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### **Information about USCIS' Categories for Expedite**

As per USCIS, please refer to the information below to further insight into the categories USCIS considers expediting the adjudication of an application. If you think any of the following categories applies to you, please reply to this email with the necessary documents and descriptions.

You may ask USCIS to expedite the adjudication of a benefit request (such as applications or petitions) for an immigration benefit.

USCIS:

- Considers all expedite requests on a case-by-case basis.
- Requires documentation to support a request.
- Has the sole discretion to decide whether to grant or deny a request.

USCIS may consider an expedite request if it meets one or more of the following criteria or circumstances:

- Severe financial loss to a company or person, provided that the need for urgent action is not the result of the petitioner's or applicant's failure to:
  - Timely file the benefit request, or
  - Timely respond to any requests for additional evidence;
- Emergencies and urgent humanitarian reasons.
- Nonprofit organization (as designated by the Internal Revenue Service) whose request is in furtherance of the cultural or social interests of the United States;
- U.S. government interests (such as urgent cases for federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Labor, DHS, or other public safety or national security interests); or
- Clear USCIS error.

For more information, see **USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 1, Part A, Public Services, Chapter 5, Requests to Expedite Applications or Petitions** [[1 USCIS-PM A.5](#)].

## **DOCUMENTS NEEDED**

### **FINANCIAL**

A company can demonstrate that it would suffer a severe financial loss if it is at risk of failing, losing a critical contract, or having to lay off other employees. For example, a medical office may suffer severe financial loss if a gap in a doctor's employment authorization would require the medical practice to lay off its medical assistants.

Job loss may be sufficient to establish severe financial loss for a person, depending on the individual circumstances. For example, the inability to travel for work that would result in job loss might warrant expedited treatment. The need to obtain employment authorization by itself, without evidence of other compelling factors, does not warrant expedited treatment. In addition, severe financial loss may also be established where failure to expedite would result in a loss of critical public benefits or services.

### **MEDICAL OR HUMANITARIAN REASONS**

For expedite requests based on medical needs, documents may include:

- A letter written by the attending physician that describes the patient's current condition, diagnosis, and prognosis.
- A letter written and signed by the applicant that explains why your application or petition should be expeditiously processed.
- Any other information the applicant feel will support your request for expedited processing.

In the context of an expedite request, humanitarian reasons are those related to human welfare. Examples may include, but are not limited to, illness, disability, extreme living conditions, death in the family, or a critical need to travel to obtain medical treatment in a limited amount of time. An emergency may include an urgent need to expedite employment authorization for healthcare workers during a national emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, an expedite request may be considered under this criterion in instances where a vulnerable person's safety may be compromised due to a breach of confidentiality if there is a delay in processing the benefit application. A benefit requestor's desire to travel for vacation does not, in general, meet the definition of an emergency.

### **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

A nonprofit organization seeking to expedite a beneficiary's benefit request must demonstrate an urgent need to expedite the case based on the beneficiary's specific role within the nonprofit in furthering cultural or social interests (as opposed to the organization's role in furthering social or cultural interests). Examples may include a medical professional urgently needed for medical research related to a specific social U.S. interest (such as the COVID-19 pandemic or other socially impactful research or project) or a university professor urgently needed to participate in a specific and imminent cultural program. Another example is a religious organization that urgently needs a beneficiary's specific services and skill set to continue a vital social outreach program. In such instances, the religious organization must articulate why the respective beneficiary is specifically needed, as opposed to pointing to a general shortage alone.

## US GOVERNMENT INTEREST

U.S. government interests may include, but are not limited to, cases identified as urgent by other government agencies, including labor and employment agencies, and public safety or national security interests.

For expedite requests made by a federal agency, involving other public safety or national security interests, the national interest need must be immediate and substantive. If the need for the action is not immediate, expedited processing is not warranted. A substantive need does not mean that a delay would pose existential or irreversible consequences to the national interests but rather that the case at hand is of a scale or a uniqueness that requires immediate action to prevent real and serious harm to U.S. interests.

Expedite requests from government agencies (federal, state, or local) must be made by a senior-level official of that agency. If the request relates to employment authorization, the request must demonstrate that the need for a person to be employment-authorized is mission-critical and goes beyond a general need to retain a particular worker or person. Examples include, but are not limited to, a noncitizen victim or witness cooperating with a federal, state, or local agency who is in need of employment authorization because the respective agency is seeking back pay or reinstatement in court proceedings.

### NOTE:

Please note that not every circumstance that fits under one of the above-listed categories necessarily results in expedited processing. For example, if the expedite request relates to an application for employment authorization or student status, the need to obtain employment authorization or student status, standing alone, without any evidence of other compelling factors, does not warrant expedited treatment.

All expedite requests claiming a severe financial loss, regardless of the immigration benefit sought and regardless of whether the claimed loss is to a company or a person, must be documented to establish the loss and that the requestor is not able to withstand the temporary financial loss that is the natural result of normal [processing times](#). For more information, please visit USCIS' page on "[How to Make an Expedite](#)."

**IMPORTANT:** Please note the documents you submit will be forwarded to USCIS. Therefore, if the documents are in any language other than English, it must be completely translated and notarized. The translator must certify that the translation is accurate and that he or she is competent to translate. You must submit the requested foreign language document along with the translation.

Thank you for allowing our office to work on your case and if you have any questions, you can reach us at (305) 668 - 2285.