepted.

CAN I APPLY WITHOUT A LAWYER?

We strongly recommend applying for a green card with the assistance of a lawyer.

HOW CAN I FIND A LAWYER TO HELP ME APPLY FOR A GREEN CARD?

You may find a lawyer through the network of Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc (CLINIC), check for lawyers in your area at: <https://cliniclegal.org/find-legal-help/affiliates/directory>

or use the National Immigration Legal Services Directory to find non-profits in your area: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

For additional resources and information, please visit the following websites:

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/other-ways-get-green-card/liberian-refugee-immigration-fairness>

<https://www.usa.gov/green-cards>

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